Office Hours: I will be available by email, although I may not be able to respond immediately. Because I will not be able to be vaccinated until later in the semester, I will not be holding on-campus office hours. If you MUST see me in person, we can make arrangements.


Catalog Description: An in-depth study of the impacts of mass media on a changing America, including a study of the effects of mass media on government, demographic groups and the military. The study of moral reasoning and ethical decision making as they relate to the mass media.

To accomplish the course description, we will discuss the effects of mass media on audiences and how that information is gathered, current theories and models of mass-mediated communication and the responsibility of mass media practitioners in a free society as well as individuals’ responsibility to each other and society.

Course objectives: By the end of this course, it is hoped you will gain an appreciation for and an understanding of the problems associated with theorizing on the effects of mass media. Also, it is hoped you will gain an understanding of the responsibilities of working in an industry with so many moral and ethical implications for people in the news.

Specifically, it is hoped we reach these objectives by:

- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Departmental Learning Goals

Communication Learning Goal 2 says that students will recognize and understand key issues related to communication theory and media/speech ethics. The class will attempt to meet this learning goal by exposing students to several mass media theories as well as the methods researchers use to formulate theory.

Mass Media Learning Goal 3 says that students should be able to recognize and understand key legal and ethical implications of synthesizing and producing information for transmission to the public through media channels. We will discuss the ethical portion of this learning goal by studying, discussing and applying to the real world the concepts involved in media ethics.

Evaluation: The departmental learning goals listed above will be assessed through the average of several assignments given throughout the semester. Primarily the class will consist of reading assignments followed by responses to short-answer questions. The responses will be judged on their use of examples, citations from the book and the application of that material to the answers. In other words, SHOW, DON’T TELL. Each assignment will be worth a possible 10 points. Late assignments – for whatever reason – cannot earn more than seven points. Answers that lack citation cannot earn more than five points.

Attendance: Obviously, attendance will consist of your staying current in your coursework. The assignments generally will be given each week and will be due on the same day each week. Late assignments will be docked (see above).

Academic Honesty Code: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both the print and web versions for the Student Handbook. The current student handbook is found on the ASU web site under publications at the https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/
Americans with Disabilities: Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Academic Advising: The College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Communication, Mass Media and Theatre require that students meet with a faculty adviser as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Adviser will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty Adviser, and the department chair. Communication or Mass Media majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 942-2031.

Grade Appeal Process. As stated in Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance

Title IX at Angelo State University: Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:
Michelle Miller, J.D.
Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.miller@angelo.edu
You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.
If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic at 325-942-2171, Counseling Services at 325-942-2371 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.
The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.
For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.
Class Schedule: We will cover a different topic each week, primarily organized along the same lines as the textbook. The reading material will be either given to you or will be from the book.

The first part of the semester will be the “Effects” part. The last week or two of the semester will be the “Ethics” part.