



Master of Arts in Communication, Media & Digital Culture



University
of Windsor

GRADUATE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

M.A. Program Name Change:

On Friday, October 11, 2024, the Senate of the University of Windsor passed a motion that officially changed the name of the M.A. Program from the ~~M.A. in Communication & Social Justice~~ to the

Master of Arts in Communication, Media & Digital Culture (CMDC).

While this name change is official and effective immediately, it will take a little while to see these changes reflected in the University's systems (Applications, Admissions, Registrars, Finance, etc.).

Therefore, *when applying to the M.A. Program (due January 15, 2025), you should expect to apply to the M.A. in Communication & Social Justice.*

However, rest assured that you will be enrolled in the M.A. in Communication, Media & Digital Culture.

If you have any questions or complications, please feel free to contact me:

Dr. Brian Brown

bbrown@uwindsor.ca

Associate Professor

Chair – Graduate Program in Communication, Media & Digital Culture

[Link To Graduate Student Application Website](#)



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Communication, Media & Digital Culture Program Description

Program Description:

The M.A. in **Communication, Media & Digital Culture** offers students a distinctive opportunity to pursue their diverse scholarly interests in a vibrant, supportive atmosphere conducive to addressing all manner of issues having to do with communication, media and digital cultural studies.

It bridges two main scholarly approaches to the study of communication, media, and culture – political economy and critical cultural studies. The program is designed to advance and support original and provocative research centred on the critical interpretation of communication technologies, social media sites, cultural industries, and mediating platforms and practices of all types.

Potential Topics of Interest

- The political economy of social media sites and services
 - Instagram, Linked In, Tik Tok, etc.
 - The social, cultural, and political dimensions of mediated representation
 - Representation of Gender, Race, Sexuality, Class, etc.
 - Popular culture, advertising, public relations, marketing
 - The commodification of information, culture, and communication
 - The intersection of communication, media studies, and social movements
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Contact Information:

Graduate Program Chair:

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Communication, Media & Digital Culture Application & Program Information

The M.A. in **Communication, Media & Digital Culture** in the Department of Communication, Media & Film is designed to be completed in one year (3 consecutive semesters). We admit students once per annum, only at the beginning of the Fall Semester (i.e. in September of each year), and only on a full-time basis. There is no part-time option.

Deadline: The deadline for receipt of *all* application materials is *January 15 of each year*. All application materials need to be in .pdf format and should be uploaded to the University's website when prompted.

Application Package: The [application package](#) consists of:

1. [Online Application Form](#)
 2. Statement of Purpose (500 words)
 3. A Curriculum Vitae (CV or Resumé)
 4. Official Transcripts (Not Applicable to UWindsor Students)
 5. Two Letters of Reference (Academic Referees Preferred)
 6. Writing Sample (10-15 pgs of scholarly prose)
 7. IELTS 7.0 / TOEFL 100 / DUOLINGO 120 (Where Applicable)
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Required & Elective Courses: You need to take a total of 5 courses. 3 of the 5 courses are required, leaving 2 others as electives.

Required Courses:

1. CMDC-8500 Graduate Pro-Seminar
2. CMDC-8501 Critical Theories of Communication
3. CMDC-8502 Graduate Research Methods

Elective Courses: Offered on a rotational basis

1. CMDC-8512 Communication & Social Movements
 2. CMDC-8513 History of Communication Thought & Technology
 3. CMDC-8514 Political Economy of Communication
 4. CMDC-8515 Topics in Cultural Studies
 5. CMDC-8518 The City As Media
 6. CMDC-8520 Directed Reading
 7. CMDC-8543 Advanced Film Theory and Criticism
 8. [CMDC-8990 Internship \(Coming Soon - Summer 2025\)](#)
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Communication, Media & Digital Culture :Course Offerings

Required Courses:

CMDC-8500. Pro-Seminar (Required)

An introduction to research in the field of critical communication/media studies. This seminar explores the intellectual history, central debates, and current research trends of the field and encourages students to develop, and actively reflect upon, their own research interests and goals. The seminar also fosters a variety of intellectual skills and practical considerations relevant to graduate study and intellectual life (e.g., applying for scholarships, sharing research in various venues, writing for different audiences).

CMDC-8501. Critical Theories of Communication and Media (Required)

This course offers an advanced examination of core concepts, perspectives, and areas of research in the field of communication and media studies. Students will explore a range of critical theoretical approaches that are representative of those currently being used or developed by researchers in the field.

CMDC-8502. Research Methods (Required)

This course provides an overview of a range of contemporary research methods in media/communication studies. Students will develop skills to evaluate the appropriateness of methods for different research purposes, critically review extant scholarly literature, and examine the ethics and politics of the research process.

Elective Courses: Offered on a rotational basis

CMDC-8512. Communication and Social Movements

This course draws upon an array of relevant theoretical perspectives to examine how traditional and nontraditional forms of communication/media have been used within, and by, a variety of social movements. Students will explore the contribution of new/emerging communication technologies/platforms to social activism and social movements; representations of social movements in the context of political/economic/social change; the diversity and importance of alternative media as a central component in movements for social justice.

CMDC-8513. History of Communication Thought and Technology

This course examines the historical development of communication technology from a variety of approaches including western philosophy, critical political economy, gender studies, anti-colonialism, science and technology studies (STS), and dependency theory, among others. Communication thought from the Greeks to the present will be analyzed to develop a broader critique of dominant power relations and inequitable access to technological resources.

CMDC-8514. Political Economy of Media and Communication

The course examines the historical and intellectual roots of critical political economy and explores contemporary applications of this theoretical approach. Students will analyze how media are implicated in the power relations and structural inequalities that underpin the capitalist economy as well as how they may function as sites of resistance and activism. Topics may include analyses of media platforms, ownership structures, labour, policy and regulation, privacy and surveillance issues, and media representation.

CMDC-8515 Topics in Cultural Studies

This course surveys the historical and intellectual foundations of cultural studies and explores the contemporary relevance of this approach to understanding media and popular culture. Any range of media genres, texts, practices, institutions, signifying systems, and circuits of production/consumption may be examined in terms of their aesthetics, representational and cultural politics, power dynamics, and ideological underpinnings.

CMDC-8518. City as Media

The seminar will explore theoretical approaches to the ways in which urban spaces, everyday life, and city stories are articulated and imagined through media, arts and technologies. Seminar participants will develop research papers and experience-based creative projects about Windsor and/or Detroit. Students will examine films, stories, sounds and other media objects that reflect the urban, but will also be encouraged to develop research methodologies that use old and new media to question and document the cities' urban and suburban life. In classroom seminars, a range of theoretical writings and media objects all oriented to the urban will be discussed. In research practice, students will work with techniques such as auto-ethnographies to develop creative documents around everyday urban life. (3-hour lecture.)

CMDC-8520. Directed Study

Normally reserved for students not writing a thesis. With approval of the graduate program director, a student may undertake to write an original paper on a specialized topic which will enhance his or her program of study. The course will involve directed supervision of readings and informal discussion with the student's course supervisor.

CMDC-8543. Advanced Film Theory and Criticism

Films are explored under the broad rubric of cultural studies; specific theoretical approaches employed to analyze cinema are examined. Case studies of genres as the emergent effective mode of understanding films are taken up. Films selected may belong to the silent or classical period to the contemporary. The readings provide tools to analyze formal aspects and critical interpretative frameworks applied to examine films. Writing assignments forge links between the written and the visual and between theory and film texts. (3 hrs/week: once a month, class will be extended due to in-class film screening.)

CMDC-8590. Selected Topics

Selected advanced topics in Communication Studies based on special faculty interests and opportunities afforded by the availability of visiting professors. Special topics courses are subject to Graduate Committee approval. (May be repeated for credit provided that the topics differ.) (3 lecture hours a week.)

CMDC-8990. Internship (Not Yet Available - Coming Summer Semester 2025)

This course still needs to pass through a few layers of committee approvals, but when it does, it will provide CMDC graduate students with industry specific work experience that complement the skills and aptitudes developed throughout their graduate degree.

Notes & Questions::

Coming Soon:

**Grad Student
Internship Opportunity
(CMDC-8990)**