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MART 450.50: Topics in Film and Media Studies

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School of Media Arts

MART 450 Topics in Film and Media Studies
Spring 2016

SYLLABUS

Professor: Tobin Addington

MART 450 Office Hours: Tues 3-4; Thurs 11:30-12:30 & by appointment in McGill 232.

MART 450 Virtual Office Hours: by Appointment

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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. The assignments will consist of one opening remarks essay (1 page), six individual topic essays (3 pages each), and a final three page re-write of one of the topic essays. In addition, you will be responsible for a pre-essay outline for each of the primary topic essays (2 through 7 below). For a complete schedule of assignments refer to the Course Calendar.

This course is designed to encourage thoughtful and critical analysis and is based on the idea that effective writing both strengthens and is strengthened by an understanding of critical thinking and information literacy. The course will explore a variety of specific topics, which are introduced below, and will hopefully assist you in expanding your cultural, social, and artistic perspectives. Above all, we want you to think.

Details on the parameters of each assignment can be found on the weekly assignment pages. They will be divided into the following topics:

1. Opening Remarks
2. Op-Ed
3. The Unsung Hero
4. Democratized A/V Technology
5. The Future of Education
6. Privacy in the 21st Century
7. Emerging Technologies
8. The Re-Write

OUTCOMES

As the cultural, social, and technological landscape continues to undergo rapid and dramatic change, it is critical that the student artist develop the skills necessary to adapt to the realities of the 21st century and navigate the world in which they live, work, collaborate, and create. At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to use writing as a means of discovering, 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 creative expression.

THE PROCESS

In this course there will be a total of 8 writing assignments (described above). You will be responsible for researching the assigned topic and composing your essay. Do not cut and paste information from websites. Period. (I can usually tell...) Your responsibility is to articulate a clear and concise perspective based on the information you have researched.

OUTLINES | ESSAYS

(refer to the main Assignments Page for due dates and weekly assignment pages for details)

The course will begin with a one-page Opening Remarks essay. From there, each of the primary essays for the course will be divided into two parts: the thesis outline followed by the essay itself. You will have one week for each.

The Outline should be no longer than one page and consist of a one- or two-sentence description of your topic and thesis -- by which I mean the *point of view* you are going to argue vis-a-vis your topic. That should be followed by 3-4 thesis points that you will be using as evidence to support your thesis. The thesis points can be in bullets. This Outline will form the foundation for your 3-page essay.

Each outline will be pasted into a forum that will be available for everyone in the class, and each essay will be uploaded directly to the grade book. You will be responsible for listing all of your sources for each assignment.

GRADING PROCEDURE

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the specific characteristics, capabilities, and potential impact of the assigned topic.
2. Articulate a clear and concise perspective that includes reinforcing your point of view with *facts* and *relevant information* gathered from your research. Cutting and pasting or copying word-for-word off the Internet will result in loss of points, up to a possible zero for the assignment. (If you're borrowing an idea from someone else, give them credit by citing your source!)
3. Present organized work including proper and punctual delivery of the assignment files. **IMPORTANT:** Assignments uploaded late but within one week of the due date will lose 50% of the assignment grade. Assignments uploaded more than a week late will not be accepted.

There will be a total of 100 points and the assignment breakdown is as follows:

The **Opening Remarks Essay** will be worth **6 points**

Topic **Outlines** will each be worth **2 points**

Topic **Essays** will each be worth **10 points**
The final **Re-Write** will be worth **10 points**

Points will translate into the following letter grade:

A 94-100
A- 90-93
B+ 86-89
B 83-85
B- 80-82
C+ 76-79
C 73-75
C- 70-72
D 60-69
F 0-59

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct CodeAll 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.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php