**Race, Gender & Media d Fall 2013**

**Section Information:** Comm 4393-002 (88468)

**Time & Place of Class Meetings:** MWF 11-11:50 a.m. in UH 14

**Professor**: Dr. Dustin Harp

**Office Number:** Fine Arts Building (FAB) 272

**Email Address:** dustinh@uta.edu

**Faculty Profile:** https://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/view/id/8626/  
**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11 a.m. and by appointment

**Description**:

This course introduces students to a variety of issues related to race, gender and media. It is designed to teach students to recognize the how people’s differences in identity produce different representations in and experiences with media. Students will learn how to think critically about media patterns of representation and ways they become interwoven in media structures and produced by journalists, advertisers and other media workers.

The course is comprised largely of class discussions based on readings and viewings of various materials. My hope is that through participation, students will learn from each other and learn to understand and appreciate different perspectives. I believe learning is a collaborative and social experience and therefore you owe it to everyone in the class to come and make your contribution to our learning. While your opinions and personal experiences with media are relevant, they should not serve as the sole basis for the views you express throughout the course. A higher quality of discussions will result when students ground their observations in the readings and course materials. Students will be expected to be familiar with readings and course content in such a manner that they can engage in intelligent and critical course discussions. While many of the course readings focus on specific case studies, they are intended to provoke thoughtfulness in each student such that they can be applied to a variety of media. You are encouraged to discuss, debate and dissect the topics we study in a civil and intellectual manner.

**Required Materials**

* Rebecca Ann Lind. (2013). *Race/Gender/Class/Media 3.0: Considering diversity across audiences, content and producers*, 3rd edition, Allyn & Bacon.
* DVDs, websites, online videos and articles. Links or full texts will be provided in class, on Blackboard or available at the UTA library

**Course Goals**

* Obtain a deeper understanding of the connections between media and society
* Exhibit understanding of the complex relationship of our current media system in relation to gender, race, class, sexualities, or disabilities.
* Understand that media content is produced and consumed within particular social, political, and cultural contexts.
* Prove the ability to trace and critically assess the structures of news media and other mass media forms that create or enforce stereotypes of gender, race, class, sexualities, or disabilities.
* Understand the complex relationships among audiences and media content.
* Illustrate an understanding of the personal and critical dimensions of images and stereotypes in news and mass media.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications.
* Exhibit an understanding of the consequences of our current media system in relation to race and gender.

**Course Requirements & Grading:**

Grades will be based on completion of two exams, participation, and a final group project and presentation. Course participation includes various **weekly** assignments (many will be completed in class and in groups), engagement in discussions, and quizzes.

Exams (25% each) 50%

Participation 35%

Final Project & Presentation 15%

**Grade Calculation: Percent of Total Points Earned Letter Grade**

90-100% A

80-89% B

70-79% C

60-69% D

59% or less F

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, service learning, etc.

**Attendance:**

*Expectations:* You are expected to be present for every class, unless otherwise instructed. If you have a religious holiday, please let me know beforehand. You are responsible for all material covered if you do not attend class.

*Punctuality***:** If you are not here at the start of class you will be considered absent.

*Attention during class***:** If I see you surfing the web, checking email, working on an assignment for another class or otherwise distracted from the class, I will ask you to leave.

*Excused absence*: You are responsible for learning about and completing missed assignments. All make-up work is due within a week of the absence, unless I agree otherwise. An excused absence involves verifiable illness, a death or severe illness in the family, or participation in an official university-sponsored/affiliated event.

*Unexcused absence***:** You may make up everything, however, the work must be turned in at the start of the next class period, will be considered late, and will receive one letter grade lower than earned.

**Prerequisite**: JOUR 2346 with a grade of C or better.

**Grade Grievances**: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located [insert a description of the nearest exit/emergency exit]. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Communication Department’s Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation Lab:** Students who are having trouble with basic grammar and AP style issues can get one-on-one help from a highly dedicated faculty member. The lab is located in FA 257 and lab (Facebook: UTA Associated Press, Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation Lab). A schedule is posted outside of the lab.

**Librarian to Contact:** Rafia Mirza, Digital Humanities Librarian, rafia@uta.edu or 817-272-7514. Here is the link for the library’s communication guide: <http://libguides.uta.edu/communication>

**Course Schedule**

“*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.” –Dustin M Harp.*

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| Week & Dates | Topic and Readings | Important Dates |
| **Week 1**  August 23 | **Fri:** Introduction to syllabus & course materials |  |
| **Week 2**  August 26, 28 & 30 | **Mon:** Media Matters **Read:** p. 1-16  **Wed:** Media Effect: Stereotypes & Implications  **Read:** 2.1 (p. 17-24); 2.2 (p. 24-31); 2.4 (p. 37-44)    **Fri:** Cultural formations of identity  **DVD:** Playing Unfair (30 minutes) |  |
| **Week 3**  September 2, 4 & 6 | **Mon: Labor Day Holiday**  **Wed:** Taking a closer look at the media  **DVD:** Racial Stereotypes in the Media (42 minutes)  **Fri:** Racial stereotypes in the media |  |
| **Week 4**  September 9, 11 & 13 | **Mon:** Taking a closer look at news content  **Read:** 5.1 (p. 128-133); 5.5 (155-159)    **Wed:** Muslims and immigration in the news  **Read:** 3.4 (p. 68-74); 5.2 (p. 134-139)  **Fri:** Asian American in the news  **Read:** 3.2 (p. 56-62); 5.4 (p. 148-154); 7.5 (p. 269-273) |  |
| **Week 5**  September 16, 18 & 20 | **Mon:** Native Americans and the news  **Read:** 3.7 (p. 87-94); 6.4 (p. 203-207)    **Wed:** How class is portrayed in the media  **DVD:** Class Dismissed (64 minutes)    **Fri:** How class is portrayed in the media  **DVD:** Class Dismissed (64 minutes)continued |  |
| **Week 6**  September 23, 25 & 27 | **Mon:** Advertising  **DVD:** Killing Us Softly 4 (45 minutes)  **Wed:** Advertising  **Read:** 5.9 (p. 179-185)  **Fri:** Advertising  **Read:** 5.8 (p. 172-178); 3.3 (p. 63-68) |  |
| **Week 7**  September 30, October 2 & 4 | **Mon:** Race and Gender in Music Videos  **DVD:** Dreamworlds 3 (54 minutes)  **Wed:** Race and Gender in Music Videos  **Read:** 7.6 (p. 274-279)  **DVD:** Dreamworlds 3 (54 minutes) continued  **Fri:** Race and Gender in Music Videos  **Read:**  7.4 (p. 263-268) |  |
| **Week 8**  October 7, 9 & 11 | **Mon:** Exam 1  **Wed:** Mediated denigration of women and girls  **DVD:** Generation M: Misogyny in media and culture (60 minutes)  **Fri:** Mediated denigration of women and girls  **DVD:** Generation M: Misogyny in media and culture (60 minutes)continued | **Exam 1**  **Monday October 7** |
| **Week 9**  October 14, 16 & 18 | **Mon:** Masculinity in American culture  **DVD:** Tough Guise (56 minutes)  **Wed:** Masculinity in American culture  **DVD:** Tough Guise (56 minutes) continued  **Fri:** Masculinity in American culture  **DVD:** Wrestling with manhood (60 minutes) |  |
| **Week 10**  October 21, 23 & 25 | **Mon:** Masculinity in American culture  **DVD:** Wrestling with manhood (60 minutes) continued  **Wed:** Masculinity in American culture  **Fri:** Is entertainment harmless?  **Read:** 6.2 (p. 192-917); 6.3 (p. 198-203) |  |
| **Week 11**  October 28, 30 & November 1 | **Mon:** Framing women and girls  **Read:** 5.3 (p. 140-147)  **Wed:** Bitches and princesses  **Read:** 6.5 (p. 207-212); 6.6 (p. 213-218)  **Fri:** Women and girls in the media  **DVD:** Miss representation (90 minutes) | **Wednesday, Oct. 30 Last day to drop classes**  **Thursday, Oct. 31 Communication Day** |
| **Week 12**  November 4, 6 & 8 | **Mon:** Women and girls in the media  **DVD:** Miss representation (90 minutes) continued    **Wed:** Women and girls in the media  **Fri:** Mothers in the media  **Read:** 6.9 (p. 231-235); 6.10 (p. 236-243) |  |
| **Week 13**  November 11, 13 & 15 | **Mon:** Hate online  **Read:** 7.1 (p. 244-249); 7.8 (p. 285-290)    **Wed:** Using Media for Activism  **Read:** 4.2 (p. 101-106); 7.7 (p. 280-284)  **Fri:** Who speaks matters  **Read:** 9.2 (p. 322-328); 9.3 (p. 322-328) |  |
| **Week 14**  November 18, 20 & 22 | **Mon:** Civic Responsibility & Community Journalism  **Read:** 8.1 (p. 293-300); 8.2 (p. 300-307)  **Wed:** Civic Responsibility & Community Journalism  **Read:** 8.3 (p. 307-309); 9.1 (p. 316-322)  **Fri:** Exam 2 | **Exam 2**  **Friday November 22** |
| **Week 15**  November 25, 27 & 29 | **Mon:** Reflection: What we know and what we think  **Read:**  6.1 (p. 186-191)  **Wed:** Group Project Work Day  **Fri:** Thanksgiving Day holiday |  |
| **Week 16**  December 2 & 4 | **Mon:** Wrap up:Student presentations  **Wed:** Student presentations and closing remarks    Final exams Dec 7-14 | **Projects Due**  **Monday December 2**  **All presentations must be ready Monday** |