CRITICAL MEDIA AND CULTURAL STUDIES TOPICS COURSES
(from Fall 1998 to present)

CMC 350A Topic: Media, Peace, and Justice. Allows students to develop and apply talents and imagination to the realization of peace and justice through both the formal study of media as well as experiential education. Considers contemporary and historical media and the politics of filmmaking concerning peace, social justice, and the environment, while practicing hands-on learning as active participants in the production of the 2009 Global Peace Film Festival. Prerequisite: CMC 100 or instructor's consent.

CMC 350B Topic: Native American Media and Cultural Studies. With its frameworks to rethink assumptions about American myths and stereotypes regarding race, gender, class, ethnicity, family, education, and more, cultural studies provide important critical insights for examining historical and contemporary misrepresentation of American Indians in the media. Though a focus on both non-Native and Native media – film, digital video, television, radio, music, print media – traces misrepresentation and explores how contemporary indigenous people use the media to form identity, reconstruct the past, revitalize culture, and assert their sovereignty and treaty rights. Foundations are provided by an introductory section that addresses American Indian prehistory, the European colonial period, and the American period of American Indian history and experience. Prerequisite: CMC 100 or instructor's consent.

CMC 350C Topic: International Media. Examines flows of information, "news" and entertainment, across national and international media systems. Considers how technology, economics, and international relations affect the content, structure, and consumption of media, both globally and within specific regions such as Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Prerequisite: CMC 100 or instructor's consent.

CMC 350D Topic: Media Activism. Media activism is the use of media for social change. Examines grassroots and institutional media initiatives that promote development, political reform, and/or social justice. Looks at media activism in terms of actors, messages, and the structure of media systems. Prerequisite: CMC 100 or instructor's consent.

CMC 350G Topic: The Political Economy of Body and Food. U.S. culture bombards us with conflicting messages about what our bodies should look like and what/how/when/where we should eat: super-size fries, slow food, protein powder, tummy tuck, anorexia, obesity, community garden, genetically-modified food, food waste, food desert, and The Biggest Loser. By investigating the representation, production, distribution, consumption, and effects of food, course seeks to uncover whose interests are served -- and not served -- by the current cultural "menu."

CMC 350H Topic: Cinema and Modernism. Explores the broad relationship between cinema (a medium created in the late 19th century) and the Modernist cultural movement, one that reached its apex precisely as the art of film came of age. Begins by attempting to give a theoretical and historical overview of the term "Modernism" and by confronting the controversy of whether or not the cinema is "inherently" Modernist (either because of its ontological nature or its chronological positioning). Course then considers major issues foregrounded in discussions of Modernism including gender, primitivism,
mechanization, politics and propaganda, nationalism, commodification, labor, etc. Under each topic, considers selected films that relate to the subjects as well as works from other arts and media: literature, painting, decorative arts, advertising, etc. Film Studies elective.

CMC 350M Topic: Solidarity, Community, Equality. Seminar focused on national, state, and local struggles for human and civil rights for persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT). Students will research a different aspect of LGBT inequality and will compose creative works designed to raise consciousness. Professor and students will also collaborate on a video project. Students must be deeply passionate about human rights and those with photography, Photoshop, video editing, and/or songwriting experience are especially welcome to apply. Prerequisite: Instructor’s Consent, register in department. Women’s Studies minor elective.