

Media Studies

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

Group Major Office: Division of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, 231 Evans Hall, (510) 642-2363

Group Director: Tom Goldstein, PhD (Graduate School of Journalism)

Group Website: Media Studies (<http://ls.berkeley.edu/ugis/mediastudies>)

Media Studies Program

The group major in media studies is administered by the Division of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies. It applies a range of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities to the understanding of contemporary mass media, their structure, history, content, consequences, and policy implications. The emphasis in the UC Berkeley program is not on media production, but rather on the central role that media play in modern society, with special emphasis on political and cultural life.

Declaring the Major

Students planning to declare a major in media studies are advised to contact the student affairs officer as early as possible in planning their academic programs. Applications are accepted during fall and spring semesters during periods listed on the program's website.

Students who wish to declare the major in Media Studies:

- Must have *completed* at least 30 units of college coursework before applying to the program.
- Must have *completed* at least three of the major prerequisites, including Media Studies 10.
- Must be *currently enrolled in any remaining prerequisite* at the time of application (see list of approved major prerequisites below).
- Must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 in courses *relevant to the major*; this includes the lower division prerequisite courses and the equivalency of transferred coursework, as well as any lower- or upper-division courses already completed for the major.
- Should declare the major no later than the semester in which they complete the 70th unit. (Junior transfer students should contact the major adviser for media studies concerning their eligibility and the equivalency of transferred coursework.)

Students who meet the above criteria are eligible for admission to the major. Students who do not meet the above criteria but wish to declare mass communications should submit a letter of appeal along with a completed application.

Applications and instructions regarding the admission and appeal process may be obtained from the Media Studies Office in 263 Evans Hall.

Major Requirements

Prerequisites: One course from each of the following four groups. *Note:* All prerequisites must be taken for a letter grade.

1. History 7B, 124A, 124B or 131B
2. Political Science 1
3. Anthropology 3, Economics 1, Psychology 1 or 2, Sociology 1 or 3
4. Media Studies 10

Requirements for Graduation

(*Note:* These requirements are in addition to the prerequisites for admission to the major.)

At least 30 upper division units distributed over the following three areas:

- *The following four core courses in media studies:* Media Studies 101, 102, C103 and any one from the following list: Media Studies 104A, 104B, or C104C.
- *One of the following methods courses:* Anthropology 190A; Mass Communications 130; Political Science 3 or 132A-132B; Psychology 101; Sociology 5 or 105.
- *Four courses from the following list:* African American Studies 142A, 142B; American Studies 112A, 112B, C172; Anthropology 138A, 139, 144, 149, 156B, 166; English 173, 176; Film 160; Journalism 180; Linguistics 150; Media Studies 160, 170, 180, 190; Political Science 106A, 111A, 161, 164A; Psychology 124, 160; Sociology 110, 140, 150, 156, 160, 170; UGBA 106, 165.

Note: All requirements for graduation in the major must be taken for a letter grade. Any substitutions must be approved by the major adviser.

Transfer Students

Transfer students may complete Media Studies 10 at Berkeley, but are urged to complete other major prerequisite courses before arriving on campus. New transfers should see the major adviser on arrival in order to have transfer prerequisites approved. Transfers may need assistance in adding Media Studies 10 to their schedules.

Honors Program

To be admitted to the honors program, a student must have attained at least a 3.5 GPA overall in the University and a 3.5 GPA in the major. In order to be granted honors, a student must write a thesis which in the judgment of the thesis director and the adviser is characterized by superior distinction (Media Studies H195).

MEDIAST 10 Introduction to Media Studies 4 Units

Department: Media Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Term course may be offered: Fall

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week.

The objective of this class is to enhance students' knowledge of media's industrial and cultural functions by introducing them to key perspectives and methods of study that stress a) how media systems have and continue to develop in the United States and across the globe as well as b) how we use and make meaning with media as part of our everyday lived experiences. To consider media's social, economic, political, and cultural impact, the course will investigate a number of ways of understanding its production, form, reception, and influence, being careful to recognize how these approaches relate to each other and to a wide array of diverse case studies in television, film, recorded music, print, video games, and online.

A deficient grade may be removed by taking Media Studies 10 or Media Studies N10.

MEDIAST N10 Introduction to Media Studies 4 Units

Department: Media Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Term course may be offered: Summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 6 hours of Lecture per week for 10 weeks. 8 hours of Lecture per week for 8 weeks. 10 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

The objective of this class is to enhance students' knowledge of media's industrial and cultural functions by introducing them to key perspectives and methods of study that stress a) how media systems have and continue to develop in the United States and across the globe as well as b) how we use and make meaning with media as part of our everyday lived experiences. To consider media's social, economic, political, and cultural impact, the course will investigate a number of ways of understanding its production, form, reception, and influence, being careful to recognize how these approaches relate to each other and to a wide array of diverse case studies in television, film, recorded music, print, video games, and online.

A deficient grade may be removed by taking Media Studies 10 or Media Studies N10.

MEDIAST 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

Department: Media Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Hours and format: 1 hour of Seminar per week for 15 weeks.

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments, and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to 15 freshmen.

Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. Formerly known as Mass Communications 24. Instructor: Steven Botterill

MEDIAST 39A Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 - 4 Units

Department: Media Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Hours and format: 1 hour of lecture per week per unit.

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the