

# Media, Power, and Culture

MDJ 20001



**MDJ 20001**

**MEDIA, POWER AND CULTURE**

Course Syllabus   Course Plan: Spring 2026   Conference Appointments   Fact Checking Sites   KSU Keep on Learning

Kent Student Media   Puppy Therapy   Dr. Robinson's Cyberspace

## ∞ COURSE HANDBOOK ∞

**"Those that make you believe absurdities  
can make you commit atrocities."  
—Voltaire**



# *Where do I find everything?*

## **Items Located in the Course Site in [Canvas](#):**

- The “Start Here” Module
- Your Course Grades

## **Items Located at <https://cyberspacerobinson.org/courses/mpc/>:**

- The Course Plan
- The Course Syllabus
- The Course Lessons
- The Course Case Studies
- All Assignments and the Final Exam

## **Need help?**

- **Email me:** [clrobins@kent.edu](mailto:clrobins@kent.edu)
- **Or meet with me (online):**
  - [Sign up for an appointment](#)
  - Meet me in KSU Google Chat (Find this in your Flashline account.)



[Week 1](#)	[Week 2](#)	[Week 3](#)	[Week 4](#)	[Week 5](#)	
[Week 6](#)	[Week 7](#)	[Week 8](#)	[Week 9](#)	[Week 10](#)	
[Week 11](#)	[Week 12](#)	[Week 13](#)	[Week 14](#)	[Week 15](#)	[Week 16](#)



**Notice that there is a direct link to each week's requirements. This is located at the top of the Course Plan.**

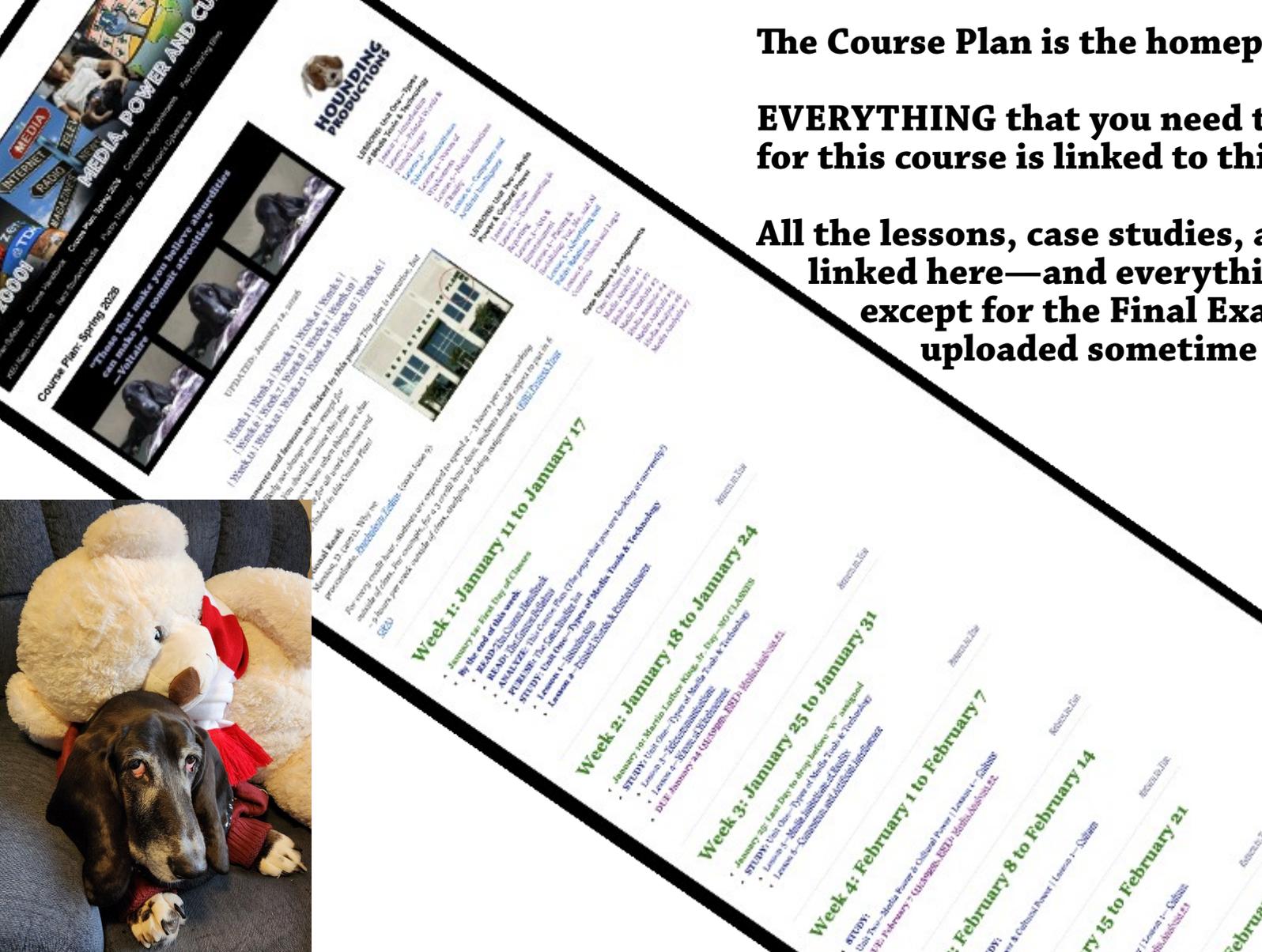
*All assignments and lessons are linked to this page! This plan is tentative, but it will most likely not change much—except for updated links. You should examine this plan carefully so that you know when things are due. You are responsible for all work (lessons and assignments) linked to this Course Plan!*

### **Optional Read:**

Marston, D. (2021). Why we procrastinate. [Psychology Today](#). (2021 June 9).



*For every credit hour, students are expected to spend 2 – 3 hours per week working outside of class. For example, for a 3 credit hour class, students should expect to put in 6 – 9 hours per week outside of class, studying or doing assignments. ([KSU Protect Your GPA](#))*



**The Course Plan is the homepage.**

**EVERYTHING** that you need to complete your work for this course is linked to this homepage.

**All the lessons, case studies, and assignments are linked here—and everything has been uploaded, except for the Final Exam (which will be uploaded sometime in April).**



Here is an image from the Course Plan. These two weeks are typical of your work for the semester, with one exception.

During the first three weeks, you will be going through two lessons each week. After that, you will be moving more slowly (through larger lessons).

These lessons have been divided into two units:

- 1) Unit One—Types of Media Tools & Technology
- 2) Unit Two—Media Power & Cultural Power.

You are completing seven Media Analysis assignments—these are due every other week, usually. These are all *available now*.

There is a Final Exam that will be made available toward the end of the semester.

## Week 3: January 25 to January 31

- **January 25: Last Day to drop before “W” assigned**
- **STUDY:** Unit One—Types of Media Tools & Technology
  - Lesson 5—[Media Imitations of Reality](#)
  - Lesson 6—[Computers and Artificial Intelligence](#)

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## Week 4: February 1 to February 7

- **STUDY:**  
Unit Two—Media Power & Cultural Power | Lesson 1— [Culture](#)
- **DUE: February 7 (11:59pm, EST):** [Media Analysis #2](#)

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Study these Lesson Slides



Watch these Videos



How Do Radios Work?

Peruse these Readings

- [The Development of Radio](#)
- [The History of Television](#)
- [Satellite Basics](#)
- [The Evolution of the Desktop Computer](#)
- [30 years ago, one decision altered the course of our connected world](#)

Supplemental Materials

- [Paley Media Center](#) (Formerly Museum of Television & Radio)
- [Radio's Impact on Culture](#)
- [Radio's Impact on Culture](#)
- [Radio Timeline](#)
- [Radio Garden](#)
- [Cuts to the federal government may impact nation's weather forecasts](#) (May 16, 2025)
- [Do Truckers Still Use CB Radios?](#)
- [Television and Streaming](#)



- LESSONS: Unit One—Types of Media Tools & Technology
- Lesson 1—Introduction
  - Lesson 2—Printed Words & Printed Images
  - Lesson 3—Telecommunications
  - Lesson 4—Waves of Wirelessness
  - Lesson 5—Media Imitations of Reality
  - Lesson 6—Computers and Artificial Intelligence

- LESSONS: Unit Two—Media Power & Cultural Power
- Lesson 1—Culture
  - Lesson 2—Documenting & Reporting
  - Lesson 3—Arts & Entertainment
  - Lesson 4—Playing & Socializing: You, Me, and AI
  - Lesson 5—Advertising and Public Relations
  - Lesson 6—Ethical and Legal Concerns

- Case Studies & Assignments
- Case Studies List
  - Media Analysis #1
  - Media Analysis #2
  - Media Analysis #3
  - Media Analysis #4
  - Media Analysis #5
  - Media Analysis #6
  - Media Analysis #7

# Here is a sample lesson. There are usually four parts to a lesson.

**1. Lesson Slides:** These have been converted into PDFs and you are welcome to download them. Study these carefully. You do not have to memorize all the information, but you should try to memorize (or make good notes about) the location of all the information. Also, you should try to make mental connections between bits of information.

**2. Short Videos:** Sometimes there's a video; sometimes there are several videos; sometimes there are no videos. You should study these in the same way that you study the lesson slides, making notes about what information is located where.

**3. Readings to peruse:** to peruse is to look it over, get an idea of the content of each work—you never know what you might be able to use in your assignment work.

**4. Supplemental Materials:** these are here to help you complete your assignment work; look through them to find items to support your analyses.

## Case Studies List

These case studies are intended for use with the media analysis assignments, as well as for the Final Exam. Sometimes, a case study may be mentioned within a media analysis assignment topic, but not always. You may use these case studies for any analysis, as often as you wish. (In other words, if you want to respond to each media analysis assignment with the same case study, feel free to do so—but I highly doubt that this is possible with most of these case studies.)

By the way, this list is constantly growing, and I also try to update certain case studies (whenever possible).

Case Studies are listed according to for which Media Analysis assignment they might be most useful—that does not at all mean that a case study might not be used for other assignments!

### ▪ Media Analysis #1

- [Nitrate Film](#)
- [Robert Moog & the Digital Synthesizer](#)
- [On the cover of the Rolling Stone . . . 🎸🎵🎶](#)
- [Generations, Culture, Media and Power](#)
- [A Letter from Your Professor](#)
- [Julia Televising, Julie Blogging—and then there's the movie.](#)

### ▪ Media Analysis #2

- [Hedy Lamarr: Actress and “Mother of Wi-Fi”](#)
- [The Music Industry and Print](#)
- [Movies about Radio & Television](#)

### ▪ Media Analysis #3

- [Media, Power and Some Underrepresented and/or Misrepresented Populations](#)
- [Deaf Culture & Media](#)

### ▪ Media Analysis #4

- [Edward R. Murrow vs. Senator Joe McCarthy](#)
- [Journalists vs. Historians](#)
- [Muzzle Velocity](#)
- [Reporting on and Documenting the Hindenburg Disaster](#)
- [Reporting on Long Covid Taught Me to Be a Better Journalist](#)

### ▪ Media Analysis #5

- [Culture Affecting Acting; Acting Affecting Culture](#)
- [News Parody: War of the Worlds](#)



#### LESSONS: Unit One—Types of Media Tools & Technology

- Lesson 1—Introduction
- Lesson 2—Printed Words & Printed Images
- Lesson 3—Telecommunicationsa
- Lesson 4—Waves of Wirelessness
- Lesson 5—Media Imitations of Reality
- Lesson 6—Computers and Artificial Intelligence

#### LESSONS: Unit Two—Media Power & Cultural Power

- Lesson 1—Culture
- Lesson 2—Documenting & Reporting
- Lesson 3—Arts & Entertainment
- Lesson 4—Playing & Socializing: You, Me, and AI
- Lesson 5—Advertising and Public Relations
- Lesson 6—Ethical and Legal Concerns

#### Case Studies & Assignments

- Case Studies List
- Media Analysis #1
- Media Analysis #2
- Media Analysis #3
- Media Analysis #4
- Media Analysis #5
- Media Analysis #6
- Media Analysis #7

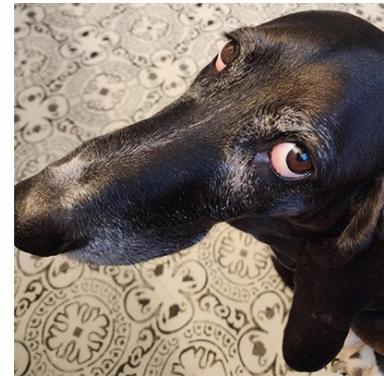
**You have also been provided with numerous case studies.**

A list is linked in the right margin, under “Case Studies & Assignments”.

These case studies are intended to be further supplements to the lessons, and many of them support more than one lesson.

Most of these case studies are directly tied to a Media Analysis topic, but not all of them! You should feel free to use any of these case studies to cite sources for any Media Analysis topic.

Periodically, I update and/or add more case studies—the list of case studies keeps growing and growing and growing and growing and....



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**Course Plan: Spring 2026**

**"Those that make  
can make you com  
—Voltaire**

[Watch a Cute Puppy  
Grow](#)

[Pup Plows Down Snowy  
Steps || ViralHog](#)

[Betty Zing Visits KSU  
Trumbull](#)

## Other Possibly Useful Links (Part One)

Notice that, at the top of the website, there are several links to possibly useful items. Also note that there are sublinks (such as for Puppy Therapy).

## Other Possibly Useful Links (Part Two)

All lessons, the case studies list, and all assignments are linked in the right-side margin of the website.



### LESSONS: Unit One—Types of Media Tools & Technology

- Lesson 1—Introduction Printed Images
- Lesson 2—Printed Words & Telecommunications
- Lesson 3—Wireless
- Lesson 4—Waves of Reality
- Lesson 5—Media Imitations
- Lesson 6—Computers and Artificial Intelligence

### LESSONS: Unit Two—Media Power & Cultural Power

- Lesson 1—Culture Reporting
- Lesson 2—Documenting & Entertainment
- Lesson 3—Arts & Socializing: You, Me, and AI
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- Lesson 6—Ethical and Legal

### Case Studies & Assignments

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- Media Analysis #6
- Media Analysis #7



# Advice for Doing Well in this Class

- Look at the Course plan at the start of each week.
- Submit your assignments on time —don't wait until the last minute to complete them.
- Email me (or sign up for an online conference appointment) if you fall behind or are confused.

# Good Luck!

Again, please do not hesitate to contact me if you are confused, or even just uncertain, about anything. **There are no stupid questions!**

By the way, this is Betty Zing, my (mostly black) basset hound. She's six years old and spoiled rotten. (Actually, she's a very good dog.) She's the course mascot.

