

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: CN 3408 ISSUES IN CONTEXT	
(Previously CN 2408 ISSUES IN CONTEXT – L4)	
US CREDITS: 3/0/3	
UK LEVEL: 5	
(Updated: Fall 2020)	
PREREQUISITES:	WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing and Ethics WP 1212 Academic Writing and Research CN 2301 Foundations of Contemporary Media
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	Historical observation, social theory, and examination of media texts as tools for understanding social change. The retreat of tradition and its impact on institutions, individuals and relationships at different levels of society.
RATIONALE:	This course helps students understand how historical perspectives and social theories can provide systematic explanations for social change. They examine how media treatment of issues reflects contemporary perceptions of the individual and society. It is important for communication and media students to appreciate the importance of history and theory as tools of understanding society. Such an understanding is a pre-condition for students themselves to be able to develop their own ideas and a coherent understanding of the relationship between the media and wider society.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess how Westerners' perceptions of their societies have changed over the past several decades, especially since the end of the Cold War. 2. Understand how historical perspectives and sociological theories attempt to provide coherent explanations of social change. 3. Explain social trends and outlooks as they are reflected in the mass media.
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	<p>In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class lectures, discussions and film viewings; in-class workshops, homework assignments, and other group work. • Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can ask questions, see their exam paper, and/or go over lecture material. • Use of a blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, announcements, and other resources. • Peer tutoring is also available to students who choose to get additional help.

<p>ASSESSMENT:</p>	<p>Summative:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="651 174 1395 323"> <tr> <td>First assessment: Research paper (2,400-2,600 words)</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final examination: (2 hours; comprehensive)</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </table> <p>Formative:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="651 396 1395 472"> <tr> <td>Bibliographical annotations - formative</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Commentary piece - formative</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The formative assessments prepare students for their first assessment work.</p> <p>The first assessment (research paper) tests learning outcomes 1 and 2. The second assessment (final examination) tests learning outcomes 1, 2, and 3.</p> <p>The final grade for this module will be determined by averaging all summative assessment grades, based on the predetermined weights for each assessment. If students pass the comprehensive assessment that tests all Learning Outcomes for this module and the average grade for the module is 40 or higher, students are not required to resit any failed assessments.</p>	First assessment: Research paper (2,400-2,600 words)	40	Final examination: (2 hours; comprehensive)	60	Bibliographical annotations - formative	0	Commentary piece - formative	
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<p>INDICATIVE READING:</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING: Furedi, Frank. <i>Culture of Fear Revisited</i>, Continuum, 2006.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Beck, Ulrich. "The Silence of Words and Political Dynamics in the World Risk Society", <i>Logos</i>, 1.4, 2002. Bignell, Jonathan, <i>Postmodern Media Culture</i>, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh; 2000 Fukuyama, Francis. <i>The End of History and the Last Man</i>. Avon. 1992. Fukuyama, Francis, <i>Identity: Contemporary Identity Politics and the Struggle for Recognition</i>, Profile Books, USA; 2018 Furedi, Frank, <i>How Fear Works: Culture of Fear in the Twenty-First Century</i>, Bloomsbury Continuum, UK; 2018 Gibbins, John R., & Reimer, B., <i>The Politics of Postmodernity: An Introduction to Contemporary Politics and Culture</i>, Sage Publications, USA; 1999 Giddens, Anthony. <i>The Third Way</i>, Polity, 1998 Hammond, Philip. <i>Media, War & Postmodernity</i>. Routledge, 2007. Klages, Mary, <i>Literary Theory: The Complete Guide</i>, Bloomsbury Academic, UK; 2017 Stevens, Mitchell. <i>We're All Postmodern Now</i>, <i>Columbia Journalism Review</i>, pp. 60-64, 2005. Thompson, Kenneth. <i>Moral Panics</i>. Routledge, 1998.</p>								

	Selected articles from the international media.
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: <i>(e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</i>	REQUIRED MATERIAL: RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	All presentations using proper English
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Word
WWW RESOURCES:	www.cjr.org www.time.com www.newsweek.com www.nationalreview.com www.nyt.com www.washingtonpost.com www.thetimes.co.uk www.ft.com www.theguardian.co.uk www.economist.com
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political and social change since the end of the Cold War 2. Fukuyama and the end of History 3. Furedi and the culture of fear 4. Giddens's Third Way 5. Redefining politics 6. Shifting perceptions of the individual, society and the future 7. Introduction to Postmodernism 8. Grand narratives 9. Journalism and the challenge to objectivity 10. New media 11. Globalization, security and manufactured risks 12. Risk, safety and decision-making 13. Changing perceptions of the individual, society and the future 14. Trends in contemporary social debate reflected through the media