

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF LIBERAL ARTS
COURSE SYLLABUS

Index #: MCOM 468

Course Title: Senior Seminar

Instructor: Eli Segal, E2566, (708) 534-4084
Office Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays,
confirmed appointments suggested

Credits: 3

Trimester: Fall, 1999

Description: The capstone undergraduate course; individual and group research in contemporary problems in communications and a cumulative portfolio of accomplishments while at GSU

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

Text: THE HABITS OF HIGHLY DECEPTIVE MEDIA, by Norman Solomon, Common Courage Press, 1999

Expected Student Outcomes:

1. An awareness of some major problems in the Communication field today
2. Opportunity to engage in supervised individual and group research to find solutions
3. Ability to present outcomes of individual and group projects in an effective manner
4. Creation of 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 all work in a timely manner. There will be a midterm exam based on the text. Group topics will be selected by the second 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 on dates indicated in the course calendar.



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Class & Group Participation	25%	of final gr.
Midterm	20%	"
Individual Project	25%	"
Portfolio	30%	"

90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 65-69% = D, Below 65% = F
Graduation Requirements Require a Grade of C or Higher in MCOM 468.

ALL STUDENTS NOTE THE FOLLOWING

1. If there is any factor you believe will have a significant effect on your performance in this course, it is your responsibility to make this known to the instructor at the beginning of the course.
2. The course calendar lets you know, from the very first day, when assignments are due. There are, therefore, few legitimate excuses for late work. In addition, 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 a failing grade.
3. The grade of Incomplete is not something elected by the student. It may be awarded by the faculty member under unusual circumstances. Please be advised that this faculty member does not plan on giving any grades of 'I' (see '2,' above).

COURSE CALENDAR

Class Meets: Thursdays, 4:30-7:20PM

- 9/2 Introduction
- 9/9 Text: Pp. 1-52; Groups Assigned & Topics Chosen
- 9/16 Text: Pp. 54-108
- 9/23 Text: Pp. 110-157
- 9/30 Text: Pp. 159-206
- 10/7 Text: Pp. 208-253; Group Presentations I
- 10/14 Text: Pp. 255-279; Group Presentations II
- 10/21 Midterm Exam; Individual Project Conferences
- 11/4 Last date for individual progress reports to instructor
- 12/2 Portfolios and individual projects due no later than 4:30PM
- 12/9 Projects returned

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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!