

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Arts & Sciences
Division of Liberal Arts
Course Syllabus

GSU ARCHIVES

Index #: MCOM 468

Title: Senior Seminar

Instructor: Eli Segal, E2566, (708) 534-4084, e-segal@govst.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays by appointment

Credits: 3

Trimester: Fall, 2002 -- Wednesdays, 4:30-7:20PM

Description: The capstone undergraduate course in Communications and Media Communication. Individual and group research in contemporary problems in communications, and a cumulative portfolio of student accomplishments.

Audience: Required of all undergraduate students in Communication Studies and Media Communication.

Prerequisites: Must be taken no earlier than one trimester before graduating.

Text: TOXIC SLUDGE IS GOOD FOR YOU, by Rampton & Stauber, Common Courage Press

Outcomes:

1. An awareness of major problems in the Communication field today
2. An opportunity for supervised research to find solutions
3. The ability to present outcomes of above research effectively
4. A personal academic/professional portfolio of achievements to date

Activities: Readings, discussion, individual and group research, presentation of findings

Evaluation: Students are expected to attend class and to prepare work in a timely manner. There will be a midterm exam based on the text. Group topics will be selected by the third session and will be presented per the course calendar. Individual project topics are due no later than the midterm, with specific follow-up consultations with the instructor due by date indicated on the course calendar. (more)

GSU ARCHIVES
MCOM 468

Class & Group Participation & Project	25% of final gr.
Midterm	"
Individual Project	"
Portfolio	"
90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 65-69%=D, below 65%=F	
A grade of C or higher is required for graduation.	

ALL STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE:

1. If there is any factor you believe will impact on your performance in this course, you must make this known to the instructor at the inception of the course.
2. The course calendar lets you know from the very first day when assignments are due. Consequently, there are few legitimate excuses for late work. The first half of the course depends on group cooperation in a timely manner. Late work will receive a grade penalty. Late work that adversely affects the performance of other members of your group is grounds for failure in the group project.
3. The grade of Incomplete will not be awarded, except at the initiation of the instructor.

CALENDAR

8/28	Introduction
9/4	Text: Pp. 1-76 ; Groups Assigned
9/11	Pp. 77-142; Group Topics Chosen
9/18	Pp. 143-212; Resumes Due; Careers Presentation
9/25	Groups Prepare Individually; No Formal Class
10/2	Exam on Text; Individual Topics Due for Conferences
10/9	Group Presentations
10/16	Begin Work on Individual Projects & Portfolios
11/6	Last Date For Progress Report To Instructor
11/20	Individual Projects and Portfolios Due @ 12:30PM!

Late work not excused by the instructor will be penalized ten points per week late.

STUDENT PORTFOLIOS
(Revised 6/99)

Effective Fall, 1999, all undergraduate majors in Communication Studies (COMS) and Media Communication (MCOM) are required to develop a student portfolio for presentation in MCOM 468 Senior Seminar. To accomplish this effectively, all students must take COMS 300 Introduction to Communications no later than their second trimester in our program, and MCOM 468 Senior Seminar no earlier than one trimester prior to graduating.

The portfolio affords an opportunity to assess skills, knowledge and accomplishments as you prepare to receive your B.A. degree. Some students may show their portfolio to prospective employers, as it is often more effective than just a resume. Others may find the portfolio useful in applying for further university study.

The portfolio should include the following four sections:

1. An up-to-date personal/professional resume.
2. A statement of accomplishments, skills mastered and goals. Internships and experiences prior to and outside of GSU can figure in this section, too.
3. An honest evaluation of your education in our COMS/MCOM program. Your and our strengths? Weaknesses? Be constructive and truthful.
4. At least four examples of significant work from required courses and at least one example of significant work from an elective or selective course. These may be papers, projects, exams, etc. We are not concerned with the grade you received, as it's quite possible that you learned more from a less-than-perfect paper than from an 'A' paper. With each example write a brief explanation of the reason you chose to include this piece of work in the portfolio.

You are responsible for retaining pertinent materials to be included in your portfolio. There is no need to re-copy papers, scripts, projects, etc. They may be submitted with instructors' comments on them. For safety sake, you may wish to make copies of materials that cannot be replaced. Portfolio print materials should be submitted in an inexpensive three-ring binder, with dividers separating the four sections described above. Projects and things like videos should be submitted separately. All materials should be clearly marked with your name and the date of submission. Materials may be retained by the department for up to one year. Questions? Please ask Eli Segal, E2566, (708) 534-4084 or your advisor. Good luck!