**COMM 1713: Introduction to Mass Communication**  
Summer 2021

**Instructor:** Dr. Tammy L. Holmes  
**Section # and CRN:** Z01 32649  
**Office Location:** Hilliard Hall 010A  
**Office Phone:** 936-261-3702  
**Email Address:** t Holmes@pvamu.edu  
**Office Hours:** T: 12:00pm-2:00pm  
**Mode of Instruction:** Online

**Course Location:** Online  
**Class Days & Times:** MTWR 9:10am-11:30am

**Catalog Description:** This course is a basic theory course encompassing the history and functions of mass media and the communication process.

**Prerequisites:** N/A  
**Co-requisites:** N/A


**Student Learning Outcomes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcome # Alignment</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 Critique their own and others' media consumption patterns | 1,4 | Critical Thinking  
Written Comm.  
Oral Comm.  
Teamwork |
| 2 Evaluate and critique the history of mass communication | 2,3 | Critical Thinking  
Written Comm.  
Oral Comm. |
| 3 Transform into informed producers and consumers of media | 1,4 | Critical Thinking  
Civic Engagement  
Teamwork |
| 4 Explain ethical issues in the media | 1,2 | Critical Thinking  
Written Comm.  
Oral Comm. |
| 5 Define the role of media in culture | 1,2,3 | Critical Thinking  
Written Comm.  
Oral Comm. |
Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Review Quizzes #1-2</td>
<td>150 pts. (75 pts. each)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Careers in Mass Communication Assignment</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Final Research Paper Assignment</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Discussion Board Assignment</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Midterm Exam</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Final Exam</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Participation (attendance)</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1000 pts. 100%

Grading Criteria and Conversion:
A = 90 – 100%
B = 80 – 89%
C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 69%
F = 59% or below

Detailed Description of Major Assignments (worth 15% or more):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Quizzes #1-2</td>
<td>Open-book online quizzes that feature content from lecture and course readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careers in Mass Communication Assignment</td>
<td>Interview with a working professional in a mass communication-related field, written report outlining details of career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Project</td>
<td>Research paper exploring mass communication industries (specific topic to be selected by instructor)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course Procedures

Taskstream
Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. One of your assignments will be considered an "artifact," an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

Instructor Policies

Students are expected to:
1. Attend all class sessions, arrive on time, and leave on time
2. Read and follow instructions on all assignments
3. Submit all assignments on time –
4. Complete all required readings on time
5. Participate in class discussions and in-class activities
6. Treat classmates, instructor, and facilities with respect at all times
7. Check PV e-mail daily for class updates
8. Avoid using cell phones, mobile devices, computers, or headphones for non-class purposes
9. Avoid talking while the instructor is teaching
10. Avoid talking while other students are asking questions, contributing to class discussion, and/or giving presentations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>June 1-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>Welcome / Course Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz #1 Chapters 1-3, Discussion Board Due, Due Sunday, June 6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong></td>
<td>Read syllabus, One chapter every day, Quiz at the end of each week. Discussion Board Due every week **</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>June 7-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong></td>
<td>Midterm Quiz, Chapters 4-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Careers in Mass Communication Paper Due. Discussion Board Due – Sunday June 13th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>June 14-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong></td>
<td>Quiz 2 Chapters 8-10, Discussion Board Due – Due June 20th</td>
</tr>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>June 21-27</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong></td>
<td>Final Research Paper - Due Sunday, June 27th</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>June 28- July 6th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong></td>
<td>Final Exam Chapters 11-16, Discussion Board Due – July 2nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Student Support and Success**

**John B. Coleman Library**
The library and its partners have as their mission "to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service" and to support the University's core values of "access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility" through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty.

**Center for Academic Support**
The Center for Academic Support (CAS) offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Tutoring Center is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library

**COMPASS**
The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library

**Writing Center**
The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Location: Hilliard Hall 121

**University Rules and Procedures**

**Disability statement (See Student Handbook):**
Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

**Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):**
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

**Forms of academic dishonesty:**
1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.
Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the second week of class.

It is also important that you arrive to class on time. For this reason, attendance will be taken promptly on the hour when class is scheduled to begin. Any student who arrives after the scheduled start time of class will be counted tardy. In addition, anyone who comes to class more than five minutes late more than five times over the course of the semester will be counted absent for every subsequent offense.

Student Academic Appeals Process
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):
Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.