

## SYLLABUS

MMC 2604: Mass Media and You

Fall 2016

Tuesdays, Period 9 (4:05-4:55 p.m.)

Thursdays, Periods 9-10 (4:05-6 p.m.)

100 McCarty Hall C

**Instructors:** Andrea Billups [andreabillups@hotmail.com](mailto:andreabillups@hotmail.com) 517-775-9951

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**Office hours:** Andrea Billups: Thurs. 2-3 p.m. 3219 Weimer Hall

Steve Orlando: Wednesdays 2-3 p.m. 101 Tigert Hall

**Objective:** In this course you will examine the roles and effects of contemporary mass media on society. Course objectives include increasing media literacy through examination of the history of various mass media. In this course you will consider the rights, responsibilities and ethics of media. You will explore the relationship between governments, audiences and media companies as well as the economic, political and social determinates of media content.

**Required reading:** The required text for this course is “Media and Culture: Mass Communication in a Digital Age” 2015 update.

**Tests:** You will have two tests, both multiple choice, one in the middle of the semester, the other near the end. Both will be during regular class time in our usual classroom, 100 McCarty C. Show up for class, listen, read and take notes and you should have no problems. It’s that simple. Really. (A note about taking notes: We encourage you to take notes the way a journalist would, which means listen for what sounds important, such as names, facts, numbers and anything preceded by the words, “This is important so write it down.”)

Finally, a note about your final grade for the class. We use the university’s alternate grading scale, which is extremely generous and forgiving (see below). When the end of the semester comes, please don’t send us emails saying things like, “But professor, I’m only one point away from an A. Can’t you just give me one point??” Receiving one of these emails will tempt us to be jerks to you. We hate jerks. Please don’t make us hate ourselves.

## **SCHEDULE\***

\*Subject to change. Depending on the phase of the moon.

Week 1 (Aug. 23 & 25) Introductions; Mass Communication: A Critical Approach  
 Week 2 (Aug. 30 & Sept. 1) – The Internet, Digital Media and Media Convergence  
 Week 3 (Sept. 6 & 8) – Digital Gaming and the Media Playground  
 Week 4 (Sept. 13 & 15) – Sound Recording and Popular Music  
 Week 5 (Sept. 20 & 22) – Popular Radio and the Origins of Broadcasting  
 Week 6 (Sept. 27 & 29)– Television and Cable: The Power of Visual Culture  
 Week 7 (Oct. 4 & 6) –Oct. 4: **TEST 1 (In 100 McCarty C during regular class time)** Oct. 6: Movies and the Impact of Images  
 Week 8 (Oct. 11 & 13) – Storytelling (Not a chapter in your textbook.)  
 Week 9 (Oct. 18 & 20) – Newspapers: The Rise and Decline of Modern Journalism  
 Week 10 (Oct. 25 & 27) – Magazines and the Age of Specialization  
 Week 11 (Nov. 1 & 3) – Books and the Power of Print  
 Week 12 (Nov. 8 & 10) – Advertising and Commercial Culture  
 Week 13 (Nov. 15 & 17) – Public Relations and Framing the Message  
 Week 14 (Nov. 22 & 24) – Nov. 22: The Culture of Journalism: Values, Ethics and Democracy  
 Nov. 24: **THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS**  
 Week 15 (Nov. 29 & Dec. 1) – How to Get a Media Job  
 Week 16 – Dec. 6: **TEST 2. (In 100 McCarty C during regular class time)** Dec. 8: No class. The semester is over. Go home.

### Grading scale

A = 90 or above	C = 70 - 73
A- = 87 - 89	C- = 67 - 69
B+ = 84 - 86	D+ = 64 - 66
B = 80 – 83	D = 60 - 63
B- = 77 - 79	D- = 57 - 59

C+ = 74 - 76

E = 56 or  
below

### **Class attendance, make-up exams, etc.**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### **Students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Your feedback**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>