

GRG356T: Geography of Media
unique # 37857

T/Th 9:30-11:00, room CLA 1.102

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Phone: 232-1599	Office Hours: T&W 11:00-12:00

This course explores the media from a geographical perspective. This involves various things. We could ask “How do American news media portray the Middle East?” Or we could ask “How has the Middle East been affected by the rise of social media?” Moving in a third direction we could ask “What parts of the Middle East have the greatest access to the Internet?” A fourth type of question would be “How does a one get from the al Jazeera website to the website of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)?” By asking these questions, we are raising issues of space and place, on the one hand, and issues of representation and access to information on the other hand. This class will help bring these various kinds of questions together in a single framework and show ways to go about answering questions like these within a coherent framework. Along the way we will explore some of the main forces that are changing the world and how we understand it.

TEXTBOOKS (required)

- Adams, P. (2009) *Geographies of Media and Communication*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Dittmer, J. (2010) *Popular Culture, Geopolitics and Identity*. Rowman and Littlefield.
- Kitchin, R. and Dodge, M. (2011) *Code/Space*. MIT Press.

GRADING	
PARTICIPATION points will accumulate throughout the semester based on participation in classroom and online discussions	40 pts.
ESSAYS a series of short essays will let you demonstrate comprehension of the concepts introduced in class as applied to a particular medium, discourse, or set of texts	100 pts.
EXAM multiple choice format	60 pts.
200 pts. total	

CLASS POLICY

Attendance

It will be impossible to do well in this class without physically attending class. Your participation grade will directly reflect your attendance and participation. Although this class is about the media, if you are sitting in class texting or using social media for non-class purposes you will be distracted and will distract the people around you. Please respond promptly and without argument if asked to turn off your computer, cell phone, or other media.

Reading Assignments

Each reading assignment should be completed *before* the class period in which it is scheduled. Completing readings on time will help you earn participation points.

Essays

Essays are due at the time specified on the syllabus. They may be turned in one session early but will not be accepted late.

Exam

The final exam will include topics covered in the lectures, readings and projects. "Makeup" exams are not normally given in this class; if you anticipate a schedule conflict with the Exam date, **DO NOT TAKE THE COURSE.**

Computation of Grades

Grades will be computed on the following scale based on a projected maximum possible score of 300 points:

- 93-100%: A
- 90-92.9%: A-
- 87-89.9%: B+
- 83-86.9%: B
- 80-82.9%: B-
- 77-79.9%: C+
- 73-76.9%: C
- 70-72.9%: C-
- 67-69.9%: D+
- 63-66.9%: D
- 60-62.9%: D-
- 0-59.9%: F

Exams will not be "curved." The actual maximum points used in calculation may be lowered at the professor's discretion. Grades cannot be raised through "extra credit."

Honesty

All work submitted must be your own. You may discuss assignments with other students, but all that you write, map, and turn in should be entirely your creation. If you wish to incorporate someone else's ideas, you must explicitly acknowledge your sources in your paper and place quotes around anything written or otherwise produced by another person, whether it is a published author, journalist, professor, TA, or another student. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may result in partial or total loss of course credit, a permanent record of the offense in your academic file, and other penalties. For more information, refer to UT Student Judicial Services <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

Problems

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY. You are responsible for bringing any problems, concerns and/or complaints to my attention in sufficient time for me to try to address the concerns. Nothing can be done at the last minute. "I had to work," "I had to babysit," "my car broke down," "my computer crashed," and "my dad bought my plane ticket and he didn't know when the exam was" are not acceptable excuses and will not alter the requirements stated in this syllabus.

SESSIONS	READINGS	DEADLINES	TOPICS
Aug 29	none		intro to the professor and the course
Sep 3	none	ESSAY 1	open-ended discussion
Sep 5	Adams 1		geography and communication
Sep 10	Adams 2-3	ESSAY 2	history of media
Sep 12	Adams 4		flows and flowmations
Sep 17	Adams 5-6		topologies, inclusion and exclusion
Sep 19	Adams 7	ESSAY 3	virtuality and scattered gatherings
Sep 24	Adams 8-9		representations of place
Sep 26	Adams 10		Internalization and externalization
Oct 1	Adams 11-12	ESSAY 4	places, traces and routines
Oct 3	Adams 13-14		phenomenology and affect
Oct 8	Dittmer Intro & 1		geopolitics
Oct 10	Dittmer 2	ESSAY 5	popular culture
Oct 15	Dittmer 3		empire & colonialism
Oct 17	Dittmer 4		nation & nationalism
Oct 22	Dittmer 5	ESSAY 6	affect & embodiment
Oct 24	Dittmer 6		active audiences
Oct 29	Dittmer 7-8		subaltern identities
Oct 31	Kitchin & Dodge Intro and 1	ESSAY 7	code and space
Nov 5	Kitchin & Dodge 3		coded objects
Nov 7	Kitchin & Dodge 5		automated management
Nov 12	Kitchin & Dodge 6	ESSAY 8	creative appropriation of digital media
Nov 14	Kitchin & Dodge 7		air travel
Nov 19	Kitchin & Dodge 8		the home
Nov 21	Kitchin & Dodge 9	ESSAY 9	consumption
Nov 26	Kitchin & Dodge 10		everyware
Dec 3	Kitchin & Dodge 11		a manifesto for software studies
Dec 5	none	ESSAY 10	review
Sat, Dec 14 7:00-10:00 pm	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM	Covers all lectures, assigned chapters and projects