

REDEEMER CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Course Syllabus

EMS30, Media Studies

Semester 1, 2019-2020

T. Käärid

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Media Studies! This course emphasizes knowledge and skills that will enable you to understand media communication in the Twenty-First Century and to use media effectively and responsibly. Through analyzing the forms and messages of a variety of media works and audience responses to them, and through creating your own media works, you will develop your critical thinking skills, aesthetic and ethical judgments, and skills in viewing, representing, listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

INTRODUCTION

In our present society the various forms of Media are everywhere. Our society is saturated with Media and its effects on people are both subtle and strong. Thus, it is important that students in modern society learn to be informed and discerning users of Media.

This is an English course. Therefore our main task will be the reading of media texts and then engaging in a critical analysis of these texts and writing about our findings.

Media texts, in their various forms, tell stories to deliver a message. Our focus in this class will be to determine the story and meaning of media texts and discern how these are compatible or not with the larger narrative of Creation, Fall, Redemption that is the framework of the Christian Worldview. We will also explore the various issues in how to view and create media texts responsibly. This involves such questions as the effect that viewing stereotypes or violence has on the audience, the messages that the industry creates, and ability of the media to have a positive influence on the life of a Christian. In addition, the students will be expected to assess critically their own media consumption on the basis of the answers they have discovered from the above questions.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

All members of this class will treat the classroom, each other and the learning endeavour with respect as is fitting for a Christian. Respect for each other is the acknowledgment that the people around us are valued by God and should be treated with care. Respect for learning is an acknowledgment that God's world is important and is worth caring for and learning about. Respect for the classroom is an acknowledgment that this is God's school and that everything in it is a gift from Him and should not be treated lightly.

It is **your responsibility**:

1. to arrive in class prepared to work.
2. to stay caught up and do whatever is necessary to catch up if you miss material, whatever the reason.
3. to make arrangements to get extra help if you experience difficulties.
4. to inform the teacher if you know you will be away for a test. Tests and quizzes missed due to a legitimate absence will be written on the return of the student unless prior arrangements have been made.
5. to hand in assignments on time. Late assignments will have 10% deducted/day up to 5 days, then the assignment will receive a mark of zero, and you will be assigned to study hall every day until the assignment is turned in.
6. Any instances of plagiarism will be dealt with according to the RCHS Plagiarism Policy.

OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT

Unit #	Unit Title	Evaluation Instruments	Hours
1	Introduction to Media Studies (Foundational Concepts)	- Test - Media Text Presentation	14.5 hours
2	Advertising (Targeting Audiences)	- Test - Make a Magazine Ad	16 hours
3	Representation (Representing ourselves: stereotypes, gender roles, violence and religion)	-Test	19 hours
4	Living in the Global Village (Perception of the Global World)	- Test - News story comparison	14.5 hours
5	Genre and Narrative (Narrative and Meaning)	- Test - Movie Analysis	23.5 hours
6	New Media (Internet, smartphones, video)	- In-class Essay on new and Emerging Technologies -	13.5 hours
8	Review and Final Evaluation	- Exam	9 hours

Note:

STUDENT EVALUATION

Evaluation Methods:

Tests
Unit Assignments
Final Exam

Assessments:

Journal Entries
Practice Assignments
Media Mondays Observations and Conversations

Evaluation Summary:

Approximate weightings of the evaluation categories will be:

Evaluation Instrument	Value	Approximate Value	Learning Category
Tests	30%	5%	Communication
		13%	Knowledge/Understanding
		10%	Thinking/Problem Solving
		2%	Application
Unit Assignments	30%	10%	Communication
		5%	Knowledge/Understanding
		5%	Thinking/Problem Solving
		10%	Application
Conversations and Observations	10%	5%	Communication
		1%	Knowledge/Understanding
		2%	Thinking/Problem Solving
		2%	Application
In-Class Essay and Exam	30%	5%	Communication
		10%	Knowledge/Understanding
		10%	Thinking/Problem Solving
		5%	Application

Evaluation Phase	Learning Category	Approximate Value
Term Work	Communication	14%
	Knowledge/Understanding	18%
	Thinking/Problem Solving	19%
	Application	19%
Final Evaluation	In-Class Essay	10%
	Final Exam	20%