



Communications and Media Studies

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The CMS Option Course – Guidelines for Seniors 2011-2012

What is the Option?

The Option is the opportunity to take a fifth elective CMS course rather than do the CMS Senior Project. The Option course must be selected from those courses designated to count toward the MCMS or FS/Criticism Track minors.

When can I do the Option?

Either fall or spring semester, senior year. You cannot retroactively designate a course already taken as the Option course.

What do I need to do to complete the Option?

You will need to write a paper of at least 15 pages on a media or film-related topic. Sometimes this paper is simply one of the regular papers assigned for a course; sometimes it is an extension of a shorter paper assigned for a course; sometimes it is an additional paper for the course. When you get a professor to agree that you can do the Option in his/her class, you need to discuss whether a paper already assigned for the course will work, or whether you can extend one, or whether you will need to write an additional one. How an Option paper is graded and computed into your grade for the course is at the discretion of the instructor. You should make sure that you are clear on what your professor's expectations are for your Option paper and how it will be graded. Any course that you designate as the Option Course MUST be taken for a letter grade.

What's a good class for me to pick for the CMS Option Course?

In general, any course off our approved CMS course list in which you can write a paper of 15 or more pages will work, with the instructor's permission. Production courses are generally not good choices, since you don't write longer papers, nor is the CMS Internship.

What forms do I need to file?

You need to get your professor to sign the **OPTION AGREEMENT FORM** in the beginning of the semester. This certifies that it is ok for you to count that course as the option. **OPTION AGREEMENT FORMS** must be returned to CMS Director Julie Dobrow by October 14 for a fall Option course; February 17 for a spring Option course.

At the end of the semester, you need to fill out the **OPTION COMPLETION FORM** and turn it in with your final paper to your professor. She/he needs to return the form to Julie Dobrow. This form certifies that you have completed the course. We do not need a copy of your final paper.

You also need to fill out a **CMS MINOR COMPLETION FORM** in the month before you graduate. **This is a different form from any you've filled out for us previously**. This form needs to be returned to Julie Dobrow at dates that will be specified each semester. This form is critical, since it is the only way that Tufts knows that you have completed the CMS minor.