Media Studies Program 2022/23 Major’s Handbook



**Media Studies Program**

Professor Dara Greenwood

Director

dagreenwood@vassar.edu

Old Laundry Building, 208B

Melissa McAlley, Administrative Assistant

mmcalley@vassar.edu

Old Laundry Building, 207B x7485

**Media Studies Program in Vassar Catalogue:** https://catalogue.vassar.edu/index.php

**Media Studies Fall 2022 Course Offerings:** https://aisapps.vassar.edu/cgi-bin/courses.cgi

**Media Studies Program**

*The Media Studies Program encourages the understanding and critical evaluation of new and old media technologies, the centrality of media in global and local culture, social life, politics and economics, and the contemporary and historical impact of media on individuals and societies. As defined by the Program, “media” includes all forms of representational media (oral/aural, written, visual), mass media (print, television, radio, film), new media (digital multimedia, the Internet, networked media), their associated technologies, and the social and cultural institutions that enable them and are defined by them.*

*The Program emphasizes several interrelated approaches to the study of media: multidisciplinary perspectives derived from the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences; the historical study of various forms of communication and the representation of knowledge; theoretical and critical investigation of how media shape our understandings of reality, and the dynamic interrelationship of media industries, cultural texts, communications technologies, policies, and publics; examination of global, non-Western, indigenous, and oppositional media forms and practices; applied work in media production and the use of media technologies. (Mission Statement, adopted by Steering Committee, 2004)*

Building on the wide-ranging teaching and research interests of Program Faculty, a primary goal of the Media Studies Program is to provide students with the intellectual and creative tools to become sophisticated analysts of both contemporary and historical media environments, developing theoretical and critical skills that can be utilized in everyday experiences of media consumption and (increasingly in the age of digital and desktop media) production. Program curricula will include considerations of form and aesthetics of media objects; the history of traditional and contemporary media; the economic and organizational structure of media industries; local, indigenous, and oppositional media forms; relations between media technologies and intellectual property; and the social implications of, and ethical issues associated with, old and new media.

Because the Media Studies concentration incorporates courses originating within the Program as well as a wide range of courses from other Programs and Departments, students wishing to concentrate in Media Studies should consult with the Program Director as early as possible to design their course of study in consultation with a Faculty Adviser who will be drawn from the Program Steering Committee.

**2022-2023 MEDS Steering Committee Members**

**Director:**  Dara N. Greenwood;

**Steering Committee:** Sole Anatrone (Italian), Giovanna Borradori (Philosophy), Anne Brancky (French and Francophone Studies), Lisa Brawley (Urban Studies and Associate Dean of the Faculty), Colleen Ballerino Cohenb (Anthropology), Robert DeMariaa (English), Hiromi Tsuchiya Dollase (Chinese and Japanese), Wenwei Duab (Chinese and Japanese), Thomas Ellman (Computer Science), Dara N. Greenwood (Psychology), Sophia Harvey (Film), Thomas E. Hill (Library), Alexander Kupfer (Film), M. Mark (English), Molly Nesbit (Art), Justin Patchb (Music), Ronald Patkus (Library), Thomas Porcello (Anthropology and Dean of Studies), Matthew B. Schultz (Writing Center and English), Shane Slattery-Quintanilla (Film), Adedoyin Teriba (Art and Urban Studies), Eva Woods Peiró (Hispanic Studies);

a On leave 2022/23, first semester

b On leave 2022/23, second semester

ab On leave 2022/23

**Declaring a Major**

Prospective majors should consult with the Program Director to discuss the declaration process. Students should come prepared to outline their interests in Media Studies and their preliminary thoughts on the courses that will constitute their Major curriculum. Based on the student’s interests and curricular plans, the Program Director will suggest a Focus Statement Adviser who will further help them refine their plan of study and craft their Focus Statement.

Prospective Majors will then submit a proposal to the Program. This proposal will consist of **two documents**:

1. A completed **Media Studies Program Planning Form**, identifying a potential Faculty Adviser and the specific courses that fulfill the Major Requirements.

2. The **Focus Statement,** outlining the student’s interests, objectives, and intended course of study. The Focus Statement, which can be delivered either in a short answer form or combined in an essay, should address the following points:

a. Core questions and interests of the student’s proposed Media Studies curriculum; b. Disciplines and approaches that will ground the student’s multidisciplinary course of study;

c. Preliminary ideas for a Senior Project;

d. If applicable, how the student’s JYA plan fits within the scope of their Media Studies major.

Proposals will be evaluated by the Program Director in consultation with the Program Steering Committee. In some cases, students will be asked to revise and resubmit their Major proposal. The Program Director will notify the student when their proposal has been approved, at which time the student will be considered a Media Studies major. Students will need to submit their Declaration of Major Form with the appropriate signatures to the Registrar to complete the process.

**Requirements for the Concentration**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **# Units** | **NEW REQUIREMENTS** |
| **11.0** | **Total # of units required for Major** |
|  |  |
|  | **Required Courses** |
| 1.0 | MEDS 160 Approaches to Media Studies |
| 1.0 | MEDS 250 Exploratory Media Practices |
| 1.0 | MEDS 260 Media Theory |
| 1.0 | MEDS 310 Senior Seminar |
| 0.5 | MEDS 303 Senior Project Preparation- Intensive |
| 0.5 | MEDS 304 Senior Project Completion- Intensive |
| **5.0** | **Total # of units of required courses** |
|  |  |
|  | ***Distributional content area*** |
|  | At least two 200-level courses from different Departments and Programs |
|  | At least two 300-level courses from different Departments and Programs |
|  | One course in non-Western, postcolonial, indigenous, or alternative MEDS practices (see list of examples on Moodle-Media Studies Program Documents) |
|  | One practice-based course, Education Abroad or CEL; with a maximum of two courses |
| **6.0** | **Total # of units required for distributional content area** |

The additional 6 courses will ordinarily be selected from courses cross-listed with Media Studies, which will be made available prior to pre-registration each semester. Students wishing to apply other courses toward the Media Studies concentration should consult with their Adviser before petitioning the Program. All petitions must be approved by the Program Director.

After declaration of the concentration, no courses applied toward the concentration may be elected NRO. Up to two courses can count for two majors.