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MART 450.01M: Topics in Film - Media Studies

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MAR 450: 01 Topics in Film and Media Studies

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Course Overview

MAR 450 Topics in Film and Media Studies is an upper division writing course for the School of Media Arts. There will be four writing assignments throughout the semester and each one will be five pages in length. It is based on the idea that effective writing both strengthens and is strengthened by an understanding of critical thinking and information literacy. Although centered on the relationship between aesthetics and the emerging capabilities of digital technology in both integrated digital media and filmmaking, the course will explore a variety of specific subject areas. Details on the parameters of each assignment will be posted in the online course shell and reviewed before beginning each one. They will be divided into the following writing assignments:

1. The Op-Ed piece

- An opinion piece that is centered on a social or cultural issue.

2. The Biographical Sketch

- A biographical sketch of a historical figure that presents the reader with a solid overview of their work and the impact that they have had on the development of our contemporary cultural, social or artistic environment.

3. The Future Imagined

- A paper that describes a scenario centering on one of the digital technology realities of the next 20 years and the social, cultural and artistic adaptations that we, as a global community, will make.

4. The Artist Statement

- A piece that articulates your artistic perspective and what you hope to accomplish as you begin your professional career.

Outcomes

The cultural, social, and technological landscape continues to

change dramatically so it is critical that the student artist develop the skills necessary to adapt to the realities of the 21st century and the world that they will actually be living in. At the conclusion of this course students should be able to use writing as a means of finding, synthesizing, analyzing, and evaluating information, retaining course material, and using that information and material in order to form and express coherent thoughts and arguments. In addition they should have an expanded understanding of the historical relationship between digital technology and art and be able to articulate the constantly evolving environment of artistic expression.

Research / Assignments

In this course there will be a total of **4 writing assignments** (a detailed description of each can be found in the Assignments area in the online course shell). You will be responsible for researching the assigned topic and composing a five-page double space writing assignment. Do not cut and paste information from websites. Your responsibility is to articulate a clear and concise perspective based on the information. Each assignment must be a Word file. *See Course Calendar for due dates and specific topic information.* You will be responsible for listing all of your sources for each assignment.

Assignment Excerpts

In addition to each writing assignment, students will be responsible for extracting a **1-3 sentence excerpt** of their paper that encapsulates a particular point of the piece. You will then upload that excerpt to the corresponding forum where it will be available for classmates to read. The title of the excerpt will be the title of the paper. Students have the option of attaching the entire paper to the post as a downloadable pdf file.

Attendance

Attendance for all classes focusing on the **Assignment Introduction is mandatory** and will be taken into account when grading. Attendance on all **Workshop days is optional**. Individual meetings can be scheduled as needed. See Course Calendar for specific dates.

Grading Procedure

Grades will be based primarily on the student's ability to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the specific characteristics and integrative capabilities of the assigned topic.
2. Articulate a clear and concise perspective. Cutting and pasting or copying word for word off the Internet will also result in loss of points.
3. Present an organized paper including proper and punctual delivery of the assignment files. (See the Course Information area for specifics)
4. Being present in class.

There will be a total of **100 points** and each assignment will be worth 25 points. Re-writes are accepted.

Points will translate into the following letter grade:

A 95-100
A- 90-94
B+ 86-89
B 83-85
B- 80-82
C+ 76-79
C 73-75
C- 70-72
D 60-69

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available online at http://life.umt.ed/vpsa/student_conduct.php