

NU-Q Summer 2022 Course Descriptions

Communication Courses

MIT 360-0 Topics in Media Writing: Heroes & Villains

Character is the heart of any film, no matter the genre or style, and the world, plot, and stakes of the film exist to reveal and to deepen our understanding of that character. Elements of story are only meaningful when filtered through a character's perspective and when the audience can see something of themselves in the characters, allowing us not just to empathize with their quest but to see our own hopes, desires, and flaws reflected in the story. In this class, we will look at how character affects all other aspects of story, including plot, theme, and structure. We will look at different heroes and villains from various genres of film - drama, comedy, horror, sci-fi, action, etc. Students will discover characterization tools and techniques that they can apply to their work in order to create compelling, interesting multi-dimensional characters.

Instructor(s): Dana Atrach

Prerequisites: MIT 260-0 or MIT 298-0 Introduction to Playwriting

- Open to MIT majors only, sophomores and above

Journalism Courses

Jour 390-0 Special Topics: Photojournalism and Documentary

This course is designed to practically introduce students to the practice of documentary photography and photojournalism, and in the process, offer them a broader palette of options when it comes to telling their story. On successful completion of this course, students will be able to produce meaningful photographic messages, and explain the role of photographs in the outputs of both print and online media outlets. Students will need to learn how to use a Digital Single-Lens Reflex kit together with Adobe Lightroom to complete the course successfully. The course looks at a wide range of perspectives on the practical, theoretical and philosophical aspects of photography in general and documentary photography and photojournalism in particular.

Instructor(s): Eddy Borges-Rey

Prerequisites: None

- Open to sophomores and above

Jour 390-0/MIT 398-0/Religion 387-0 Special Topics: Islam, America, and the Media

This course will analyze how images of Islam are fashioned in the U.S. media in dialogue with (and/or ignorance of) the long history of Islam in America. As a minority religious community, American Muslims have responded and hoped to shape their own media narrative, but face enduring challenges relating to Islamophobia, race, neo-liberalism, and international events. This course examines the crafting of media narratives both about Islam and by Muslims in America. It also compares these narratives with the actual religious identities of Muslims in America over two centuries or more.

Instructor(s): Abraham Abusharif & Zachary Wright

Prerequisites: None

- Open to sophomores and above
- Satisfying Media and Politics Minor and Middle Eastern Studies Minor

STRATCOM 306-0 Media Planning

How do professional communicators decide what media to use in a strategic communication campaign, in order to maximize its impact? How should the budget be split among various types of digital and legacy media? How long should the campaign run? How many consumers should the campaign reach, and how frequently? What are reasonable objectives from a media planning perspective? How do you track the impact of a campaign? This course provides an introduction to the basic strategy and techniques of media planning in the context of traditional and digital strategic communication campaigns. We will analyze the advantages and disadvantages of various media in terms of their potential contribution to specific campaign goals; discuss criteria employed by professionals in selecting media types and vehicles; and learn to use professional software to make a range of media planning decisions. The topics covered include media effectiveness, audience research and measurement, secondary sources of research used in media planning, as well as the design, construction, implementation and evaluation of effective media plans.

Instructor(s): George Anghelcev

Prerequisites: STRATCOM 303-0

- Open to sophomores and above
- Satisfies Strategic Communication Minor

Liberal Arts Courses

HISTORY 242-0 Topics in History: A Survey of US History

This course will introduce you to the history of America over the last four hundred years. Rather than try to race through and cover everything we will instead focus on four eras, slowing down and digging deep, in an attempt to better uncover significant historical meaning. Our four eras are:1. The Colonial Era – here we will explore how Europeans, Africans and Native Americans created new societies of freedom and slavery in the 17th and 18th Centuries.2. The Expanding Republic - here we will explore how Americans transformed small colonies into the continental United States in the 19th Century and then fought a civil war over its future.3. The New Superpower – here we will explore how the United States recovered from civil war and turned a continental nation into the world’s strongest superpower in the first half of the 20th Century.4. The Reformed Superpower – here we will explore how the United States fought the Cold War abroad and fought over the expansion of civil rights at home in the second half of the 20th Century. In each of these eras we will focus on one key question: what does it mean to be an American? Is American identity based on birthplace or geography residency? Or, is American-ness defined by a person’s race or gender or ideological beliefs? And, who gets to decide? As we will see the definition of “American” and who gets to call themselves an “American” has changed overtime and been a constant source of conflict.

Instructor(s): Christopher Sparshott

Prerequisites: None

- Open to sophomores and above

INTERDIS 379-0 Topics in Science and Technology Studies: Our Electrified World

Electricity dominates our lives. But our electrified world presents opportunities as well as challenges. Electric-powered technologies help complete many of our tasks and many people claim that electricity to be the underlying energy of our civilization. At the same time, electricity exposes inequalities in the world (not all societies have access to it) and serious environmental implications. Drawing from a variety of sources and disciplines, this course examines the nuts and bolts of electricity, history of electricity and electrification, and the consequences (good and bad) of our electrified world.

Instructor(s): Anto Mohsin

Prerequisites: None

- Open to sophomores and above

- **Students who completed INTERDIS 242-0 Topics in Science and Technology Studies: Our Electrified World should not enroll in this course**
- Open for cross-registration

POLI_SCI 390-0/MIT 398-0 Special Topics: Media & Politics in Arab World

The course engages with the debates over the role of the media since the emergence of the independent Arab states in the first half of the 20th century through present time, and up until the influence of the media during and after the Arab Spring. Between these two time ends, the media has been part of broader processes of nation-building, ruling-elites consolidation, identity-creation and dismantling, as well as a crucial means of political opposition. The course examines how emerging states and governments in the region have used and manipulated the media for decades in their sustained effort to construct distinctive national identities. Thematically, the course covers a spectrum of topics including loyalist media and their role in supporting political status quo, oppositional and ideological media, the politics of private-owned media, media and political change, media and foreign policy, media and social change, media and religion, and the politics and influence of foreign media and off-shore Arab media. A considerable space and discussion is also devoted to transnational broadcasting media pioneered by Al-Jazeera in 1996. A similar focus is given to the emergence of social media along with youth activism in relation with raising the ceiling of free speech and creating spaces for political debates and criticism in the region.

Instructor(s): Khaled Al Hroub

Prerequisites: None

- Open to sophomores and above
- Open for Cross-Registration
- Satisfying Media and Politics Minor and Middle East Studies Minor