

NU-Q Summer 2017 Course Descriptions

Communication/ MIT Courses

MIT 349-0 Internship in Media Industries and Technologies

This course is intended to provide academic structure and guidance for the professional internships being completed by students in the School of Communication. Students will meet weekly with the instructor and other students to discuss the weekly readings and their relationship to events on the job sites, to share progress reports, and to address questions and concerns about the work they are completing in various media-related jobs. Since internships are linked to the academic progress of students in their department, critical reflection on work experiences is a necessity. Students are encouraged to explore the links and gaps between what they have learned in the classroom and what they are learning in the workplace.

Instructor: Susan Dun

Prerequisites: None

- Open to MIT majors only, juniors and above
- Students may register for 1-4 units with the instructor's permission
- Consent of instructor required

MIT 398-0 Undergraduate Seminar: Rhetorical Criticism

In this course, students will reflect on the various ways in which messages do rhetorical (persuasive) work and will develop a more critical (analytical and evaluative) stance from which to read persuasive messages. In the first half of the semester, they will explore some of the theories and methods that communication scholars have used to study persuasive communication. In the second half of the semester, they will employ some of these theories and methods to develop a detailed critique of a rhetorical text (literary, audio-visual, performative, interactive, multimedia) of their choice. Students will write several short papers that summarize and comment upon the various critical theories and methods. Each student will co-teach (with me) one critical theory or method. Students will write a detailed rhetorical critique of a text of their choice in four steps (Text Description, Critical Stance, Interpretation, Evaluation) and will share their critique with the class in a formal presentation.

Instructor: Allwyn Tellis

Prerequisites: None

- Open sophomores and above
- Open for Cross-Registration

Journalism Courses

INTERDIS 202-0 Interdisciplinary Topics: Ethics for Media Professionals

This course will explore the origins of ethical behavior and actions by looking at both classical and contemporary approaches to ethical decision making. It examines a variety of ethical issues relating to contemporary media production and consumption. It challenges students to consider ethical decision-making from a philosophical perspective using moral dilemmas likely to be encountered by citizens as they produce and consume content in a connected world. Students will analyze the societal implications resulting from these ethical dilemmas.

Instructor(s): Amy Sanders & Andrew Mills

Prerequisites: None

- Open to sophomores and above

Jour 390-0/MIT 398-0 Special Topics: Media and Religion

Some of the most significant media narratives produced today are those that concern religion. Media discourses about faith, its practices, confrontations, political campaigning, violence, and social backlashes are provoking crucial global conversations—some civil and some otherwise. In this class, students will be introduced to the surprisingly close relationships between the mighty forces of media and religion. We will take a close look at the evolution of religious content in popular media (including entertainment, journalism, and religious broadcasting) and examine how this all relates to what is loosely called “globalization” and emerging digital technologies. We will also consider methods to produce case studies of major media stories that started as or evolved into religion-based narratives, such as ISIS’s use of digital media; reactions and counter-reactions to the Charlie Hedbo shootings; Western discourses appropriating religion for political advantage; and appraisals of media handling of such flashpoints as the Chapel Hill murders, South Carolina church shootings, post-elections intimidations, and more. This will be an interactive class with much discussion and analysis.

Instructor(s): Abraham Abusharif

Prerequisites: None

- Open to sophomores and above
- Open for Cross-Registration
- Cross-listed as MIT 398-0

Jour 390-0/MIT 398-0 Special Topics: Brexit One Year On

This class will firstly explore British history from 1945 until today in order to provide a foundation for the social and political assignments to which students will be tasked. Students will be introduced to discourse analysis as both a theory and a method with which to examine social media and online mainstream media discourse leading up to the Brexit referendum in June 2016. They will then be required to compare and examine this to news coverage from the same media outlets one year later, reporting on how media has changed their approach to Britain’s decision to leave the European Union and the British Governments approach to the invoking of Article 50. In parallel, students will be trained on video storytelling techniques and the use of mobile devices in content production.

Instructor(s): Miriam Berg

Prerequisites: None

- Open to sophomores and above
- Instructor permission is required
- Class will commence on Sunday the 14th of May and will run each day from Sunday – Thursday, 1.30 until 5.20 pm. Travel to London will be from Friday the 19th to May 26th (the second week of class). The third and fourth week will be spent back in Doha.
- Cross-listed as MIT 398-0

Jour 390-0 Special Topics: Fashion Journalism

This course will introduce NU-Q journalism students to fashion journalism. It will enable students with a passion for both storytelling and fashion to combine their interests and learn the skills necessary to succeed in this competitive journalism industry. It includes travel to London and Milan.

Instructor(s): Christina Paschyn

Prerequisites: None

- Open to sophomore and above
- Instructor permission is required
- Class meets in Qatar from May 14-17th. Dates the class travels: Doha to London, May 19-24th. London to Milan, May 24-29th. Fly out the 29th from Milan back to Doha.

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
- Open for Cross-Registration

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

The course focuses on the role of the media in the socio-political processes in post-colonial Arab region. It engages with the debates over such a role 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 that was pioneered by Al-Jazeera in 1996, followed by the rise of social media. The Arab media landscape has continued to show dramatic change since the emergence Al- trans-border TV broadcasting with their

political influence in the region. 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 sophomore and above
- Open for Cross-Registration
- Satisfying Media and Politics Minor and Middle Eastern Studies certificate course requirements
- Cross-listed as MIT 398-0