Intro to Media Studies

Course prefix: LMC

Course number: 2400

Section: B1

CRN
30325

Instructor first name: Watson

Instructor last name: Hartsoe

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

Media shapes reality—but who shapes media? Humans are the first medium; every story, symbol, and system shapes who we are. This course examines the nature of media, its co-evolution with cultural systems, its role in power, and its influence on our future. From ancient myths to AI-generated worlds, we will explore how media define humanity and expand (or limit) what is possible.

Course Overview

If humans are the first medium, every story, symbol, and system rewires us—constitutions, scriptures, and memes alike are program updates to *human*. This course examines media as an active force that shapes perception, distributes power, and scripts the future. We will investigate its nature, its entanglement with consciousness, and its capacity to redraw reality, tracing how media from ancient myths to AI-generated worlds define humanity and set the boundaries of the possible. Media theory is not observation; it is intervention. You are expected to engage fully with readings, discussions, and projects as live parts of a shared system; contribute to culture by creating work that did not exist before; think critically and act deliberately by testing frameworks, questioning assumptions, and tracking consequences; and work the loop—readings, assignments, rubrics, and mood tracking feeding and depending on each other. By the end of this course, you will be able to analyze media as both a tool for thought and a cultural system; trace its co-evolution with consciousness, power, and possibility; apply theoretical frameworks to current and emerging media forms; and create media artifacts that actively intervene in cultural narratives.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

II. Academic Integrity & Honor Code:

- This course demands the highest academic integrity. All work must be original, properly cited, and adhere to the Georgia Tech Honor Code. Plagiarism (deliberate use of unacknowledged outside sources) and undisclosed AI use are violations. Penalties include zero on assignment, course failure, Dean's report.
- (Full GT Honor Code: [GT Honor Code](#))

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

Core IMPACTS | Arts, Humanities & Ethics

This is a **Core IMPACTS** course in the **Arts, Humanities & Ethics** area, providing essential knowledge in foundational academic areas to support students' broad academic and career goals.

Orienting Question: - How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Learning Outcome: - Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or works in the visual/performing arts.

Career-Ready Competencies: - Ethical Reasoning - Information Literacy - Intercultural Competence