

[Main Campus](#) · [Other](#) · [Mass Communications](#)

# Digital Media Industries COMM-3350

Fall 2021 Section 01 3 Credits 08/11/2021 to 12/10/2021 Modified 08/17/2021

## Description

Examination of contemporary industry and social issues facing digital media industries. Particular attention given to analysis of structure and process, revenue sources, programming and services, audience research, and effects of traditional electronic media platforms (e.g., radio and television) and digital media platforms (e.g., streaming services, social media).

### Requisites

Prerequisites:

COMM 1154 Minimum Grade: C and ENGL 1102 Minimum Grade: C

Corequisites:

## Contact Information

Professor: Kyle Lorenzano , Ph.D.

Email: [klorenza@westga.edu](mailto:klorenza@westga.edu)

Office: Humanities 149 (Subject to Change!)

Phone: 678-839-4933

### Office Hours

PHYSICAL OFFICE HOURS:

Tue/Thu, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., 12:15 – 3:15 p.m.

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS (GOOGLE HANGOUT[1]): Mon/Wed, Noon – 3:00 p.m.

[1] To start a Google Hangouts conversation, sign in to your UWG Gmail account, visit [hangouts.google.com](https://hangouts.google.com), click 'New Conversation' near the top of the page, enter my UWG email ([klorenza@westga.edu](mailto:klorenza@westga.edu)), and send an invitation to start the call. I will be available to talk via Google Hangouts during the virtual office hours dates/times listed above.

## Meeting Times

### Hybrid

Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Miller Hall 2201

#### A NOTE ON THE HYBRID FORMAT

Unless otherwise specified in the course schedule or via email/CourseDen, our allotted Tue/Thu class time will be used as such:

- On Tuesdays, students will be responsible for watching YouTube video lectures posted on CourseDen that same day. **Therefore, we will *not* have in-class meetings on Tuesday unless otherwise specified.**

- **On Thursdays, we will hold our regular class meeting from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Miller Hall 2201.** Typically, these class meetings will be reserved for activities, class discussion, reviewing important assignment/project directions, and administering quizzes/exams. By Thursday's class, it is assumed that you have already watched Tuesday's lecture and read any assigned reading(s) for the week, so please ensure that you come prepared to class in accordance with the course schedule listed at the end of this

document.

Please note that the typical schedule outlined above is entirely subject to change! As a result, students should *always* regularly check their UWG email and CourseDen for any announcements concerning a change in the usual class format outlined here or within the course schedule.

## Materials

### Electronic media: Then, now, and later

**Author:** Medoff & Kaye

**Publisher:** Taylor & Francis

**Edition:** 3rd Edition

## Outcomes

Global media industries and platforms for distributing media content have undergone profound changes since the start of this decade, let alone the start of this century. Although many of these changes can be attributed to emerging digital media, traditional/legacy outlets still greatly inform today's media landscape. However, this relationship between so-called "old" and "new" media is not without historical precedent – older media rarely disappear entirely in the face of advancements in new media; the former often greatly influences the revenue models, structure, and use of the latter.

The aim of this course is to unpack the exact nature of this old/new media relationship and its impact(s) on society, with a particular emphasis on the history of technological innovations and the media as an economic enterprise. By the end of this course, students will have developed a more critical eye as media consumers themselves when thinking about the history, platforms, practitioners, content, and socio-cultural factors that make up the media as we know it today. In addition, the programmatic/management aspects of the media industry will be touched upon, such that students will have the foundation necessary to enroll in COMM 3355 by the end of the semester.

#### Mass Communications Program Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications. (ACEJMC Student Learning Outcome #2)

ACEJMC Professional Values and Competencies: As a unit seeking accreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC), the Department of Mass Communications is committed to preparing students with the requisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the media and communications industries after graduation. The Department has adopted as its degree program learning outcomes ACEJMC's 12 professional values and competencies that all graduates of an ACEJMC accredited program should be aware of and able to demonstrate as scholars and professionals in the discipline. These include the six (6) values and six (6) competencies listed below. For the detailed list of the ACEJMC professional values and competencies, see the [UWG Undergraduate Catalog](#) or [ACEJMC - Standard 2. Curriculum and Instruction](#).

## Evaluation

### Criteria

#### EVALUATION (out of 1000 points total)

- Syllabus Quiz (50 points)
- Participation/Attendance (250 points)
- Exams (300 points)
- Annotated Bibliography (150 points)
- Electronic Media Analysis (250 points)

### Breakdown

## GRADING SCALE

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	69 – 60%
F	59% or below

## Assignments

### Syllabus Quiz (5%)

To ensure students have read and comprehended important aspects of the syllabus, a quiz will be administered in class on the date specified in the course schedule. The quiz itself will be comprised of 20 multiple choice and true/false questions. To prepare for the quiz, it is *highly* recommended that you read this syllabus in its entirety.

### Participation/Attendance (25%)

Students are expected to be attentive and active participants during class time. Therefore, participation/attendance during class will count towards your final grade. Attendance to class *alone* is not sufficient to receive these points for each class period. Therefore, the instructor reserves the right to deduct some or all of these points in the event students are inattentive, unprepared for class, more than 15 minutes late, or are otherwise not active members of class.

Because I do understand that life happens, students will be granted one excused absence for the semester that they can use for *any* reason. I will also grant excused absences in the case of university athletics commitments, illness, death in the family, or other emergency/extenuating circumstances, but only if I am informed in advance<sup>[1]</sup> and provided with documented proof of the extenuating circumstances in question.

<sup>[1]</sup> Or as close to advance as is possible in the case of a legitimate emergency.

### Exams (30%)

During the semester, three closed-book exams will be administered in class on the dates listed within the course schedule. Each exam is non-cumulative and will cover material from lectures and assigned textbook chapters directly preceding the exam date. Study guides will be provided on CourseDen no later than one week before the exam date. Each exam will contain 33 questions and be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

### Annotated Bibliography (15%)

In preparation for the final semester paper (i.e. the Electronic Media Analysis), students will be responsible for submitting an annotated bibliography made up of a minimum of **10 scholarly sources** that will be utilized in their final papers, not counting any of the chapters from the Medoff & Kaye textbook or other readings/material assigned throughout the semester. In short, you will be expected to list each a citation for each source in APA format, followed by a paragraph-length summary of the source *in your own words* and its relevance to your upcoming final paper. More detailed instructions on this assignment will be given at the appropriate time.

### Electronic Media Analysis (25%)

As the final paper/project for the semester, students will be asked to write an 6 – 8-page (double-spaced) paper on a *single* medium discussed during the semester and provide an original argument using the 10 (or more) scholarly sources included in the annotated bibliography. Ideally, these papers will be an opportunity to demonstrate the kind of historical, economic, and/or societal knowledge concerning electronic media covered throughout the semester, as well as going beyond what was simply already covered in class. More details and a grading rubric for this paper will be provided closer to the due date listed in the course schedule.

## Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Aug. 12	Syllabus/Introductions	
Aug. 17	Today's Media	- Read Ch. 1 - Watch Video Lecture
Aug. 19	Today's Media	- <b>Syllabus Quiz (in-class)</b> - Class Discussion/Activity
Aug. 24	Brief History of Media Industries	- Read Ch. 2 - Watch Video Lecture
Aug. 26	Brief History of Media Industries	- Class Discussion/Activity
Aug. 31	History of Television	- Read Ch. 3 - Watch Video Lecture
Sept. 2	History of Television	- Exam 1 Review Session - Class Activity
Sept. 7	TV/Radio Programming	- Read Ch. 4 - Watch Video Lecture
Sept. 9	TV/Radio Programming	- <b>Exam 1 (in class)</b>
Sept. 14	the Internet	- Read Ch. 5 - Watch Video Lecture
Sept. 16	the Internet	- YouTube Activity
Sept. 21	Digital Devices	- Read Ch. 6 - Watch Video Lecture
Sept. 23	Digital Devices	- Annotated Bib Explanation - Class Discussion/Activity
Sept. 28	Advertising	- Read Ch. 7 - Watch Video Lecture
Sept. 30	Advertising	- APA Demo/Activity
Oct. 5	Public Relations	- Watch Video Lecture
Oct. 7	FALL BREAK (NO CLASS)	<b>FALL BREAK (NO CLASS)</b>
Oct. 12	Audience Measurement	- Read Ch. 8 - Watch Video Lecture
Oct. 14	Audience Measurement	- <b>Exam 2 (in class)</b>

When	Topic	Notes
Oct. 19	Social Media	- Read Ch. 9 - Watch Video Lecture
Oct. 21	Social Media	- Annotated Bib workshop - <b>Annotated Bibliography due to CourseDen by 11:59 p.m.</b>
Oct. 26	Media Ownership	- Read Ch. 10 - Watch Video Lecture
Oct. 28	Media Ownership	- Ownership Chain Activity - Electronic Media Analysis Explanation
Nov. 2	Media Operations	- Read Ch. 11 - Watch Video Lecture
Nov. 4	Media Operations	- Exam 3 Review Session - Class Discussion/Activity
Nov. 9	History of Film	- Watch Video Lecture
Nov. 11	History of Film	- <b>Exam 3 (in class)</b>
Nov. 16	'The Movies' & Business of Film	- Read Ch. 12 - Watch Video Lecture
Nov. 18	'The Movies' & Business of Film	- Class Discussion/Activity
Nov. 23	THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)	THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)
Nov. 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)	THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)
Nov. 30	Workshop Week	- no assigned lectures/chapters
Dec. 2	Workshop Week	- Electronic Media Analysis Workshop (in class)
Dec. 7	ELECTRONIC MEDIA ANALYSIS DUE	<b>ELECTRONIC MEDIA ANALYSIS DUE TO COURSE DEN BY 11:59 P.M.</b>

## \* Course Policies and Resources

### Late Work

Any assignment submitted late will receive a 10% late deduction per day late. Under this late deduction system, by default, any assignments submitted more than 10 days late will receive an automatic zero. Outside of documented emergencies like a serious illness, death in the family, etc., I will adhere to the policy outlined here. If you have special circumstances, please contact me as soon as you are able to.

### Academic Misconduct

As per university and department policy, all forms of plagiarism, cheating, and academic misconduct are not tolerated. Depending on the severity of the violation, instances of academic misconduct may be dealt with at a departmental and/or university level. At minimum, the first violation of academic honesty/integrity in this class will result in an automatic zero on the assignment(s) in question and a full letter grade deduction at the end of the semester. Additional violations beyond this first case will result in additional penalties depending on the severity of the violation, up to and including automatic failure in the course. For more information about grounds for academic misconduct violations and academic integrity, please consult the [Student Handbook and Code of Conduct](#).

## Submission of Assignments/Grades

All assignments or exams must be completed and submitted on the day they are due according to the course schedule and assignment description. Please note that I will try to give you feedback as quickly as possible, but I too can get busy as the semester progresses.

All grades will be posted via CourseDen. I am legally prohibited from discussing specific assignment grades or students' final overall grades in any course, so specific grade inquires must be addressed one-on-one during in-person or virtual office hours.

## College/School Policies

### Mission

Fair, just, and productive societies require the free flow of news, information, and ideas from communicators of knowledge, skill, and integrity who reflect the diversity of the people they serve. Therefore, the Department of Mass Communications strives to provide high quality academic and experiential learning opportunities to prepare students for successful integration into the global community as industry professionals, leaders, and thinkers in the fields of convergence journalism, digital media and telecommunication, film and video production, and public relations.

### Vision

The Department of Mass Communications is committed to empowering students to communicate clearly, act responsibly, think critically, and understand context(s) to enhance their personal, civic, academic, and professional lives, facilitating active participation in an evolving and increasingly diverse society.

### Strategic Priorities

#### *Invested Teaching*

To inspire and equip students to discover their personal, intellectual, and professional potential through personalized teaching, academic coaching, and career mentoring.

#### *Experiential Learning*

To offer students early and on-going multiple and diverse hands-on learning to develop and enhance personal, intellectual, and professional growth.

#### *Connectedness*

To serve as the hub that connects and cultivates partnerships among key stakeholders to enhance personal, intellectual, and professional growth. Key stakeholders include administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, industry, community, and friends.

## Mass Communications Degree Program Learning Outcomes

**ACEJMC Professional Values and Competencies:** The Bachelor of Science degree program in Mass Communications is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC), and the Department is committed to preparing students with the requisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the media and communications industries after graduation. The Department has adopted as its Mass Communications degree program learning outcomes ACEJMC's 12 professional values and competencies, known as 6 X 6 MASS COMM SUCCESS, that all graduates of an ACEJMC accredited program should be aware of and able to demonstrate as scholars and professionals in the discipline. For the detailed list of the ACEJMC professional values and competencies, see the [UWG Undergraduate Catalog \(https://catalog.westga.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=11&pooid=1991\)](https://catalog.westga.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&pooid=1991) or [ACEJMC - Standard 2. Curriculum and Instruction \(http://www.acejmc.org/policies-process/nine-standards/\)](http://www.acejmc.org/policies-process/nine-standards/).

### 6 X 6 MASS COMM SUCCESS

[6 X 6 MASS COMM SUCCESS \(https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/mass-communications/assets/pics/6x6\\_MC\\_Success\\_Graphic.JPG\)](https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/mass-communications/assets/pics/6x6_MC_Success_Graphic.JPG)

(click to view image)

1. Freedom of Speech & Press
2. History
3. Diversity
4. Global Impact
5. Theory
6. Ethics
7. Think Critically & Creatively
8. Research & Evaluate
9. Write Effectively
10. Self-Evaluate
11. Apply Numbers & Statistics
12. Apply Technology

## Film & Video Production Degree Program Learning Outcomes

**Overview:** The Bachelor of Science degree program in Film & Video Production is designed to train graduates in the field who are agile, adaptable, and able to employ their skills in an array of roles from entrepreneurial content producers to on-set film work, both above and below the line. It will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the machinery at work behind media production and distribution, along with a set of tangible, marketable, and transferable skills for an array of positions within the infrastructure of film and content production. The FVP degree program learning outcomes include:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking, aesthetic awareness and technical proficiency in the production and assessment of audio-visual film work.
2. Understand all phases and roles of film production in order to help formulate career goals.
3. Understand the various potentials of film as both a commodity for a targeted audience, and an act of authorship and creative expression.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of cinema in a global society.

## Institutional Policies

### Academic Support

**Accessibility Services:** Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

**Center for Academic Success:** The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or [cas@westga.edu](mailto:cas@westga.edu).

**University Writing Center:** The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or [writing@westga.edu](mailto:writing@westga.edu).

### Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online](#)

(<https://uwgonline.westga.edu/>) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php) (<http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php>).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) (<http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/>) site. [Online counseling](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php>) is also available for online students.

## Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please visit the [Office of Community Standards](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/ocs/index.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/ocs/index.php>) site.

## UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

## Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

## HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: [http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional\\_information#](http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information#) ([http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional\\_information](http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information))

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: <https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php> (<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>)

## Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGCares](#).

## ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

## COVID-19

The health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff remain the University of West Georgia's top priority.

For the most recent information on coronavirus disease (COVID-19) visit:

- [UWG's Guidance on Face Coverings \(https://www.westga.edu/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/faq/what-is-the-guidance-on-the-use-of-face-coverings.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/faq/what-is-the-guidance-on-the-use-of-face-coverings.php)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention FAQ \(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html)
- [Georgia Department of Public Health \(https://dph.georgia.gov/\)](https://dph.georgia.gov/)

## Additional Items

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