The Catholic University of America Libraries
Collection Development Policy

Subject

Media Studies

Mission

Media Studies materials are acquired and maintained by the Library to support the research, teaching and learning of the Department of Media Studies. Materials also support programs in humanities including English Language, Philosophy, and Art.

History

The Catholic University of America’s Department of Media Studies provides a humanities centered education in media literacy for students who will become lifelong interpreters, users and producers of mediated texts. The Department of Media Studies curriculum emphasizes the cultural and historical specificity of media in their many contemporary forms, engaging approaches ranging from classical rhetoric to contemporary cultural studies (from Department of Media Studies’ homepage). In addition, the department serves, in collaboration with other departments across campus, to promote education in service to the Church, nation and world.

Graduates of the program pursue careers in fields saturated with media including radio, television, news, film and electronic media.

Clientele

Clientele served by media studies materials in the Library include

- Students enrolled in undergraduate, masters and doctoral degree programs offered by the Department of Media Studies.
- Faculty of the Department of Media Studies.
- Other University faculty, students, and staff.
- Faculty, students, and staff of other WRLC institutions and other local consortia.
- Other researchers who need to consult materials not available to them in the libraries which ordinarily support their study.
- Any other clientele served by the subject area collections.

Degree Offerings (Quoted material from Department of Media Studies webpage)

Major in Media Studies. Television, cinema, newspapers and the Internet all profoundly influence our lives. CUA's Department of Media Studies provides students with tools to analyze critically the forms and contents of mass media. An interdisciplinary field, media
studies at Catholic University is rooted in traditions of rhetorical and historical criticism across the humanities.

Core program courses promote understanding of film, television and related media in their varied aesthetic, social, historical and cultural contexts. After completing the core, majors anchor their elective courses with either a critical studies course (344: Critical Approaches to Media) or a production course (402: Media Composition). Students may take both. Majors in the program also have opportunities to gain professional experience through internships while earning credit.

With a liberal arts commitment, media studies emphasizes writing and critical thinking skills. By requiring rigorous study in the humanities while providing access to state-of-the-art digital production equipment, Media Studies engages students as both critics and creators -- learning how to read cultural texts critically, and gaining firsthand knowledge of how such texts are produced. CUA students develop a relationship to mass media that is both critically aware and socially responsible, one that prepares them for a wide variety of careers in fields as diverse as film and video, broadcasting, journalism, public relations, advertising, law, or teaching and scholarship in the humanities.

Majors take MDIA 201, 202, 303, 304, 401 and 499; and seven additional courses in critical studies and/or production. See the adviser for specific information. To be accepted as a major, a student must complete both MDIA 201 and 202 with a a minimum C+ (2.3) average in those two courses. Students may take up to two elective courses in other departments (e.g., ART329, Intro to Digital Photography) for credit in the major.

**Minor in Media Studies.** The minor in Media Studies consists of MDIA201 (Introduction to Media Studies), MDIA202 (Media and History) plus four more MDIA courses. HSCT101 and 102 may substitute for MDIA201 and 202. Cognate crosslisted courses count towards the minor (e.g. ENG430 for MDIA303, ENG 524 for MDIA524), but interdisciplinary courses available as major electives (such as PHIL331) may not be credited towards the minor.

**Minor in Rhetoric and Writing:** This interdisciplinary minor is supervised by the Department of Media Studies. Requirements are: MDIA 303/ENG 430; two advanced writing courses chosen from ENG 301 or 302 (but not both), ENG 326, 327, MDIA 330; three additional courses chosen from PHIL 301, 313, 315; ENG 324, 520, 635, 636; MDIA 333, 335, 336, 394, 401, 519, 524, 530. Other courses may be accepted with permission of the adviser, Dr. Stephen McKenna.

**Geographical**

Items from North America, Central America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.
Language

English is the preferred language for writings about cinema and media. Important monographs and reference works in European and Western languages will be considered. Limited selections will be made in non-Western languages.

Publication Dates

All dates are included. Emphasis will be on current print materials (the 3 – 5 years), though particular attention will be given to films from any date.

Formats

Books, periodicals, microforms, scripts, independent publications and film intended for recreational viewing such as DVD’s or VHS cassettes.

Subjects

Monographs and Reference titles are generally purchased in print. If there is a significant price differential, paperbound may be purchased rather than hard cover, with binding before shelving considered on a case-by-case basis. Titles may be purchased in electronic format when available as “one-time” purchases. Journals are purchased in electronic format whenever possible, as are indexing/abstracting services. New periodicals and other subscriptions are extremely rare due to budget restraints.

Library of Congress Class and description

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<th>LC Class</th>
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<td>Broadcasting</td>
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<td>PN1992.93 – PN1992.95</td>
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