

SM5370: TOPICS IN MEDIA HISTORY AND THEORY IV

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Topics in Media History and Theory IV

Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

Course Number

5370

Academic Unit

School of Creative Media (SM)

College/School

School of Creative Media (SM)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course is an exploration of one or more topics in media history and theory. The topics covered in this course will vary from one semester to the next and will depend upon student and instructor interests. Relevant topics may include (but are not limited to) historical perspectives on: film genres and styles; the relationship between media technologies and culture; creative movements; local, national, regional, or global media cultures; media audience study and analysis; specific areas of media theory. Enrollment for part II depends on permission of the instructor, which will only be granted if the topic is essentially different from that covered in part I.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Account for and discuss the key ideas introduced in the class		x		
2	Analyze issues and ideas relevant to the topic of the class			x	
3	Conceive and execute research and/or creative projects relevant to the topic of the class		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures/discussions	Lectures and discussions involving key concepts, work, and artists relevant to media history and theory	1, 2	
2	Lectures/discussions	Proposals for historical and theoretical research and/or creative projects on media-related topics	3	
3	Lectures/discussions	Drafts and final version of projects	3	
4	Lectures/discussions	Participation in and contribution to class projects	1, 2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class critique and class participation	1, 2, 3	20	At the discretion of the course leader; normally, material to be assessed may include analytical essays, historical and theoretical research projects, creative/practical projects, oral presentations, and participation in online and in-class discussions.	Yes
2	Creative Projects	3	40	-	Yes
3	Papers	3	40	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Assessment of in-class critique and class participation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

This assessment task reviews students' participation and performance in discussions, research and peer critique during the tutorial sessions. The evidence of 'negotiation', the sign of discovery, lies in students' sensibility to art and interpersonal sensitivity to his/her peer members.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, strong ability to stimulate and positively steer class discussion.
- Evidence of extensive pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports.
- Readiness to share informed personal insights.
- Constructively critical, thus facilitating the discovery of new issues.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate and contribute to class discussion.
- Adequate pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Attentive in in-class participation, listening with comprehension, infrequent contribution.
- Adequate pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports.

Marginal

(D)

- Unmotivated to participate in in-class discussion.
- Inadequate pre-class preparation.

Failure

(F)

- Unwilling to participate in in-class discussion even when requested by the instructor.
 - No evidence of pre-class preparation.
-

Assessment Task

Assessment of Creative Projects (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

The evidence of 'discovery' lies in the students' demonstrated ability to address and approach problems in multiple perspectives.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- Work has strong affective quality and the articulation of personal styles and signature.
- Excellent appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium.
- Refined execution, evidence of a high level of technical competency.
- Highly efficient adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available with constructive adjustment.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- Strong appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium.
- Successful execution, evidence of a satisfactory level of technical competency.
- Proper adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available and constructive feedback/ suggestions

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Basic appreciation and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium.
- Evidence of an adequate level of technical competency.
- Proper adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

Marginal

(D)

- Marginal appreciation of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Limited adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

Failure

(F)

- Little to no appreciation of the aesthetics and expressive qualities of the medium.
 - Fail to adjust plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available.
-

Assessment Task

Assessment of Papers (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- Rich content, excellent ability to interpret and integrate various resources
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition
- Precision in argument, well defined and reasoned points of view grounded in insightful interpretation of existing literature
- Readiness to respond to peer opinion and other views initiated in class discussion
- Discussion shed light on new dimensions of the issue

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- Adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand
- Reasonable organization with balanced structure and composition
- Clear elaboration of ideas that sticks to the point, with clearly differentiated issues, ability to interpret opinions independently
- Sufficient responses to peer comments to sustain a discussion

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand
- Fair organization with adequate structure and composition
- Relevant points made to the subject matter in question
- Ability to respond to other statements and engage in class discussion

Marginal

(D)

- Weak content, limited use of resources
- Poor organization, structure and composition
- Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions
- Ability to respond to other comments in simple terms

Failure

(F)

- Inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources
- No organization, structure or/and composition
- Irrelevant points to the subject matter, no ability to interpret opinions
- Fail to respond to other comments

Assessment Task

Assessment of in-class critique and class participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

This assessment task reviews students' participation and performance in discussions, research and peer critique during the tutorial sessions. The evidence of 'negotiation', the sign of discovery, lies in students' sensibility to art and interpersonal sensitivity to his/her peer members.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

Excellent participation and performance in discussions, research and peer critique during the tutorial sessions.

Good

(B+, B)

Good participation and performance in discussions, research and peer critique during the tutorial sessions.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

Marginal participation and performance in discussions, research and peer critique during the tutorial sessions.

Failure

(F)

Lack of participation and performance in discussions, research and peer critique during the tutorial sessions.

Assessment Task

Assessment of Creative Projects (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

The evidence of 'discovery' lies in the students' demonstrated ability to address and approach problems in multiple perspectives.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

Excellent ability to address and approach problems in multiple perspectives.

Good

(B+, B)

Good ability to address and approach problems in multiple perspectives.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

Marginal ability to address and approach problems in multiple perspectives.

Failure

(F)

Lack of ability to address and approach problems in multiple perspectives.

Assessment Task

Assessment of Papers (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

Excellent ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects.

Good

(B+, B)

Good ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

Marginal ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects.

Failure

(F)

Lack of ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects.

Additional Information for AR

Other specific rubrics may be included depending on the nature of assessment tasks assigned by the course leader.

Normally, material to be assessed may include analytical essays, historical and theoretical research projects, creative/practical projects, oral presentations, and participation in online and in-class discussions.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

To be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	As this is a class in which the topical focus varies, relevant readings are designated by the course leader.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil