Mass Communication and Media Arts

The College of Arts and Media (CAM) offers four interdisciplinary graduate programs at the college level associated with graduate education in the School of Media Arts and the School of Journalism and Advertising.

- M.A. in Media Theory and Research
- M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts
- M.S. in Professional Media and Media Management Studies
- Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts

These programs develop teaching, research, and creative work that interrogates the construction, reception, and social impact of mass media forms and texts. The work uniquely blends methods from the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Students study historical, theoretical, and critical approaches to mass communication. The faculty seek to nurture an intellectual and creative community attuned to global social changes, as we respond to new ways of creating and analyzing written, aural, and visual media.

To support the graduate programs, the College of Arts and Media houses multimedia computer labs and state-of-the-art design, video, audio, animation, and editing software in a suite of work rooms called the New Media Center. The college has a wide variety of cinema, photography, print media, radio-television and video production facilities.

Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution or have completed all undergraduate degree requirements prior to the beginning of the classes for the term for which admission is sought. Applicants may begin the admissions process when they need no more than 32 credit hours beyond the credit shown on their transcript at the time of application to complete all requirements for the bachelor’s degree.

Applications

All requirements for admission to the Graduate School at Southern Illinois University Carbondale must be met. Applicants must submit completed application forms, transcripts of all post-secondary studies, and a personal statement describing their objectives for study in the program to which they are applying, career goals and interests. Applicants must arrange for three references to send letters of recommendation to the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Students should contact the College of Arts and Media.

The graduate programs require a nonrefundable $65 application fee that must be submitted with the application for Admissions to Graduate Study in Mass Communication and Media Arts (M.A., M.S., M.F.A., Ph.D.). Applicants must pay this fee by credit card.

Applicants to our graduate programs must meet the English language requirements stipulated by the Graduate School. The English language requirement may be waived if an applicant was awarded a Master's degree at an accredited college or university in the United States and has been in residence in the United States continuously prior to application to the graduate program at SIUC. The student must not have been out of the United States for more than one calendar year. Alternatively, the requirement may be waived if the applicant has a minimum of 60 graded (A, B, and C) credit hours of recent coursework completed at an accredited college or university in the United States with continuous residence in the United States prior to application to the graduate program at SIUC. Pass/Fail, Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, or Proficiency credit is not acceptable. English language requirements vary according to the individual situations of applicants. What will satisfy the requirement is always determined by the Graduate School Admissions Office, not the faculty or staff of the programs.
Retention

In addition to the retention policies of the SIUC Graduate School, each master’s degree student must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4) and each Ph.D. student must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.25 (A = 4). Upon falling below this average, students will be allowed only one full academic term (excluding J-term and/or summer session) to bring their average up to the minimum; failing this, they will be dropped from the program and will not be allowed to re-apply.

All graduate students will undergo an end-of-the-year faculty review of their progress toward their degree that includes course progress and/or creative or scholarly work. After the review, students will be notified of any deficiencies to be resolved. Students failing to rectify those deficiencies by the end of the next semester (excluding summer) will be permanently suspended from the graduate program.

All graduate students who have completed their course work and the minimum number of credit hours required for projects, thesis or dissertation must enroll in MCMA 601, Continuing Research Enrollment, each semester until the completion of their degree programs. Exceptions to the continuing enrollment rule are allowed only for students who are required to be away from SIUC full-time by the United States or the State of Illinois government.

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Media Theory and Research

The graduate programs in the College Arts and Media develop teaching, research, and creative work that interrogates the construction, reception, and social impact of mass media forms and texts. Our work uniquely blends methods from the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Students study historical, theoretical, and critical approaches to mass communication. The faculty seek to nurture an intellectual and creative community attuned to global social changes, as we respond to new ways of creating and analyzing written, aural, and visual media.

The M.A. degree in Media Theory and Research introduces graduate students to the research traditions in the fields of mass communication and media studies. Students learn theory and research in a college which emphasizes the importance of global communication for understanding the 21st century. Graduates of the program will be well trained for department-level leadership in the mass media industries, professional media commentary, and teaching. The degree may lead toward doctoral studies.

Program Admission

Students whose preparation is lacking in certain areas may be required to take undergraduate courses that will not be counted towards the M.A. in Media Theory and Research degree. International Students must have a TOEFL of at least 550 (paper score) or 80 (internet score) or an IELTS score of 6.5 to be admitted. All applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Generally applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 (A = 4) for their last two years of undergraduate work. Other factors will also be considered including professional and academic accomplishments, examples of professional work, awards and honors, graduate examination scores or evidence of scholarship such as research papers.

Retention

No course in which the grade is below B- shall count toward the degree or fulfillment of any requirement, but the grade will be included in the grade point average. The College of Arts and Media allows a maximum of three years from the date of enrollment in the M.A. in Media Theory and Research program to the completion of the degree. The program generally takes two years to complete.

Procedures

All M.A. in Media Theory and Research students will undergo a faculty review at the end of Year 1. This process allows faculty to deliver formal feedback regarding the student’s progress toward their degree that includes performance in courses and scholarly production outside of the classroom.

By the end of the third semester in residence, each M.A. in Media Theory and Research student will be required to form a three-member graduate faculty committee. The student must complete the proposal
hearing and thesis defense within one year of finishing coursework and three years of beginning the program. The student publicly defends both the thesis proposal and completed thesis in an oral examination with the graduate faculty committee.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Students will demonstrate competence in at least one mass communication research method.
- Students will demonstrate competence in at least one theoretical area of media studies.
- Students will learn to conduct original research as befits a scholar in the field.
- Students will contribute new knowledge to the field via the writing of a thesis.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate and synthesize appropriate theoretical perspectives and existing literature in the field to their own work.
- Students will demonstrate via writing and oral presentation knowledge of theory and research in the field.
- Students will demonstrate in writing and oral presentation the ability to evaluate their own work in relation to other research in the field.

**Curriculum**

Candidates must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours including 7 credit hours of core requirements: MCMA 537: Introduction to Mass Communication Research (3 CH) and 4 credit hours of MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium taken over the first two semesters.

**Core (7 Credit Hours)**

- MCMA 537: Introduction to Mass Communication Research (3 CH)
- MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (2 CH)

**Emphasis Area (12 Credit Hours)**

Students take a minimum of four elective courses (12 CH) selected in consultation with the faculty thesis committee and the Director of Graduate Studies. The program culminates in a scholarly, research-based thesis, MCMA 599B (3 CH) M.A. in Media Theory and Research Thesis. Students are required to present at the graduate research symposium in Spring Year 2. Students may not take any credit hours at the 400-level to count toward their progress in the M.A. in Media Theory and Research program. Other graduate-level SIUC courses (MCMA or from other graduate programs) will count for M.A. in Media Theory and Research electives, as deemed appropriate by the student, thesis advisor, thesis committee members, and Director of Graduate Studies.

**Students are required to take one research methods course from the following list:**

- MCMA 531: Critical Research Methods in Media Arts (3 CH)
- MCMA 532: Quantitative Research Methods (3 CH)
- MCMA 534: Qualitative Research Methods (3 CH)

In Fall Year 2, students are required to take more advanced courses, MCMA 508: Conceptual Foundations of Research Strategy and MCMA 514: Theories of Mass Communication and Media.

**Sample Curriculum Map**

**Fall Year 1 (8 Credit Hours)**

- MCMA 537: Introduction to Mass Communication Research (3 CH)
- One elective or research methods course (3 CH)
- MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (2 CH)

**Spring Year 1 (8 Credit Hours)**

- One elective or research methods course (3 CH)
• One M.S. Elective course (3 CH)
• MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (2 CH)

**Fall Year 2 (9 Credit Hours)**

• MCMA 508: Conceptual Foundations of Research Strategy (3 CH)
• MCMA 514: Theories of Mass Communication and Media (3 CH)
• One M.S. Elective course (3 CH)

**Spring Year 2 (6 Credit Hours)**

• One M.S. Elective course (3 CH)
• MCMA 599B: Thesis (3 CH)

There is a required presentation at the graduate student symposium in Spring Year 2.

**Preferred M.A. in Media Theory and Research Electives**

• MCMA 500: Mass Media as Social Institutions
• MCMA 506: Law and Policy in Mass Communication
• MCMA 507: Media Management
• MCMA 509: Media Ethics
• MCMA 535: Topics in Textual Analysis
• MCMA 538: Critical Discourse Analysis
• MCMA 552: Special Topics in Media
• MCMA 553: History and Theory of Media Arts
• MCMA 561: Communication and Social Change
• MCMA 563: Globalization & Media
• MCMA 564: Political Economy of Media
• MCMA 565: Strategic Advertising Management
• MCMA 567: International Advertising
• MCMA 576: Topics in Gender, Sexuality, and Media
• MCMA 577: Topics in Race and Media
• MCMA 585: Pedagogy and the Profession
• MCMA 587: Critical Social Media Studies

However, other MCMA graduate-level courses are allowed, as deemed appropriate by the student, faculty committee, and Director of Graduate Studies. We also encourage students to work with their faculty advisors to seek out graduate-level coursework in other programs where different perspectives will enhance our MCMA students' learning.

**Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Mass Communication and Media Arts**

The Master of Fine Arts in Mass Communication and Media Arts provides substantial advanced study for a small number of highly talented individuals. The program emphasizes the artistic development of the individual student and the creation of quality artistic works in photography, film, video, sound, new media, and/or interdisciplinary media. Degree requirements are 60 credit hours. The program generally takes three years to complete.

This terminal degree program is unique in its balance of coursework in media arts practices with art, media history and theory, individual mentorship, and interdisciplinary work in other programs throughout the university. The faculty awarding a successful student the M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts is an acknowledgement of creative and intellectual achievement within the media arts. This achievement is accomplished through the development of an innovative individual practice that culminates with the creation of a body of work in video, film, sound, installation, new media, or intermedia, accompanied by a written thesis. The program prepares students for careers in the contemporary media arts as a media artist, artist, video or filmmaker, designer, theorist, educator, and other future professions which will require creativity and artistic acumen.
While mastery of craft within media arts is a vital component of the M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts, the program's philosophy is that graduate study should expand the student's breadth as an artist and encourage interdisciplinary study. Available course work in production, criticism, theory, history, and combined media studies emphasizes the interwoven character of traditional and contemporary approaches and technologies in the 21st century.

Additional course work can be pursued through the School of Art and Design, the School of Music, and the School of Theater and Dance as well as programs in English, Anthropology, and Communication Studies. A distinguished faculty of artists and scholars, excellent facilities, and a variety of curricular offerings allow students to individually tailor their programs of study.

Admission

All requirements for admission to the Graduate School at Southern Illinois University Carbondale must be met. Applicants must submit the Application for Admission to Graduate Study forms, certified transcripts of all post-secondary studies as well as three letters of recommendation from individuals who can evaluate their potential for graduate studies. Applicants must also submit a resume outlining educational and professional experience, as well as a personal statement describing their objectives for study in the program, career goals and interests.

Prospective students must present evidence of exceptional talent and/or potential in one or two media pursuits in the degree program. Applicants should include an example of work that demonstrates their competency. This evidence will ordinarily consist of a portfolio of photographs or digitally generated art works, one or more films, videos, sound works, multimedia productions, web art projects, or other evidence of artistic potential. Applicants must clearly indicate their role(s) in any project submitted. An interview with faculty in the program is highly recommended, particularly for applicants with minimal course work in the field.

Acceptance into the program and continuing enrollment are at the discretion of the College of Arts and Media and the Graduate School. Generally, applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 (4.0 = A) for their last two years of undergraduate work. International students whose native or first language is not English, or those with fewer than 100 graded hours of college credit at a U.S. college or university, must take the TOEFL and score at least 550 (paper score) or 80 (internet score) or have an IELTS score of 6.5 to be admitted. Students whose preparation is deemed lacking in certain areas may be required to take undergraduate courses to attain competency. These will not be counted toward the M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts degree.

Retention

No course in which the grade is below B- shall count toward the degree or fulfillment of any requirement, but the grade will be included in the grade point average. The M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts program generally takes three years to complete.

Procedures

All M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts students will undergo a faculty review at the end of Year 1. This process allows faculty to deliver formal feedback regarding the student's progress toward their degree that includes performance in courses and creative and scholarly production outside of the classroom. The possible outcomes of this review are Pass, Provisional Pass, and Fail. Failure of this review will result in termination from the program. Students who receive a Provisional Pass in this review will receive a letter outlining the areas in which they must improve and be assigned a faculty mentor for this process. Failure to demonstrate improvement will result in termination from the program.

By the end of the third semester in residence, each M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts student will be required to select, in consultation with the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, a committee chair and a committee of two additional graduate faculty members. The faculty committee and the student develop a specific plan of study, considering the requirements of the Graduate School, the degree program, and the goals of the student.

The M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts degree culminates in an intensive Creative Thesis that must be publicly presented. The exact nature of the student's project and presentation will be determined in consultation with the committee. The committee chair supervises the thesis. An oral
examination by the faculty committee will take place in conjunction with the public presentation of the thesis and will focus on an evaluation of the project. The M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts electronic thesis document consists of a formal paper describing the Creative Thesis, its historical precedents, contemporary context, and theoretical underpinnings with embedded media files that document the public exhibition/screening. It must be filed with the SIUC Graduate School. The University reserves the right to retain a portfolio or samples of each student’s work.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate an analytical understanding of critical contemporary media discourses.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to write critically about media arts in a fashion attuned to interdisciplinary relationships between the various legacy media forms.
- Students will demonstrate mastery in one or more media production practices.
- Students will demonstrate critical understanding of research methods in media arts.
- Students will demonstrate a disciplined, critically informed artistic practice in the media arts.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research into areas of formal and topical concern to develop compelling creative artworks.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to explain fundamental technical and conceptual concepts in the field of mass communication and media arts.
- Students will synthesize their creative work with theoretical understanding of such work.

Curriculum

- Students must take 9 credit hours of MCMA 559: Studio Arts Practice and Critique during all three Fall semesters of residency in the program.
- Students must take 4 credit hours of MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium in Fall Year 1 and Spring Year 1.
- Students must take 12 credit hours of MCMA 584: Supervised Independent Studio during the first four semesters of residency in the program.
- Students must take two media studies courses: MCMA 553: History and Theory of Media Arts and MCMA 531: Critical Research Methods in Media Arts.
- Students must take 6 credit hours from this menu of “Studio Practice Courses”
  - MCMA 522: Sound Art Studio
  - MCMA 516: Networked Art
  - MCMA 521: Expanded Cinema
  - MCMA 540: Critical Documentary Practices
  - MCMA 582: Game Narratives
  - MCMA 523: Topics in Studio Practices
- Students must take 6 credit hours of MCMA 524: Topics in Interdisciplinary Practices
- Students must take at least 12 credit hours of electives.
- Students must take at least 5 credit hours of MCMA 599A: MFA Thesis during their third year in residency in the program.
- Students may not take any credit hours at the 400-level to count toward their progress in the M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts degree program.

Sample Curriculum Map

Fall Year 1 (11 Credit Hours)

- MCMA 559: Studio Arts Practice & Critique (3 CH)
- MCMA 584: Supervised Independent Studio (3 CH)
- MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (2 CH)
- MCMA 553: History and Theory of Media Arts (3 CH) -OR-
- MCMA 524: Topics in Interdisciplinary Practices (3 CH)

Spring Year 1 (11 Credit Hours)

- MCMA 584: Supervised Independent Studio (3 CH)
- MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (2 CH)
• Studio Practice Course (3 CH) -OR-
• Elective Course (3 CH)
• MCMA 531: Critical Research Methods in Media Arts (3 CH) -OR-
• MCMA 524: Topics in Interdisciplinary Practice (3 CH)

**Fall Year 2 (12 Credit Hours)**

• MCMA 559: Studio Arts Practice & Critique (3 CH)
• MCMA 584: Supervised Independent Studio (3 CH)
• Studio Practice Course (3 CH) -OR-
• Elective Course (3 CH)
• MCMA 553: History and Theory of Media Arts (3 CH) -OR-
• MCMA 524: Topics in Interdisciplinary Practices (3 CH)

**Spring Year 2 (9 Credit Hours)**

• MCMA 584: Supervised Independent Studio (3 CH)
• Studio Practice Course (3 CH) -OR-
• Elective Course (3 CH)
• MCMA 531: Critical Research Methods in Media Arts (3 CH) -OR-
• MCMA 524: Topics in Interdisciplinary Practices (3 CH)

**Fall Year 3 (8 Credit Hours)**

• MCMA 559: Studio Arts Practice & Critique (3 CH)
• MCMA 599A: MFA Thesis (2 CH)
• Elective Course [3 credits]

**Spring Year 3 (9 Credit Hours)**

• MCMA 599A: MFA Thesis (3 CH)
• Elective Course (3 CH)
• Elective Course (3 CH)

**Preferred M.F.A. in Mass Communication and Media Arts Electives**

• MCMA 511: New Media Production
• MCMA 517: Multiplatform Storytelling
• MCMA 535: Topics in Textual Analysis
• MCMA 543: Media Arts Studio Seminar
• MCMA 549: Professional Documentary Practice
• MCMA 552: Special Topics in Media Studies
• MCMA 568: Social Media Practice
• MCMA 576: Topics in Gender, Sexuality, and Media
• MCMA 577: Topics in Race and Media
• MCMA 585: Pedagogy and Professorial Skills

However, other MCMA graduate-level courses are allowed, as deemed appropriate by the student, faculty committee, and Director of Graduate Studies. We also encourage students to work with their faculty advisors to seek out graduate-level coursework in other programs where different perspectives will enhance our MCMA students’ learning.

**Master of Science (M.S.) in Professional Media and Media Management Studies**

The M.S. degree in Professional Media and Media Management Studies provides students with an interest in professional media practice with an intellectual background in theory and critique of the communication industries. The faculty train students with varied professional interests to establish careers.
in these industries. The program produces intelligent, socially aware, and flexible graduates primed to become leaders in the communications industry.

The curriculum is designed to expose students to a broad foundation in media studies. In consultation with their committee, composed of three faculty members, students explore in detail through a series of electives one facet of professional media studies or creative practice. Students finish their program of study with the construction of a Research Report or Media Project on a topic of their choosing from within their emphasis area. CAM allows a maximum of three years from date of enrolling in the M.S. in Professional Media and Media Management Studies program for completion of the M.S. degree. This program generally takes two years to complete.

**Program Admission**

All requirements for admission to the Graduate School at Southern Illinois University Carbondale must be met. Applicants must submit the Application for Admission to Graduate Study forms, certified transcripts of all post-secondary studies, as well as three letters of recommendation from individuals who can evaluate the applicant’s potential for graduate studies. Applicants must also submit a resume outlining educational and professional experience, as well as a personal statement describing their objectives for study in the program, and how such study will allow them to pursue their interests and career goals. Applicants should include an example of work that demonstrates their competency, preferably professional work, although prior academic work is acceptable. Work samples might take the form of print articles, video or audio tapes, DVDs, URLs or CDs. Applicants must clearly indicate their role(s) in any project submitted.

Generally, applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 (4.0 = A) for their last two years of undergraduate work. International students whose native or first language is not English, or those with fewer than 100 graded credit hours at a U.S. college or university, must take the TOEFL and score at least 550 (paper score) or 80 (internet score) or have an IELTS score of 6.5 to be admitted. Students whose preparation is deemed lacking in certain areas may be required to take undergraduate courses to attain competency. These will not be counted toward the M.S. in Professional Media and Media Management Studies degree.

**Retention**

No course in which the grade is below B- shall count toward the degree or fulfillment of any requirement, but the grade will be included in the grade point average. The College of Arts and Media allows a maximum of three years from the date of enrollment in the M.S. in Professional Media and Media Management Studies program to the completion of the degree. The program generally takes two years to complete.

**Procedures**

All M.S. in Professional Media and Media Management Studies students will undergo a faculty review at the end of Year 1. This process allows faculty to deliver formal feedback regarding the student’s progress toward their degree that includes performance in courses and scholarly and creative activity production outside of the classroom.

By the beginning of the third semester in residence, each M.S. in Professional Media and Media Management Studies student will be required to form a three-member graduate committee to oversee the capstone Research Report or Media Project. The committee must be selected this early such that the student may register for the required professional media preparation course in which the student will work closely with the faculty committee to initiate work on the final project. The student publicly defends the final project in an oral examination with the committee, generally in the middle of the fourth semester.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Students will demonstrate the ability to identify and articulate an issue, debate, or controversy in a relevant media field.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to independently synthesize existing research into a focused, analytical study of media communication.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to execute a professional media production project.
• Students will demonstrate the ability to write articulately about media.
• Students will demonstrate the ability to speak articulately about media.

**Curriculum**

Candidates must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours including two core courses (one in mass communications research and the other in multi-platform storytelling) and the capstone Research Report or Media Project.

**Core (10 Credit Hours)**

- MCMA 537: Introduction to Mass Communication Research (3 CH)
- MCMA 517: Multi-platform Storytelling (3 CH)
- MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (to be taken both Fall and Spring semester of the first year in the program) (2 CH)

**Emphasis Area (15 Credit Hours)**

A minimum of five courses selected in consultation with at first the Director of Graduate Studies and then the student’s three-person faculty committee supervising their research paper or media project. Topics of study include media management, strategic advertising, digital documentary production, multimedia reporting, and new media production. No 400-level undergraduate courses are allowed to count for credit in the 30 credit hours M.S. in Professional Media and Media Management Studies program.

**Research Report or Media Project Sequence (5 Credit Hours)**

- MCMA 586A or MCMA 586B: Professional Media Preparation (2 CH)
- MCMA 589A: Media Project or MCMA 589B: Research Report (3 CH)

**Sample Curriculum Map**

**Fall Year 1 (8 Credit Hours)**

- MCMA 537: Introduction to Mass Communication Research (3 CH)
- One M.S. Elective course (3 CH)
- MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (2 CH)

**Spring Year 1 (8 Credit Hours)**

- MCMA 517: Multi-Platform Storytelling (3 CH)
- One M.S. Elective course (3 CH)
- MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (2 CH)

**Fall Year 2 (8 Credit Hours)**

- One M.S. Elective course (3 CH)
- One M.S. Elective course (3 CH)
- MCMA 586A: Professional Media Preparation – Pre-production for Media Project (2 CH) -OR-
- MCMA 586B: Professional Media Preparation – Preparation for Research Report (2 CH)

**Spring Year 2 (6 Credit Hours)**

- One M.S. Elective course (3 CH)
- MCMA 589: MS Report/Project (3 CH)

There is a required presentation at the graduate student symposium in Spring Year 2.
Preferred M.S. in Professional Media and Media Management Studies Electives

- MCMA 500: Mass Media as Social Institutions
- MCMA 506: Law and Policy in Mass Communication
- MCMA 507: Media Management
- MCMA 509: Media Ethics
- MCMA 511: New Media Production
- MCMA 516: Net. Art
- MCMA 540: Critical Documentary Practice
- MCMA 543: Media Arts Studio Seminar
- MCMA 549: Professional Documentary Practice
- MCMA 552: Special Topics in Media
- MCMA 553: History and Theory of Media Arts
- MCMA 565: Strategic Advertising Management
- MCMA 567: International Advertising
- MCMA 568: Social Media Practice
- MCMA 576: Topics in Gender, Sexuality, and Media
- MCMA 577: Topics in Race and Media
- MCMA 582: Game Narratives
- MCMA 587: Critical Social Media Studies

However, other graduate-level courses in the college are allowed, as deemed appropriate by the student, faculty committee, and Director of Graduate Studies. We also encourage students to work with their faculty advisors to seek out graduate-level coursework in other programs where different perspectives will enhance our students’ learning.

M.S./M.B.A. Concurrent Degrees

Separately, the M.B.A. in the College of Business and Analytics (COBA) requires completion of 33 credit hours of coursework; the MCMA M.S. in Professional Media and Media Management Studies requires 30 credit hours of coursework. The concurrent degree program entails completion of 21 credit hours of MCMA approved courses and 24 credit hours of COBA-approved courses, for a total of 45 hours. This is a savings of 18 credit hours over pursuing both degrees separately. COBA accepts nine credit hours of MCMA-approved coursework and MCMA accepts nine credit hours of COBA-approved coursework. Students wishing to be admitted to the concurrent program must apply and be accepted to the MCMA M.S., as well as, apply and be accepted into the M.B.A program in the College of Business and Analytics. This initiates the process to pursue the concurrent degrees.

Applicants for the concurrent degree program who have not already earned a graduate degree must also earn a satisfactory score on the GMAT or GRE to be admitted to the M.B.A program. Students must also successfully complete the College of Business and Analytics Foundation Workshops offered during the summer semester break, if they have not previously completed the 10 foundation business courses (or their equivalent) required for admission into the M.B.A program.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Mass Communication and Media Arts

The doctoral program engages students in the interdisciplinary study of global media. Students learn to compare and contract concepts and methods drawn from various research traditions in the field. Students are not only encouraged to think broadly about the discipline, but also develop mastery in a particular specialization in order to produce original research in that specific area.

Admission

Students applying for doctoral study must have a master’s degree and a graduate GPA of at least 3.00. International students must have a TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper score) or 80 (internet score) or have an IELTS score of 6.5 to be admitted. All applicants must submit currently valid Graduate Record
Examination (GRE) scores. Other factors considered include professional and academic accomplishments, examples of professional work, awards and honors, evidence of scholarship such as research papers and published articles, and prior full-time teaching in the mass communication and media arts area. A visit to SIU and interview with faculty is recommended. Students whose preparation is lacking in certain areas may be required to take undergraduate courses that will not be counted towards the Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts degree.

An accelerated entry option to the Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts program is offered in exceptional cases to students who have been admitted to the M.A. in Media Theory and Research program. To be eligible, the student must: 1) possess a master’s degree; 2) have qualified for admission to the MCMA Ph.D. program initially; 3) complete at least nine credit hours but no more than 18 credit hours in the M.A. in Media Theory and Research degree; 4) have a minimum 3.25 GPA in the M.A. in Media Theory and Research program with no incomplete or deferred grades. The student may petition the Director of Graduate Studies for the accelerated entry option during the semester in which the student will begin taking the ninth credit hours of graduate courses, but must petition before earning the 18th credit hours of course work in the M.A. in Media Theory and Research program. If approved, the student will be enrolled in the Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts program the next semester. Up to 18 graduate credit hours earned in the M.A. in Media Theory and Research program will count toward the Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts degree if the accelerated entry option is approved by the MCMA Graduate Committee. Once the student is admitted to the Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts program, all requirements of the Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts program apply. Exceptions to any of these rules must be appealed to the MCMA Graduate Committee, which has final authority to approve or reject the petition.

Retention

No course in which the grade is below B- shall count toward the degree nor fulfillment of any requirement, but the grade will be included in the grade point average. Students in the program cannot take 400-level courses for graduate credit.

Procedures

All Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts students will undergo a faculty review at the end of Year 1. This process allows faculty to deliver formal feedback regarding the student’s progress toward their degree that includes performance in courses and scholarly production outside of the classroom. By the end of the third semester in residence, each Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts student will be required to select, in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, a committee chair. The faculty committee chair and the student develop a specific plan of study, considering the requirements of the Graduate School, the degree program, and the goals of the student. In the beginning of the third year, after the Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts student has completed coursework, the student must pass rigorous comprehensive written and oral examinations. These exams are chaired by a graduate faculty member in MCMA, and administered by three other faculty members. After successfully completing the comprehensive written and oral exams, the student advances to candidacy to complete and defend a dissertation based on scholarly research and independent thought that adds to the body of knowledge in the field.

Under the guidance of a dissertation committee chair, the doctoral student forms a dissertation committee and prepares a dissertation proposal. A public oral defense of the proposal must be made before the dissertation committee and approved within one year of reaching candidacy. The College of Arts and Media allows a maximum of seven years from the date of original enrollment for completion of the doctoral degree.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate the ability to master a specific research tradition in mass communication studies
- Students will demonstrate the ability to think critically about the interdisciplinary nature of mass communication studies.
• Students will demonstrate the ability to write a dissertation which breaks new ground in the
disciplines of Mass Communication and Media Arts.
• Students will demonstrate the ability to speak articulately about Mass Communication and Media
Arts.
• Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the important global and international nature of
mass communication.

Curriculum

The Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts requires a minimum of 60 credit hours, including
10 credit hours of foundation courses, 9 credit hours of research methods courses, 18 credit hours of
electives, and a 24-credit hours dissertation. All course work counting towards the degree must be at the
500-level.

A maximum of two independent study courses (MCMA 591, MCMA 594, and/or MCMA 596), for six credit
hours total, can be counted toward the doctoral degree.

Foundation (10 Credit Hours)

• MCMA 508: Conceptual Foundations of Research Strategy (3 CH)
• MCMA 514: Theories of Mass Communications and Media (3 CH)
• Two semesters of MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium

Research Methods Courses (9 Credit Hours)

Nine Credit Hours of research methods courses must be taken. These required courses are:

• MCMA 531: Critical Research Methods in Media Arts (3 CH)
• MCMA 532: Quantitative Research Methods (3 CH)
• MCMA 534: Qualitative Research Methods (3 CH)

Electives (18 Credit Hours)

Six elective courses must be taken, selected in consultation with the student’s doctoral committee and the
Director of Graduate Studies.

Students must pass a first-year review after a formal presentation at the Graduate Student Research
Symposium in Spring Year 1.

Students must sit for, and pass, comprehensive exams with four faculty members, and then pass an oral
defense of the written answers. Generally, these exams are taken in Fall Year 3.

Dissertation (24 Credit Hours)

• MCMA 600: Dissertation (24 CH): Proposal and Defense

Students are required to form a doctoral committee of five members (one of whom must be from outside
of the college) in front of whom they must pass an oral defense of a dissertation proposal. Students then
write a dissertation which they also must defend at a final meeting of the doctoral committee.

Sample Curriculum Map

Fall Year 1 (8 Credit Hours)

• MCMA 508: Conceptual Foundations of Research Strategy (3 CH)
• MCMA 514: Theories of Mass Communication and Media (3 CH)
• MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (2 CH)

Spring Year 1 (8 Credit Hours)

• One or Two Research Methods Courses -AND/OR-
• One or Two Ph.D. Elective Courses
• MCMA 588: Graduate Colloquium (2 CH)

Fall Year 2 (9 Credit Hours)

• One Research Methods Course (3 CH)
• Two Ph.D. Elective courses

Spring Year 2 (9 Credit Hours)

• One or two Research Methods Courses -AND/OR-
• One or two Ph.D. Elective course

There is a required presentation at the graduate student symposium in Spring Year 2.

Preferred Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Media Arts Electives

• MCMA 506: Law and Policy in Mass Communication
• MCMA 507: Media Management
• MCMA 509: Media Ethics
• MCMA 535: Topics in Textual Analysis
• MCMA 538: Critical Discourse Analysis
• MCMA 552: Special Topics in Media
• MCMA 553: History and Theory of Media Arts
• MCMA 561: Communication and Social Change
• MCMA 563: Globalization & Media
• MCMA 564: Political Economy of Media
• MCMA 565: Strategic Advertising Management
• MCMA 567: International Advertising
• MCMA 576: Topics in Gender, Sexuality, and Media
• MCMA 577: Topics in Race and Media
• MCMA 585: Pedagogy and the Profession
• MCMA 587: Critical Social Media Studies

However, other MCMA graduate-level courses are allowed, as deemed appropriate by the student, faculty committee, and Director of Graduate Studies. We also encourage students to work with their faculty advisors to seek out graduate-level coursework in other programs where different perspectives will enhance our MCMA students’ learning.

Mass Communication and Media Arts Courses

JRNL400 - Media History Development of American news institutions with an emphasis on cultural, technological, and economic backgrounds of newspapers, magazines, radio, television, websites, and social media. Current press structures and policies will be placed in historical perspective. Credit Hours: 3

JRNL402 - Advanced Creative Strategies Examination of and practice in the development of persuasive, strategic campaigns and message strategies for multiple clients. Creation of a professional quality portfolio demonstrating proficiency in both traditional and new media required. Prerequisite: JRNL 302. Credit Hours: 3

JRNL403 - Media Sales Historical perspective of media and sales philosophies and tactics grounded in sales ethics. Learn and apply relationship selling techniques enabling students to become media advertising consultants. Learn how to effectively work with local clients, agencies and national firms and balance the goals of management with the needs of clients while enhancing communication effectiveness. Prerequisite: JRNL 302 and 304. Credit Hours: 3

JRNL404 - Advanced Media Strategies and Planning Provides an understanding of the factors that influence media strategy. Emphasis will be placed on advanced concepts such as building reach patterns,
calculating effective frequency levels, in order to develop an effective media plan. Introduces media planning for the web and other new media options. Prerequisite: JRNL 304. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL406 - Advertising Campaigns** Conceptual synthesis and practical application of business, research, media and creative principles used in the formation of persuasive messages. Includes the development of a complete campaign for a specific advertiser. Includes all relevant target audience contact points (e.g., advertising, sales promotion, marketing public relations, event marketing, packaging) and both written and oral presentation of the campaign. Prerequisite: JRNL 304 and JRNL 405 with grades of C or better. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL407 - Social Issues and Advertising** Analysis of social issues involving advertising; economic relationships, government and self-regulation, cultural effects, influence on media content and structure, role in democratic processes, international comparisons and the stereotyping of women, minorities and other audience segments. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL409 - Specialized Topics in Advertising/IMC** New developments in advertising and integrated marketing communications. Topics change each term. Repeatable up to three times as long as the topic changes. Students should check specific topic and any special requirements and prerequisites before enrolling. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL410 - Multi-Media Publication Project** All journalistic skills and tools will combine to produce a report on a public issue important to southern Illinois. The report will be published both in hard copy and on the web. Students will have an opportunity to hone skills they already have learned or to learn new skills that broaden their repertoire. Prerequisite: JRNL 310 or 413 or consent. Lab fee: $42. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL411 - Public Policy Reporting** Continued development of reporting skills with emphasis on the reporting of public policy issues and on use of statistics, the analysis of computerized data bases, and advanced techniques for the investigation of complex stories. Prerequisite: JRNL 311 or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL412 - Images and Sound** Photojournalism course advancing news gathering techniques, visual and interactive journalistic communication, and photographic content and sound. Audio recording, editing, and flash photography skills will be developed and professional and ethical aspects of photojournalism will be emphasized. Prerequisite: JRNL 313 or consent of instructor. Lab fee: $42. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL413 - Advanced Photojournalism** Emphasis on in-depth photojournalistic reporting. Students research, write and photograph picture stories. Examines ethics, history and social role of photojournalism domestically and internationally. Digital imaging and an introduction to full-motion video. Students must have fully adjustable camera. Prerequisite: JRNL 412. Student supplies own materials. Lab fee: $64. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL414 - Picture Story and Photographic Essay** Production of photographic stories and essays for newspapers, magazines and news media presentations. Students discuss, research, photograph, design and write several stories and essays. While studying the work of influential photojournalists. Student must supply own camera equipment. Prerequisite: JRNL 412 or consent of instructor. Lab fee: $42. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL416 - Critical and Persuasive Writing** The roles and responsibilities of the editor, editorial writer, and opinion columnist with emphasis upon editorial writing and critical thinking. Editorial problems, methods, policies, style and the fundamentals of persuasion and attitude change form the basis for study. Prerequisite: JRNL 311. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL417 - Freelance Feature Writing** Identification, research and application of creative writing techniques in producing feature articles for various media. Students analyze reader appeal as well as feature story structure and methods of marketing features to various audiences and publications. Prerequisite: JRNL 310. Lab fee: $42. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL419 - Specialized Topics in News Reporting** Develops detailed reporting expertise in such topics as business, environment, education, arts and entertainment, health and medicine, sports, new media,
etc. Repeatable up to three times as long as the topic changes. Prerequisite: JRNL 311 or consent of instructor. Lab fee: $42. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL426 - Online Journalism** Examination of emerging forms of news delivery by computer and related convergence of print and broadcast media. Apply concepts and theories and skills in projects, and web-news content management as a real world setting for the production of professional-level cyber-clips for an online portfolio. Includes the production of news stories via email, cellular and other evolving media environments. Prerequisite: grade of C or better in JRNL 302 or JRNL 310 and JRNL 396. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL434 - Media Ethics** (Same as PHIL 434) Explores the moral environment of the mass media and the ethical problems that confront media practitioners. Models of ethical decision-making and moral philosophy are introduced to encourage students to think critically about the mass media and their roles in modern society. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL435 - Advanced Graphic Communication** Continues development of message design skills. Emphasizes creative solutions to the display of complex content in a wide variety of media. Prerequisite: JRNL 335 or consent of instructor. Lab fee: $46. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL436 - Multimedia Publication and Design** Building upon the basic skills learned in publishing to the WWW, the course continues the exploration of using computer based technologies for presentation of information to the wide audience using the interactive capabilities of the internet and other new media. Focus is on organization of information, and the production of multimedia files in a networked environment. Includes discussion of topics including intellectual property, libel, and other matters of concern to an interactive publisher. Prerequisite: JRNL 396 with a grade of C or better. Course fee: $42. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL481 - Sports Reporting** Sports reporting requires two essential ingredients: the ability to write compelling prose and a good grip on news gathering and reporting techniques. This course emphasizes both and utilizes students’ interest in sports to advance their reporting skills and while preparing them for sports reporting positions in the media industry. Prerequisite: JRNL 310 or RTD 310. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL488 - Sports Communication and Promotion** This course will expose students to the rapidly expanding and complex world of sports business, with an emphasis on sports communication and promotion. Topics include, but are not limited to, packaging proposals for event sponsorship, event promotion and management, effective strategies to maximize product and corporate exposure through media partnerships, and client representation. Credit Hours: 3

**JRNL494 - Practicum** Study, observation, and participation in news, advertising or other related areas. Special approval needed from the instructor and area head. Mandatory Pass/Fail for undergraduates. Credit Hours: 1-6

**JRNL495 - Proseminar** Selected seminars investigating media problems or other subjects of topical importance to advanced journalism majors. Seminars will be offered as the need and the interest of students demand. Restricted to senior standing. Credit Hours: 1-6

**JRNL599 - Thesis** Credit Hours: 1-6

**JRNL600 - Dissertation** Credit Hours: 1-32

**JRNL601 - Continuing Enrollment** For those graduate students who have not finished their degree programs and who are in the process of working on their dissertation, thesis or research paper. The student must have completed a minimum of 24 hours of dissertation research, or the minimum thesis, or research hours before being eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Graded S/U or DEF only. Credit Hours: 1

**JRNL699 - Postdoctoral Research** Must be a Postdoctoral Fellow. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Credit Hours: 1

**MCMA500 - Media as Social Institutions** Provides an introduction to major issues involving media in contemporary societies. Multi-disciplinary in nature, the course introduces major theoretical perspectives
used in reviewing media productions and activities and the relationships among media organizations and practitioners and other institutions of society. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA506 - Law and Policy of Mass Communication Focuses on free expression in journalism and entertainment across the media. Topics may include news gathering techniques, intellectual property, the Internet, and governmental regulation. The course pays special attention to the tension between what is legal and what is ethical. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA507 - Media Management Analysis of a variety of media industries, including industry structures, and the industry processes of media development, production, and distribution. Attention to management of media companies across sectors as the industry adjusts to economic and technological change. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA508 - Conceptual Foundations of Research Strategy Analysis and evaluation of conceptual frameworks underlying empirical research strategies, positivist, textual and qualitative, commonly used in media and internet research. Issues in multi-method research strategies are reviewed. Ethical implications are debated. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA509 - Media Ethics Overview of ethics philosophies and accountability tools for the mass media. Areas to be studied include journalism reviews, ethics codes, ombudsmen, media critics, news councils, and public/civic journalism. Covering issues in journalism, photojournalism, public relations, advertising, new media, and "infotainment. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA511 - New Media Production Investigate how the Internet works, explore relationships among design, technology, and user experience while developing web sites, information architectures, interface behaviors, and navigation systems. Topics include: HTML & XHTML authoring, Cascading Style Sheets, Javascript, open source software, and incorporating sound, video, and images into web pages. Issues of privacy, legal and ethical responsibilities for consumers and producers of web content. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA514 - Theories of Mass Communication and Media An advanced theoretical engagement with the field of mass communication research, media studies, and media arts. The course covers principal theoretical approaches, including the empiricist, positivist paradigm in mass communication research; critical media studies; film and television studies; and cultural studies. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA516 - Networked Art History, theory, and practice of digital media as an online art form. Examination that results in students producing art work in linear and non-linear hypermedia narrative, network conceptualism, and generative software. Issues include identity, location, collaboration, surveillance, hacktivism, tactical media, immersion, game design, media synthesis. Lab fee: $75. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA517 - Multi-Platform Storytelling Students write and produce short fiction or non-fiction stories using digital media. Emphasis on storytelling development and story structures, and advancing one’s technical skills across multiple media platforms. Projects will be incorporated into multiple delivery platforms such as the web, download and/or social media. Students will experience editorial production of artifacts gathered as they shape a variety of media into stories for delivery on web via class magazine and social media. The productions will target various platforms, from web to mobile devices. All students will build on a range of production skills extending beyond reporting, writing, photography, graphics, audio capture and video shooting. Course fee: $50. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA521 - Expanded Cinema This course provides a foundation for creating media art that goes beyond the boundaries of traditional cinema and that challenges the conventional relationship between spectator and screen. Students will create immersive environments and live performances that integrate projections of still imagery with film, video, audio and audience participation. Special areas of concentration will include these histories: Futurism and Surrealism; Fluxus and Happenings; conceptual and performance art practices in the 1960s and 70s; relational aesthetics and social practice; tactical and interventionist media. Project assignments will be both individual and collaborative. Restricted to MFA students in MCMA or consent of instructor. Lab fee: $75. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA522 - Sound Art Studio This studio-based course offers students the opportunity to explore sound as a medium of artistic practice and intellectual inquiry. Assignments for the course emphasize how and why sound art is created in a variety of modalities including: installation, performance and improvisation.
The course is also a forum for the exploration of contemporary and historic approaches to sound art through phonography, radio art, DIY electronics and other platforms. During the semester, listening and critique sessions will be used to evaluate student creative responses. Additionally, written responses to assigned readings will also be used to help facilitate discussions and critiques. Equipment Usage & Lab fee: $75. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA523 - Topics in Studio Practices This is a special production topics in studio production and practices course for MFA's in Media Arts that focuses on specialized production techniques, topics, techniques, and formal approaches to media making. The course offers the opportunity to gain new techniques and build skills through the use of potentially unfamiliar production equipment and approaches. The class encourages students to explore the edges of their disciplines by providing a focused framework for formal investigation and experimentation. Equipment Usage & Lab fee: $75. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA524 - Topics in Interdisciplinary Practices This hybrid MFA studies and practice course will use a topical starting point for critical study of the histories and philosophies associated with social and scientific movements and paradigms through media and art histories, cultures, and practices. Readings, guest lectures, and field trips delve into the semester theme and contribute to the generation of media art developed through the strategic framework of each artist's practice. Lab fee: $75. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA531 - Critical Research Methods in Media Arts This course introduces students to critical and interpretive research methods and techniques for the study of media arts and culture. It focuses on interdisciplinary approaches and covers a range of humanities-based methods and theoretical perspectives. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA532 - Quantitative Research Methods in Mass Communication Advanced exploration of quantitative research methods to write a professional article suitable for publication or a chapter in an academic thesis. Covers methods such as sampling, surveys, experiments, content analysis, and statistics. Focuses on research design, formulating research questions, reviewing and applying appropriate literature in the field, hypothesis formulation, data acquisition, and discussion and analysis of results. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA534 - Qualitative Research Methods An introduction to the intellectual underpinnings, epistemology, and methodologies of qualitative research. The course focuses on critical and interpretive approaches to researching media industry structures, artifacts, audiences, and producers. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA535 - Topics in Textual Analysis This class examines methods of textual analysis in the media arts with references to their historical, theoretical, and practical contexts. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA537 - Introduction to Mass Communication Research Foundations course to introduce MA and MS students to the conceptual practices of research. Students will learn how to evaluate primary and secondary sources, and use this research to write papers and reports. The course demonstrates the steps of a research project: writing a proposal, reviewing the literature, designing the research instruments, collecting data, and analyzing results. The course introduces qualitative and quantitative research methods. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA538 - Critical Analysis of Discourse Critical Discourse Analysis is a theory-based methodology which takes as its unit of analysis the entire 'utterance' (e.g. news bulletin, newspaper article, Facebook posting, a hashtag). Its methods are closer to literary and rhetorical criticism than the quantitative word count of content analysis. This methodology allows the research to unveil ideological motivations in language use and in images, and can be applied to most forms of media texts including social media and video games. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA540 - Critical Documentary Practices Documentary is both a product of existing social conditions and a form of critical opposition to them. This course will emphasize independent video production from invention of the documentary idea to post-production. Emphasis on connections between critical theory and media production Students will embrace the conceptual and hands-on process of researching, writing and producing independent documentary video, focusing on critical arts practice. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA543 - Media Arts Studio Seminar A forum for the pursuit of creative projects in the media arts. May be repeated as topic changes. Restricted to CMCMA MFA or PMMM major or consent of instructor.
MCMA548 - MFA (Master of Fine Arts) Projects Supervised independent creative work in media arts, the exact nature of which is to be determined in consultation with the MFA faculty member. Consent of instructor. Equipment usage fee: $50. Credit Hours: 1-3

MCMA549 - Professional Documentary Practice Production students will work with experts from a variety of specializations across campus to produce short form documentaries for broadcast on WSIU. A comprehensive overview of producing successful programs for the industry taking the topic from scripting to filming to editing. Advanced video or audio production skills are required. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA552 - Special Topics in Media Studies This course provides an in-depth study and discussion of selected topics in media studies. Topics vary and will be announced in advance. This course may be repeated when the topic differs. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA553 - History & Theory of Media Arts A survey of media history, from oral storytelling and cave paintings to social media and video games. Situates media in their historical contexts, with special attention to articulations among media technologies, aesthetic forms, cultural practices, and social formations. Analyzes media practices through foundational and contemporary theories from media studies and its interdisciplinary interlocutors. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA559 - MFA Studio Arts Practice and Critique This course is an interdisciplinary forum in which to develop a three-fold set of media arts practice, critique, and research skills. It is repeated three times, taken once each fall semester of enrollment in the MFA degree program. The focus of the first two iterations is to establish media creation strategies and practices with emphasis on aesthetic and conceptual development as encountered within a variety of media arts practices and forms: still image, time-based, spatial, and interactive. The focus of the third iteration is for MFA artists to implement their individual media arts practices and to articulate the critical, historical, and theoretical context of their work. Restricted to MFA students in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts (CMCMA), or via consent of instructor and the CMCMA Director of Graduate Studies. Equipment Usage & Lab fee: $75. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA561 - Media, Social Movements, and Social Change Social change* is a multi-dimensional concept and yet also a bedrock of democracy. Much more than an act or action, social change is a process of negotiation between those who have and those who do not. This course is a theoretical and practical exploration of both mainstream and alternative media's role in political and social movements and their push for social change. Numerous scholars have theorized the social change potential of mediated communication and mass production, and these theories of social change have important implications for critical arts practice and the study of media and the media industries. The objective of the course is to join theories of social change with the interests of the students, allowing them flexibility and freedom to develop their current projects in the area of social change. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA563 - Globalization and the Media Debates about globalization from historical, theoretical, and critical perspectives. The major uses of communication technologies in international economic, political and cultural processes. Topics include regional and global trends, trade regimes, global policy bodies and policy issues; global media influence. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA564 - Political Economy of Media Addresses the intersections of politics, economics, and social structures that underpin media arts and industries at global and national levels. Emphasizes the relationship between theories and methods. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA565 - Strategic Advertising Management Problem solving through strategic advertising communications and integrated marketing techniques, including product research, branding, public relations, sales and promotion, social media, and direct media campaigns. The focus is on business strategy and planning. Students will concentrate on targeted, creative digital media strategies to execute an integrated marketing campaign for a local or national client. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA567 - International Advertising An investigation of how organizations market in Marshall McLuhan's 'Global Village'. Students will consider how political, social, economic, cultural, and technological factors influence advertising around the world. Explorations of how big data and artificial
intelligence create advertising opportunities on multiple digital and social media platforms. Students will learn theories, business models, data analytics, branding, and explore case studies of major global brands. Credit Hours: 3

**MCMA568 - Social Media Theory and Practice** Explores social media from various perspectives. Topics will cover history and development of social media, social advertising/marketing, citizen journalism, social media and health communication, and other issues related to social media such as privacy, gaming, interface design, identity, etc. Students will gain hands-on experience with social media. Credit Hours: 3

**MCMA576 - Gender, Sexuality and Media** This course critically examines the role and potential impact of the media in enabling, facilitating, and challenging social constructions of gender, gender expression, and sexual identities in U.S. society and globally. We will go far beyond the common discussions of problematic media representations of female beauty and male violence to use theories of gender, gender expression, sexual identity, and gender-based violence to understand contemporary media production and representations. We will explore how objects, social practices, government policies, and even nations can be gendered, and how this functions to create and maintain interlocking systems of oppression. Global in scope, this class will enable us to look within but also well beyond the U.S. to better understand the impact of specific ways of gendering in popular culture and the media's role in this process. Credit Hours: 3

**MCMA577 - Topics in Race and Media** An in-depth study of the relationship between race and media through the lens of a specific topic. Common themes include critical race theory and ideologies of race, raced representation in media texts, racial and ethnic diversity in media industries, and media as a contested site in the struggle for racial justice. May be repeated when the topic differs. Credit Hours: 3

**MCMA582 - Game Narratives** Teaches students the core ideas and practices of game narratives. It covers: a) The conceptual fundamentals of theories of game narrative design; b) The technical and organizational process of creating a narrative game. This includes designing and implementing a narrative game using an appropriate software tool. While game narrative is at the center of this course, the skills and knowledge acquired in this class are applicable to broad range of design-centric fields and contexts. Credit Hours: 3

**MCMA584 - Supervised Independent Studio** Supervised Independent Studio provides a critical foundation for MFA students by establishing a formal structure for studio visits and critiques that takes place a minimum of four times over the course of a semester. Students enrolled in the class will be assigned a member of the MFA faculty with whom to work. Twice per year, students will meet with members of the MFA faculty to preview progress. The course is taken during the first four semesters of the MFA degree program. Credit Hours: 1-6

**MCMA585 - Pedagogy and Professorial Skills** A practicum course in which students learn the theories, craft, and art of teaching. Topics include course design, lecturing, leading of seminar discussions, assessment, grading strategies, writing and grading essay exams, formulating writing assignments and strategies for responding to student work to produce transformations in learning. Conceptual strategies for how and why to teach in-person and online synchronously and asynchronously. The course also covers skills required to enter the job market in academia. Topics include how to build a research career, how to apply for an academic job, how to successfully negotiate a phone interview and an on-campus interview, and how to succeed as an early assistant professor. Credit Hours: 3

**MCMA586A - Professional Media Preparation** Pre-production work for the M.S. media project. Directed by a committee of three, the chair of which must be a member of the graduate faculty in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. Students must present and defend the proposal for their media project to the committee in a public forum. Restricted to students in the Professional Media M.S. degree program in CMCMA. Lab fee: $50. Credit Hours: 2

**MCMA586B - Professional Media Preparation** Preparation work for the M.S. research report. Directed by a committee of three, the chair of which must be a member of the graduate faculty in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. Students must present and defend the proposal for the research report to the committee in a public forum. Restricted to students in the Professional Media M.S. degree program in CMCMA. Credit Hours: 2
MCMA587 - Critical Social Media Studies A theoretical, critical approach to the study of social media. Students identify critical media studies theories and concepts and apply them to the study of social media. Both diachronic and synchronic perspectives intersect within the course. Students learn the historical context in which social media platforms have evolved. Historical knowledge informs the analysis of contemporary case studies regarding social media policies, social media discourse and politics, social media ownership, and other pertinent topics. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA588 - Graduate Colloquium An introduction to graduate studies via encounters with the research and creative disciplines of the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. Weekly meetings wherein individual faculty members introduce students to their research and creative work. The course will also serve as a forum in which students discuss their own research and creative work in an interdisciplinary setting. Guest lectures and presentations by visiting scholars and creative artists as become available. Setting for both the faculty and graduate student research and creativity colloquiums. Required of all graduate students in CMCMA. Pass/fail only. Credit Hours: 2

MCMA589A - MS Media Project Media project directed by a committee of three, the chair of which must be a member of the graduate faculty in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. The media project is a student's original creation which breaks new ground in mass communication and media arts. The media project must be submitted to the Graduate School. Students must present and defend their final media project to the committee in a public forum. Prerequisite: MCMA 586A with a grade of B- or better. Restricted to students in the Professional Media M.S. degree program in CMCMA. Lab fee: $50. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA589B - MS Research Report Research report directed by a committee of three, the chair of which must be a member of the graduate faculty in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. A research report synthesizes the existing literature on a specific topic in mass communication to enable the student to create new knowledge about the subject. The research report must be submitted to the Graduate School. Students must present and defend their final report to the committee in a public forum. Prerequisite: MCMA 586B with a grade of B- or better. Restricted to students in the Professional Media M.S. degree program in CMCMA. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA591 - Readings Supervised readings on subject matter not covered in regularly scheduled courses. Graduate students limited to three credits per semester. Consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 1-3

MCMA594 - Practicum Study, observation and participation in activities related to the fields of Mass Communication and the Media Arts such as internships in related professional organizations. Restricted to CMCMA major. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA596 - Independent Study Supervised research or independent creative work, the area of study to be determined by the student in consultation with instructor. Consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 1-3

MCMA599A - MFA Thesis Thesis requirements may be satisfied only by a creative thesis for the M.F.A. degree in Mass Communication and Media Arts. Minimum of six hours required for the M.F.A. degree in MCMA. Graded S/U. Restricted to students in the M.F.A. degree program. Lab fee: $75. Credit Hours: 1-6

MCMA599B - MA Thesis Thesis requirements may be satisfied only by a written thesis for the M.A. in Media Theory and Research in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. Minimum of three hours required for the M.A. degree. Graded S/U. Restricted to students in the M.A. degree program in CMCMA. Credit Hours: 3

MCMA600 - Dissertation Minimum of 24 hours to be earned for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. Credit Hours: 1-12

MCMA601 - Continuing Enrollment For those graduate students who have not finished their degree programs and who are in the process of working on their dissertation, thesis or research paper. The student must have completed a minimum of 24 hours dissertation research or the minimum thesis or research hours before being eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Graded S/U or DEF only. Credit Hours: 1
RTD403 - Lighting for Television  Covers typical lighting situations encountered in the field of television. Practical exercises are used extensively. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 365A or concurrent enrollment. Restricted to RTD majors. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD405 - Media Economics  Focus on economic and financial forces affecting the media industries. Study of the economic practices and impacts of corporate mergers and synergies, global integration of media firms, multi-stream revenue generation, barriers to entry and regulatory constraints. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 200. Special approval needed from the instructor. Credit Hours: 3

RTD450 - Television Documentary Production and Technique  An overview of the development of various types, styles, and schools of major documentary production including analysis of American and International documentaries. Students will also research, write, and produce several short-form documentaries. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 365A or consent of instructor. Restricted to RTD majors and senior standing. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD455 - Oral History, Storytelling, and Media  (Same as HIST 498) This course will develop an appreciation of the field of oral history, methodological concerns and applications. Students will learn about the oral history process, including interview preparation and research, interview technique, the nature and character of evidence, transcribing, and legal and ethical concerns. Restricted to junior or senior standing. Credit Hours: 3

RTD457 - Media Marketing  The core issues of marketing media products in a variety of contexts, such as launching a television program or series, opening a film, introducing an Internet website or application. Attention to branding and media planning, including developing an online marketing strategy. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 200. Special approval needed from the instructor. Lab fee: $45. Credit Hours: 3

RTD461 - Visual Effects in Post  This course teaches the understanding and creation of contemporary visual effects work. We will cover both the science and art of visual effects covering motion graphic design principles (including typography), traditional techniques (storyboarding, mattes, masks, adjustment layers), chroma key compositing, 2D graphic animation, and CGI motion matching for 2D and 3D shots. Production workflows and client management will also be covered. The skills learned will be useful in pursuing a career in many media industries, including television, cinema, and games. Prerequisite: RTD 201 with a grade of C or better. Restricted to junior and senior level. Special approval needed from the instructor. Lab fee: $50. Credit Hours: 3

RTD463 - Sound Art II  This course allows students to explore sound as an art form. During the semester, students create original sound works and learn hands on approaches to technology, which include building low cost microphones. Experimental sound synthesis and original approaches to creative sound will be explored as well as methods of collaboration and exhibition. Special approval needed from the instructor. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD464 - Audio Documentary and Diversity  (Same as WGSS 464) This course is the creation of short and long form audio documentaries by students, regardless of production background. Introduces students to basic production techniques and diversity considerations during the making of a documentary. This course uses qualitative methods to investigate an issue or to document an event, with an emphasis on observation and interview techniques. Topics will explore the role of gender, race, ethnicity and class during the planning, gathering and production stages of the documentary. Open to non-majors. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD465 - Advanced Television Production  Instruction and practical experience in the development of programming for television. Students will produce individual and/or small group projects for broadcast and follow the projects through from concept to completion. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 365A or consent of instructor. Restricted to RTD majors and senior standing. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD466 - Motion Graphics  Students build skills in visualization and design for motion graphics through a series of practical projects that include the creation of animated graphic packages, titles, sequences and short animations. Course guides the students in honing messages for visual works and covers best practices for working with clients and workflows for motion graphics production. Recommended: RTD 331 or equivalent graphics experience. Lab fee: $50. Credit Hours: 3
RTD467 - Global Media  Global media history, main theories, and current developments. The significance of global trends for local and regional media and cultures. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 200. Restricted to junior or senior standing or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

RTD469 - Video for Non-Majors  Basic shooting and editing to students interested in using video for purposes other than professional television production, such as education, business, or Web page development. The course surveys video formats and applications. Students produce projects using editing and special effects. Credit not given to RTD majors. Special approval needed from the instructor. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD470 - Television News Field Production  Advanced field reporting for television. Students will work under the supervision of the instructor to develop, investigate and report news stories for television. This process will also study the development and production of the mini-documentary. Class will utilize professional grade video recorders, cameras and editing systems. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 370 or consent. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD476 - Creative Audio Producing  This course puts the student in the role of recording producer, including responsibility for all decision-making during project development and production. Includes selection of material, budgeting, contracts, scheduling, performances, and all aspects of recording. Emphasis is placed on communication with clients, artists and engineers. Related elements include publishing, copyright and contracts. Prerequisite: MUS 375 or RTD 375, or consent of instructor. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD477 - Investigative Reporting for TV, Radio, and Online  Each student will choose one topic and produce a story with multimedia elements. Students will do in-depth research, conduct interviews, and investigate issues and topics of their choice with approval of the instructor. The latest investigative techniques will be explored as well as legal and ethical issues. Stories can air on public television, radio, or online. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 201. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD479 - Multi-Camera Field Production  Concentration on the techniques, conventions and implementation of live-event, multi-camera production in the field, including concerts, awards shows, and sports. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 365A and RTD 365B or consent of instructor. Lab Fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD480 - Emerging Media  Examination of developments in emerging media, including Internet applications, mobile media, and gaming, among others. Exploration of the impact of emerging media on traditional media cultures and economies. Restricted to senior standing or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

RTD487 - Animation I: Modeling  In this course, students will gain a solid foundation in creating 3D computer graphics using industry standard computer software and hardware. Through analysis and practice, students will develop an understanding of the principles of 3D modeling, lighting, texturing and rendering. Conceptual design and professional practices will also be addressed. Skills learned in this course will prepare students for the 3D Animation II class. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD488 - Animation II: Animation & Visual EFX  This intermediate course builds upon the skills learned in the 3D Animation I course, and will focus on narrative development, motion design and visual effects generation using industry standard practices. Topics include key frame animation, inverse kinematics, and visual effects using dynamics. A term project utilizes the creative and technical skills explored in class. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 487 (3D Animation I). Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

RTD489 - Electronic Media Workshop  Advanced work in various areas of electronic media, such as Gender and Media, Children and Media, Blaxploitation, Television in the US. Special approval needed from the instructor. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 2-9

RTD490 - Animation III: Production Studio  This advanced course builds upon the skills mastered in the 3D Animation I and II courses. Students walk through the 3D animation production cycle to produce a high-quality 3D animation suitable for portfolio exhibition. Class critiques and project analyses are used to direct students through the production process. This course advances students' knowledge of industry-standard practices. Prerequisite: C or better in RTD 487 or RTD 488. Lab fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3
RTD492 - Advanced Electronic Media Studies Workshop  Advanced topics in Media Studies such as Children and Media, Gender and Media, Race and Media. Restricted to Junior and Senior standing or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

RTD496 - Sound Design  This course examines in detail the relationship of sound and moving images. It traces intertwined histories, revealing important collaborations and technological developments that set precedents for both film and video. While the primary focus of this course is the artistic creation of soundtracks, we will also explore musical scoring and orchestration as utilized by film and television composers. Students will learn about and create sound designs, Foley sound and mix to picture sessions. Special approval needed from the instructor. Lab Fee: $55. Credit Hours: 3

Mass Communication and Media Arts Faculty

The graduate faculty of the college consists of members of the School of Journalism and Advertising and School of Media Arts. The faculty offer graduate courses leading to the following degrees: Master of Arts in Media Theory and Research, Master of Science in Professional Media and Media Management Studies, Master of Fine Arts in Mass Communication and Media Arts, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Mass Communication and Media Arts.

Graduate Faculty in Cinema


Kapur, Jyotsna, Professor, Cinema Studies, Ph.D., Northwestern University, 1998; 1998. Feminist and Marxist analysis of media, globalization, children’s film and consumer culture, documentary and ethnographic film, the German and Japanese new wave and Indian cinema.

Metz, Walter, Professor, and Acting Associate Dean and Interim Director of Graduate Studies, Film Criticism, Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin, 1996; 2009. Contemporary film and television criticism and theory, literature and film, science and film, post-war American culture.


Phillips, Mike, Clinical Assistant Professor, Media Studies, Ph.D., The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 2018; 2019. American and transnational popular culture, film genre, historical fiction, African American cinema, and intermediality.

Rowley, R. William, Associate Professor, Cinema, M.F.A., University of Iowa, 1974; 2000. Cinema production and post-production, screenwriting, observational; documentary, intermedia arts.

Spahr, Robert, Associate Professor and Interim Chair Department of Radio, Television, and Digital Media, Media Arts, M.F.A., Parsons School of Design, New York City, 1991; 2009. Explores the Internet using code-based automated art, live art performance, drawing, painting, sculpture and time-based media.

Zhou, Hong, Associate Professor, Cinema Production, M.F.A., York University, Toronto Canada, 2000; 2008. Film and video production, cinematography, Chinese cinema, surrealist cinema.

Emeriti Faculty

Boruszkowski, Lilly A., Associate Professor, Emerita, M.F.A., Northwestern University, 1980.

Covell, Michael D., Assistant Professor, Emeritus, M.F.A., Ohio University, 1975.

Gilmore, David A., Associate Professor, Emeritus, M.F.A., Ohio University, 1969.


Logan, Fern, Associate Professor, Emerita, M.F.A., School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1993.


Tudor, Deborah, Associate Professor, Emerita, Ph.D., Northwestern University, 1992.
Graduate Faculty in Journalism


Barrett, Anita J. (Stoner), Visiting Assistant Professor, Journalism and English Creative Writing, M.F.A., Syracuse University, 1995; 2005. Web production and content management systems, multimedia, revenue models for journalism.

Dolan, Mark, Associate Professor, Photojournalism, M.A., Syracuse University, 1995; 2008. Visual and interactive communication, photojournalism.


Han, Dong, Associate Professor, Media and Communication, Ph.D., University of Illinois, 2011; 2012. Intellectual property and media, medical history and political economy, international communication and communication technology.

Karan, Kavita, Professor, Advertising and Marketing, Ph.D., University of London, 1994; 2009. Political communication, advertising and market research, international communication, media and children, health communication.

McClurg, Scott, Professor, Political Science, Ph.D., Washington University, 2000; 2001. Political participation, public opinion, electoral behavior, political geography, spatial statistics, and campaign dynamics.

Ryoo, Yuhosua, Assistant Professor, Advertising, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 2019; 2019. The intersection of digital advertising, medial psychology, and prosocial behavior, individual, social, and situational factors of digital and social media.

Thompson, Jan, Professor and Director of the School of Journalism and Advertising, Documentary production, M.G.S., Roosevelt University, 1998; 2000. Video production, documentary, sports production.

Emeriti Faculty

Atwood, L. Erwin, Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Iowa, 1965.

Frith, Katherine T., Professor, Emerita, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, 1985.

Gruny, C. Richard, Assistant Professor, Emeritus, J.D., University of Illinois, 1959.

Jaehnig, Walter, Associate Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Essex, 1974.

Lowry, Dennis, Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Iowa, 1972.

Shidler, Jon A., Associate Professor, Emeritus, M.S., Roosevelt University, 1980.

Spellman, Robert L., Jr., Associate Professor, Emeritus, J.D., Cleveland State University, 1977.

Stone, Gerald C., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Syracuse University, 1975.

Graduate Faculty in Radio, Television, and Digital Media

Brookshire, Cody, Assistant Professor, Music Composition, DMA, University of Georgia, 2018; 2020. Music composition, sound art/soundscapes, sound design, electronic music, audio engineering, audio/music technology, audio/music production, arts collaboration, immersive audio, spatialized sound.

Brooten, Lisa B., Associate Professor, Media Studies, Ph.D. Ohio University, 2003; 2002. Media and globalization, gender, alternative media, social movements, political communication, interpretive/critical research methods, ethnography.

Burns, David, Associate Professor, Digital Media Arts and Animation, M.F.A., Parsons School of Design, 2001; 2005. 3D computer animation, media arts practices, technology, culture, and society, memory and post-memory.

Kreider, Wago, Associate Professor, Media Production, M.F.A., Rutgers University, 2002; 2006. Experimental and documentary media production, sound studies and production, cinematic histories, architectural and environmental studies.

Motyl, H. D., Associate Professor and Interim Dean, Media Production and Screenwriting, M.F.A., Northwestern University, 1990; 2007. Film/Video production and screen writing, narrative, gay representation.


Padovani, Cinzia, Associate Professor, Media Studies, Ph.D. University of Colorado, 1999; 2005. Historical approaches to political economy, public service broad-casting, international communication, social movements and the media.


Perkins-Buzo, Reid, Assistant Professor, Media Arts, M.F.A., Northwestern University, 2004; 2014. 2D/3D animation, game development, virtual reality, augmented reality, expanded reality, spherical (360°) video production and interactive media.

Sphar, Robert, Associate Professor and Interim Chair Department of Radio, Television, and Digital Media, Media Arts, M.F.A., Parsons School of Design, New York City, 1991; 2009. Explores the Internet using code-based automated art, live art performance, drawing, painting, sculpture and time-based media.

Thompson, Jan, Professor and Director of the School of Journalism and Advertising, Documentary Production, M.G.S., Roosevelt University, 1988; 2000. Video production, documentary, sports production.

Emeriti Faculty


Gher, Leo, Associate Professor, Emeritus, M.S., Southern Illinois University, 1980.

Hochheimer, John L., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Stanford University, 1986.


Keller, Kenneth R., Associate Professor, Emeritus, M.TV., University of Illinois, 1966.

Lemish, Dafna, Professor, Emerita, Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1982.

Meehan, Eileen R., Professor, Emerita, Ph.D., University of Illinois, 1983.

Podber, Jacob J., Associate Professor, Ph.D., Ohio University, 2001.

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