



June, 2009

Interdisciplinary Minor in Mass Communications and Media Studies

Students pursuing an interdisciplinary minor in Mass Communications and Media Studies must take Sociology 40 (“Media and Society,” formerly named “Introduction to Mass Media”) or an approved alternative, and four courses from the Communications and Media Studies Program’s approved course list. In addition, during their senior year CMS students must either complete the Senior Colloquium (EXP190C) and Senior Project (EXP 194C) or take an additional course from the CMS list (the “CMS Course Option”).

The four elective courses mentioned above must be from at least three departments, and they must include at least one course in the disciplinary area of *Social Sciences* and at least one course in the disciplinary area of *Humanities and the Arts*. Except with written consent of the CMS Director, no more than one of the four electives may be a *Media Practice* course or credited internship where students learn skills in media production (e.g. photography, journalism, video, film, multimedia, graphic design, advertising copy). A maximum of 2 Ex College courses may be counted toward the minor, except with written consent of the CMS Director. With the exception of EXP 99C (internship) and EXP 190C (Senior Colloquium), all classes taken for the MCMS minor must be taken for a letter grade. In accordance with Tufts policies, students cannot “double count” a course for fulfillment of a foundation requirement and for the MCMS minor, and they may use a maximum of two credits from the minor to count also toward a major, another minor, or distribution requirements.

Students may use accepted courses transferred from another institution toward the CMS minor with consent of the CMS Director. A maximum of **three** courses taken outside of Tufts can be applied toward the minor.

The **Senior Project** (EXP 194C) is a substantial work that can include the use of one or more forms of media (for example print, film, video, websites, recorded sound, live performance, CD-ROM). The project may take the form of either a more traditional written thesis or an audiovisual project with a written component. The focus of the work will be a critical exploration of mass communications in the past, present, and/or future. Students doing a project must also take the **CMS Senior Colloquium** (EXP 190C), a half-year, half-credit course that assists them in developing their senior projects.

The **CMS Course Option** is an additional CMS-approved media-related course taken in the senior year. Students completing the Course Option must submit a paper (minimum 15 pages) focusing on a media-related topic written in conjunction with that course. The paper must be approved, advised, and graded by the course instructor. Students pursuing the Course Option also must get approval from the CMS Director.

To indicate their intent to minor, students should consult with either the CMS Director, Julie Dobrow, or the CMS Associate Director, Susan Eisenhauer, about requirements and the filing of appropriate paperwork. Students are encouraged to begin this process as soon as possible.

CMS Director Julie Dobrow, 95 Talbot Ave, x 7-4744 (julie.dobrow@tufts.edu)

CMS Associate Director Susan Eisenhauer, 95 Talbot Ave, x 7-2007 (susan.eisenhauer@tufts.edu)

MCMS MINOR CHECKLIST

I. CORE COURSE
 SOC 40 or approved equivalent

II. ELECTIVES (total of 4 courses from CMS approved Course Lists)
 -from at least three departments
 -at least one Social Science and one Humanities/ Arts
 -Media Practice course is not required; however, a maximum of one can be counted, except with Director’s approval

III. SENIOR COLLOQUIUM (EXP190C) & PROJECT (EXP194C)
 —Or—
 COURSE OPTION

Required Core Courses

Sociology 40: Media and Society (formerly “Introduction to Mass Media”). This course introduces students to ways of examining media within a sociological context, focusing primarily upon the body of literature about effects of mass media within society. This course is a general introduction to the social significance of mass media. It explores different channels of communications and how form affects content. It considers the following topics: how media reproduce our values, what effects violence and sexual imagery have on viewers, the economics of media production, political regulation, inequality and the representation of minorities in media, and the impact of globalization on media.

EXP 190C: Senior Colloquium Guided development of interdisciplinary senior projects. Group study and analysis of each student’s work in progress. Required of all seniors doing the Senior Project. Half-year, pass-fail, one-half credit. *Dobrow, Goldberg*

EXP 194C: Senior Project. This project is a substantial interdisciplinary work that can include the use of one or more forms of media (print, film, video, recorded sound, live performance, etc.). The focus of the work will be a critical exploration of mass communications in the past, present, and/or future. Students are strongly urged to consider collaborative projects. Either a half credit or one course credit will be given, at the discretion of the faculty advisors.

For a list of approved Elective Courses, please go to the “Mass Communications & Media Studies Minor” link on the CMS website: <http://ase.tufts.edu/cms/mcms.html>.