Media Uses and Effects
Journalism & Mass Communication JMC:1100 – Spring 2018
Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:20 am; 290 Chemistry

Instructor: Kajsa Dalrymple, PhD
Office: W339 Adler Journalism Bldg
Course Website: http://icon.uiowa.edu/

Email: kajsa-dalrymple@uiowa.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-5pm, Thursday 9-10:30am

Teaching Assistants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Email address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2, 3, 5</td>
<td>B. K. Kim</td>
<td>E337 AJB</td>
<td><a href="mailto:byungwook-kim@uiowa.edu">byungwook-kim@uiowa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 8, 9</td>
<td>Ge Zhu</td>
<td>E337 AJB</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ge-zhu@uiowa.edu">ge-zhu@uiowa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 6, 7</td>
<td>Ryan Stoldt</td>
<td>E337 AJB</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ryan-stoldt@uiowa.edu">ryan-stoldt@uiowa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Objectives
- To understand the historical development and context of mass communication theories and concepts.
- To understand and critique social scientific methods and perspectives.
- To understand basic statistical concepts and their appropriate application.
- To develop a basic understanding of the effects of media on the public.
- To develop the ability to make better use of media as thoughtful consumers.

Text
Media Effects Research: A Basic Overview (4th edition)
By Glenn G. Sparks (2013) – available at Iowa Book

Other readings and assigned materials, including Discussion readings, are available on the ICON website. A copy of the textbook can be borrowed for two hours from the Journalism Resource Center, located on the 3rd floor of Adler Journalism Building (Room E350). All lecture readings should be completed before Tuesday’s lecture. Discussion readings should be completed before your Discussion Section.

SJMC Learning Outcomes
The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is committed to your academic and professional success. In line with this commitment, we have identified learning outcomes that every student should obtain by the time they earn a JMC degree. You can find more information about these learning outcomes here on the SJMC Website.

This course contributes to these learning outcomes by helping you understand how media messages influence their audiences. Achieving these outcomes means the ability to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic tenets of media literacy and how media literacy relates to your personal media habits and professional development.
- Analyze and interpret media messages through an understanding of media practices and institutions.

This course fulfills the General Education Social Sciences elective. GE stated outcomes are: Students will examine the strengths and weaknesses of at least one method of inquiry distinctive of the social sciences, and become familiar with its major assumptions, concepts, and ways of formulating questions. Students will learn to evaluate data, generalizations, and hypotheses in the discipline. Students will have the opportunity to practice the methods of the discipline. Students will be given practice in developing arguments and supporting their ideas with evidence and reason. Lectures, exams, discussion sections, and the two written assignments will develop these outcomes.

Class Rules and Conduct
Please be respectful of the professor and your fellow students. Please do not use cell phones, check social media, surf the internet, or talk to other students during class. Put any device that makes noise on SILENT.
Attendance is required in both the Tuesday/Thursday lectures and the discussion section, as much of the material on exams will come solely from class. **You must be present during lecture to get credit for Reaction Papers. You must be present during discussion to get credit for your weekly Discussion Section Response.**

**Administrative Home**
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at [http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook](http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook).

**Electronic Communication**
University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences ([Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11](#)).

**Accommodations for Disabilities**
A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. See [http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/](http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/) for more information.

**Academic Honesty**
All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: “I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty.” Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

**CLAS Final Examination Policies**
The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar, generally by the fifth week of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. **No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes.** All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

**Making a Suggestion or a Complaint**
Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)). The DEO for the School of Journalism & Mass Communication is Prof. David Ryfe, phone 319.335.3486.

**Understanding Sexual Harassment**
Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Office of the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

**Nondiscrimination in the Classroom**
The University of Iowa is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University’s Human Rights policy. For more
Reacting Safely to Severe Weather
In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website.

*These CLAS policy and procedural statements have been summarized from the web pages of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University of Iowa Operations Manual.

Grading
Total of 620 points possible. Grades will be based on the following:

- 400 pts – four exams, including the final (all exams are worth 100 points)
- 100 pts – original research proposal
- 50 pts – media journal assignment
- 45 pts – discussion section responses
- 25 pts – instant reaction papers

Grades will not be curved. Your scores on each assignment will be posted on the ICON page for your discussion section in the Gradebook section. You can keep track of the points you earn toward the desired grade on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97.5-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.5-97.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.5-89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.5-87.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.5-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.5-77.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.5-69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.5-67.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% or below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Inquiries
If you have questions or concerns about a DSR or paper grade, please speak with your TA in person during office hours within two weeks of receiving the grade. If you feel like the situation has not been resolved after this conversation, please see Professor Dalrymple during her office hours within two weeks of your meeting with the TA to discuss the situation and grade. Grade inquiries must happen in person and within the time frame specified. These conversations will not happen over email.

Exams
Each exam will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer items. Exam material will come from textbook readings, lectures (including videos), and discussion section. Lectures and discussion will often cover material not included in the textbook. The final is not comprehensive. Vacation plans, long weekends, and other absences not related to illness or emergencies do not qualify as excused absences for exams. If you must miss an exam due to an emergency or illness, you must contact Professor Dalrymple via email prior to the exam. Make-up exams must be taken within a week of the scheduled exam. Exams will not be handed back in class, but you can view your exam during Professor Dalrymple's office hours, during your TA's office hours, or by appointment.

Exam dates are:
February 8 (Thursday), March 8 (Thursday), April 10 (Tuesday), and the date for the final exam will be announced by the end of October. The first three exams are held during regular class time. These dates will not change. Mark your calendar now.

Assignments
All assignments must be uploaded to the ICON website on or before the due date. All papers must include your name, the date, and your section number. All written work must be submitted in Microsoft Word document or PDF format. No other formats will be accepted (i.e., no Pages format).
Media journal assignment – For this assignment, you will record your personal media use and write a short paper discussing possible media effects in your life and other connections to concepts discussed in class. More detailed instructions will be posted on ICON.

Original research proposal – For this assignment, you are to take a current issue in the news and suggest how to conduct research on it from a theoretical perspective. What social scientific theory might best explain either the media content or the potential audience interpretation? Why? What research method would you use to study this? Why? More detailed instructions will be posted on ICON.

Discussion Section Responses (DSRs) – Most weeks, your TA will post a two-part question about the next week’s readings, including the Discussion reading. You are to answer the question and post your answer to ICON before the next week’s section. The purpose of this is to encourage you to do the readings and prepare in advance for discussion. More details on DSRs will be included on your discussion section syllabus. DSRs will have two parts: (1) a closed-ended question about a concept or theory; and (2) an open-ended question asking you to give your thoughts about the discussion reading. Both parts must be completed, and correct, for the full 5 points. You must be present in discussion to get credit for your DSR, but we will drop your lowest scoring DSR.

Reaction Papers – Throughout the semester, you will be asked to write down your immediate reactions to concepts or theories discussed in lecture. You will be given sufficient time to write your reaction papers. There will be a total of 6 reaction papers (5 points each) throughout the semester. We will drop your lowest scoring paper. Reaction papers will not be announced in advance and cannot be made up. You are welcome to use laptops, tablets, or other computing devices to write your instant reaction papers and upload them directly to your Discussion Section ICON page.

Lecture notes
The outline of the week’s lectures will be posted on ICON by the following Monday and remain posted for a week. The outline will not contain all information discussed in the lecture, however, so you should not assume that skipping the lectures will allow you to earn a desirable grade on exams. You must retrieve the notes within the week they are posted – after they are removed, they will not be e-mailed or otherwise provided. The lecture notes will serve as your study guide for exams, so be sure to download them each week.

Tentative schedule:
Check our site on ICON for updates the schedule below. Read the assigned reading before the classes each week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments Due Dates and Exams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 (1/16 & 1/18) | What are Media Effects? How Do We Study Them? | Sparks, Chapter 1  
No Discussion Reading | Section: DSR 1 (completed in class) |
| Week 2 (1/23 & 1/25) | Social Scientific Research Methods | Sparks, Chapter 2  
Discussion reading: On ICON | Section: DSR 2 |
| Week 3 (1/30 & 2/1) | History of Media Effects | Sparks, Chapter 3  
No Discussion Reading | Section: Media Journal Assigned |
| Week 4 (2/6 & 2/8) | Diffusion of Innovations | On ICON  
Discussion reading: On ICON | Thursday, 2/8 Lecture:  
Exam 1 - Chapters 1-3; diffusion reading, lecture/discussion  
Section: DSR 3 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 (2/13 &amp; 2/15)</td>
<td>News and Political Content</td>
<td>Sparks, Chapter 9</td>
<td>Discussion reading: On ICON</td>
<td>Section: DSR 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 (2/27 &amp; 3/1)</td>
<td>Persuasive Media Effects</td>
<td>Sparks, Chapter 8</td>
<td>No Discussion Reading</td>
<td>Friday 3/2 Media Journal Assignment Journal Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 (3/6 &amp; 3/8)</td>
<td>Time Spent with Media</td>
<td>Sparks, Chapter 4</td>
<td>Discussion reading: On ICON</td>
<td>Thursday 3/8 Lecture: Exam 2 - Chapters 4, 8, 9; agenda setting reading, gatekeeping reading, lecture/discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9: Spring Break 3/13 &amp; 3/15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 (3/20 &amp; 3/22)</td>
<td>Violence in the Media</td>
<td>Sparks, Chapter 5</td>
<td>Discussion reading: On ICON</td>
<td>Section: DSR 6 Original Research Proposal Assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12 (4/3 &amp; 4/5)</td>
<td>Stereotypes in the Media</td>
<td>Sparks, Chapter 10</td>
<td>Discussion reading: On ICON</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13 (4/10 &amp; 4/12)</td>
<td>Sex in the Media</td>
<td>Sparks, Chapter 6</td>
<td>No Discussion Reading</td>
<td>Tuesday 4/10 Lecture: Exam 3 - chapters 5 &amp; 10; body image reading, cultivation reading, lecture/discussion Section: DSR 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14 (4/17 &amp; 4/19)</td>
<td>Media and Our Emotions</td>
<td>Sparks, Chapter 7</td>
<td>No Discussion Reading</td>
<td>Friday 4/20 Original Research Proposal Due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Iowa Dozen

The University of Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communication believes that the following knowledge and skills are essential for our majors. We will be incorporating many of these throughout this course, especially those marked by *.

We learn…

■ to write correctly and clearly
■ to conduct research and gather information responsibly*
■ to edit and evaluate carefully
■ to use media technologies thoughtfully*
■ to apply statistical concepts appropriately*

We value…

■ First Amendment principles for all individuals and groups
■ a diverse global community
■ creativity and independence
■ truth, accuracy, fairness, and diversity*

We explore…

■ mass communication theories and concepts*
■ media institutions and practices*
■ the role of media in shaping cultures