

# Mass Media and Communication II Course Syllabus FALL SEMESTER 2019

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Oscar Jamaal

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**Department:** Literary Media & Communication

**Meeting Times:** Tuesday 2:10 - 3:25pm; Wednesday 3:30 - 4:50pm; Thursday 3:30 - 4:50pm

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## Overview:

Media II is designed for intermediate students. It continues to foster developing the fundamentals of digital cinematography including learning the key elements of digital film and video, from lighting, scripting and HD video production, to the different shooting styles needed for cinematic and commercial projects. We will also critically analyze how American cultural and social conflicts are portrayed and worked out in popular film. By watching, discussing, and writing about these films, we will examine how motion pictures create a window into modern American society.

## Course goals:

The goals of this course are to:

- Students will gain a deepened understanding of learning how to translate a typical idea into visual storytelling.
- Students will gain a deepened understanding of utilizing sound, music, and lighting to support the themes of the story.
- Students will learn how to critically analyze and evaluate films as cultural texts.
- Students will use popular American films to understand competing perspectives on 20th and 21st-century American history, culture, and society.

## Screenings:

A portion of this class involves watching and critically analyzing films. All in-class films are rated PG, PG-13, or R-rated TV-MA (for mature language). Signing the syllabus is considered as permission for your child to screen these films in class.

## Film Reviews:

Students are required to write 2 major film reviews every nine weeks (1 1/2 - 2 pages each) throughout the semester based on films viewed OUTSIDE OF CLASS. The films are selected from the Library of Congress's *American Film Institute's* list of Top 100 American Films. These reviews count as test grades. At the beginning of each nine weeks, students receive a list of films from which to choose. All the films for outside of class viewing during the first six weeks are rated G (films released prior to 1980). The second nine weeks list (films released from 1980-2000) includes some "R" rated titles. If a student chooses an R-rated film, he/she **MUST TURN IN A VIEWING PERMISSION SLIP** signed by a parent/guardian (It does not matter if you are 18 years old). The 3rd nine weeks will involve writing reviews on films released since 2000. Film reviews will be graded on how well you critically analyze how a movie works and how it examines larger cultural and social issues in American history and society.

## Grading Procedures:

Video projects 50%

- ★ Product consumption commercial
- ★ Re-Create a moment in history
- ★ Video tour of Historical park, statue or monument

Written Assignments 40%

- ★ Notes
- ★ Film Summary
- ★ Writing Exercise
- ★ Test ( film review OUT OF CLASS)

Labs/Instructional exercises 10%

- ★ lighting exercises
- ★ camera exercises
- ★ Class participation
- ★ Set-up/Break down equipment challenge (timed)

## Professionalism Standards

These points are deducted (per occurrence) under the following categories:

- Timelines (2pts)
  - Tardy
  - Unexcused absence
  - Late assignments
- Respectfulness (2pts)
  - Cell phones going off
  - Disrupting class
  - Eating/Drinking in class
  - Improper equipment care
  - Inappropriate behavior
- Preparation (2pts)
  - Bringing the required materials
- Attentiveness (2pts)
  - Sleeping
  - Being of task
- Compliance (10pts)
  - Cheating/Plagiarism