The discussion section is designed to provide students with an opportunity to broaden their understanding of the main ideas and concepts covered in the lecture, textbook, and other readings. Students are encouraged to ask questions pertaining to the lecture and the readings assigned for the week. The students are encouraged to express their own ideas and understanding of the concepts in an open and dialogical communication environment. The discussion section is also the forum for talking about the assignments and reviewing for the tests. Please avoid using phones, laptops or tablets during discussion, unless needed for a class activity.

Discussion Readings
Most weeks you will have a brief reading that builds on concepts and theories covered in that week’s lectures and applies those concepts to a current media topic. Readings will be available in the reading folder for that week on the MUE Lecture ICON page. The Discussion Reading should be completed by the start of Discussion Section.

Discussion Section Responses (DSRs)
On nine Fridays, TAs will post an essay question about the readings posted to the main MUE Lecture ICON page. Your response must be posted to ICON before discussion section. So, the response to a discussion section question posted on Friday during the first week of class will be due to ICON before the start of your discussion the second week of class. The objective is to make students think critically about the subject matter and encourage informed and lively discussion. These assignments will also be taken as a record of your participation in the discussion section, so if you do not attend class, you will not receive points for your Discussion Section Response. A maximum of five points will be earned for turning in each weekly response and will be used to calculate the final DSR grade (maximum possible = 40 points). Your lowest DSR score will be dropped. You can turn in your discussion section response using one of the following formats: Microsoft Word document, txt or rtf, PDF, typing directing into the space provided on ICON. No other formats will be accepted (i.e., no Pages format).

Attendance Policy
Attendance in Discussion is important for several reasons: discussion and class activities will deepen your understanding of class concepts and all our exam reviews will be conducted during discussion. If you’re absent from Discussion, you will not receive credit for your Discussion Section Response. We understand that illnesses and emergencies happen, which is why we drop the lowest DSR score from your grade. If illness, family emergencies, or other issues are interfering with your attendance, please let your TA know as soon as possible.

Instructions for turning in the Media Journal and Original Research Proposal

1. The Media Journal is due Friday, October 7. The Original Research Proposal is due Friday, November 18. The papers have to be turned in on the due date by 1:30 pm. By that time, the electronic file of the paper should be uploaded to ICON in the discussion section’s site.

2. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the TA has received the assignment on time. If a student believes his/her paper has been lost during the grading process, the electronic submission to ICON is the proof that the paper was turned in. Excuses for missing papers will not be entertained.