

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: THST 1200	Course Title: Languages of Media	Date of Offering: FALL 2016
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Course Instructor: Mark Lipton	Course Format: Lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis: Embedded in every medium of communication there is a powerful idea, sometimes two or three powerful ideas. Like language itself, a medium predisposes us to favour and value certain perspectives and accomplishments and to subordinate others.

All media have a philosophy, which is given expression in how the media makes people use their minds, in what it makes us do with our bodies, in how it codifies the world, in which of our senses it amplifies, in which of our emotional and intellectual tendencies it disregards.

By examining the interrelationships among communication, media, and popular culture, this course seeks to uncover some of the powerful ideas at stake in the global media environment.

We examine the historical and material specificity of different media and the forms of social life these enable; we engage in critical debate about media, culture, and power; and we consider problems of reading the world posed by specific media objects and processes, new and old.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Writing Assignments 1&2 = 40%

Digital Story = 10%

Lobbyist Performance = 20%

Final Exam = 20%

Last Word: Reflection = 10%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Carr, Nicholas. (2010). *The Shallows*. New York: Norton.

Eggars, David. (2013). *The Circle*. New York: Knopf.

Gibson, Twyla and Lipton, Mark. (2014). *Research Write Create*. Toronto: OUP.

Pariser, Eli. (2011). *The Filter Bubble*. New York: Penguin.

Postman, Neil. (1985). *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. New York: Penguin.

B. Internet connect; computer; understanding of today's social media

C. An appreciation for media and popular culture

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):