



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

CED605 Mediated Religion (Module)

Spring 2012 (12/12/2011-3/16/2012)

KC campus Jan 13- Feb 2; 6-10:15pm

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Tuesday appointment

Catalog Description

An exploration between Christian faith and current mediated art forms, particularly as they form and shape public "knowing" and ecclesial practice. Students in the course will survey the role of media in culture, explore new forms of media technology, review emerging skills needed to implement the technology, and investigate media's influence in relation to the church.

Course Narrative & Rationale

Mediated Religion provides a "sampler" of the many ways media and religion intersect and engender our understanding of faith and community life. The course assumes that often our understanding of Christian faith and doctrine are interwoven with the media available to local culture. In oral traditions faith is often communicated through narratives; with the rise of printing press faith was seen more in the forms of rational, linear, order; and the current emphasis on the visual and non-linear modes of communication change the "location" of faith from simply cognition to holistic. Such assertions are not absolutes (we have not lost the narrative quality of faith, nor analytic rationality) but they remind us, as Marshal McLuhan notes, the "medium massages the message" so that we "know" our faith through these mediated forms. This course will explore theories of mediated religion, critical and creative in

nature, and attempt to tease out their implications...particularly as different forms of media, and faith, intersect. Readings will provide a helpful backdrop and students will be afforded some selection. A key assumption is that the learner will bring his or her knowledge to the class community so that we will construct our understanding of mediated religion together.

Degree Objectives (DO)

MACFD

3. Discern the various developmental and cultural forces that influence people's lives in their growth along the life course, and design appropriate ministry strategies that forms persons into ongoing faithful disciples.

Course Outcomes (CO)

Upon completion of the course students should demonstrate:

1. Discern both critically and creatively the influence of media on religious thought in light of Christian theological convictions and contextual perspectives (CA&R 1 & 2)
2. Demonstrate new technical competencies for organically incorporating media in ministry (CA&R 1 & 3)
3. Articulate a working approach to media discernment and implementation in local ministry (CA&R 1-2, 4-5)
4. Demonstrate research capabilities in the field of media theory for future exploration and ministry development (CA&R 4)

Required Texts & Course Materials

Title	Author(s)	Pages	ISBN (13 characters)	Publisher	Copyright Date	List price
<i>Understanding Evangelical Media</i>	Quentin J. Schultze and Robert H. Woods	300	978-0-8303-2882-1	InterVarsity Press	2008	\$27
<i>Convergence Culture</i> updated with new afterword	Henry Jenkins	330	978-0-8147-4295-2	New York University Press	2008	\$20
<i>On Earth as It Is in Advertising?: Moving from Commercial Hype to Gospel Hope</i>	Sam Van Emam	190	978-1608994939	Brazos Press or Wipf and Stock	2005/2010	22
<i>The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture</i>	Shane Hipps	170	978-0-310-26274-9	Zondervan	2005	19
<i>Deconstructing Digital Natives</i>	Michael Thomas	220	978-0-415-88996-4	Routledge	2011	39

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

Warren, Michael. *Seeing Through the Media: A Religious View of Communications and Cultural Analysis*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1997 (193) ISBN 1-56338-211-3

Taylor, Barry. *Entertainment Theology: New-Edge Spirituality in a Digital Democracy*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. (211 pp) ISBN 978-0-8010-3237-0

Clark, Lynn Schofield. *From Angels to Aliens: Teenagers, The Media, and the Supernatural*, New York: Oxford Press, 2003 ISBN 0-19-530023-8

Moore, Jason and Len Wilson. *Design Matters: Creating Powerful Images for Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006. (113 pages) ISBN 0-687-49446-X

Sample, Tex. *Powerful Persuasion: Multimedia Witness in Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005. (197 pages) ISBN 0-687-33901-4

Schultze, Quentin J. *Habits of the High-Tech Heart: Living Virtuously in the Information Age*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002 (207 pages) ISBN 0801027810

See the Moodle Site for a number of other resources for the class

Course Outline

1. Preliminary insights into mediated religion
2. Mediated Religion: Text, Voice, Body and Technology
3. Social Media and Converging Media
4. Mediated Projects

Course Assignments & Requirements (CA&R)

1. **Class participation:** (400 points) students are expected to read and discuss assigned reading in a timely fashion including during pre-module and post-module assignments via the Moodle course management system. Students will be given some latitude with what they read many of the weeks of class (choosing from a range of readings). For the sake of other learners in the class, students need to be able include engage, summarize, and apply readings not only for themselves but their classmates. The assumption remains that our collective insight will make for a richer learning community. Students will need to use/bring a computer laptop or other internet device to use both during each phase of the course. (DO3)

Moodle Discussion Component: To assist in this process, and also to allow students to demonstrate process strengths more written than oral, a Moodle discussion process will be included in the pre-module and post-module phases of the course around assigned readings. Students will be required to **report two crucial** insights or emerging themes from the assigned weekly reading (including citing the location of the insight) **before 11:55 pm Thursday of the scheduled week**. (CO 1, 3)

In addition students will participate in a **social media exercise** during module class sessions, using Twitter and/or Facebook postings as a medium of class interaction. Additional information will be given in class, please bring laptop or tablet to class. (CO 2)

2. **Pre-Module Comparative Book review** (100 points): Students will be asked to read and write a 1000-1500 word (4-6 pages) comparative review of Shane Hipps' *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: How Media Shapes Faith, The Gospel, and Church* and Sam Van Emam's *On Earth as It Is in Advertising?: Moving from Commercial Hype to Gospel Hope*. This review should note the overarching theory of media analysis that guides each text, their nuanced differences, and observations of how both assist in understanding religion and media. **Due January 21 at 11:55 pm** (DO 3, CO 1 & 3)

3. **Convergence Presentation** (100 pts): Students will create or at least design a convergence project utilizing information from the course in blending two forms of media (one traditional and one new social media). The project should reflect class discussion as well as point toward possible application within a ministry context. **Due February 17th 11:55 pm.** (DO 3, CO 2)

4. **Research topic:** (300 points) Each student will select one key issue in mediated religion and explore it to a greater depth through academic research. Preliminary approval of the topic and a working Bibliography must be submitted prior to the end of the module sessions. If presented as a paper will be 2000-2500 words (8-10 pages) in length, reflecting sound research methods including: establishing a key thesis for the paper, establishing backing and warrants for the thesis as well as providing qualifications as necessary, and following Turabian form and style. **HOWEVER**, Students may present their findings through other forms of media as appropriate including: the development of a website, creation of a documentary, or creation (and delivery) of a multimedia presentation (that must be available via YouTube or some other delivery system when completed). Students electing alternative approaches need to consult with the professor to insure that both academic rigor and creativity inform the project. **Due March 5th 11:55 pm** (DO 3, CO 3 & 4)

5. **Comprehensive essay** (100 points). The student will write a summative essay (5-7 pages) giving their own approach to discerning media that will guide future ministry. This summative paper may draw from sources within the class but should reflect the student's synthesis of the material presented in class. **Due March 12th 11:55 pm** (DO 3, CO 3)

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	pre-module hours	module hours	post-module hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions		36	
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	4		3
Reading	22	19	7
Writing	4	0	21
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	0	0	12
Exams & Quizzes	0	0	0
TOTAL	30	55	43

Method for Submitting Assignments

Students will submit all assignments via the online Moodle Course Management System

Form and Style Expectations

All writing projects should meet the Form and Style expectations of Turabian

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

All assignments are due the date assigned. In light of module expectations all late work will receive an automatic 30% reduction and no work may be submitted three days (72 hours) past the original due date unless approved by the faculty based on extraordinary circumstances.

Additional Costs

Students should bring a laptop or other electronic device capable of accessing and manipulating material online during every phase of the course including in-class activities. Students will be asked to use or create a Twitter and/or Facebook account and engage discussions in these public forums.

Course Grading

1000-901: A 900-801: B 800-701: C 700-600:D 599 or Below: F

Grade Descriptions

“A”-EXCEPTIONAL WORK (surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives)

“B”-GOOD WORK (strong, significant achievement of course objectives)

“C”-ACCEPTABLE WORK (basic, essential achievement of course objectives)

“D”-MARGINAL WORK (inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives)

“F”-UNACCEPTABLE WORK (failure to achieve course objectives)

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or

activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Class Attendance

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance. If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

NOTE: If a student is absent for 9 hrs of a two week module or is absent four or more weeks of the pre/post module, the professor may automatically fail the student.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment	
12/15	1	Pre-Module Begins Introductions online with Moodle	
12/22	2	Time for reading	
12/29	3	Schultz Reading TBD & Forum Postings	
1/3	4	Schultz Reading TBD & Forum Postings	
1/10	5	Schultz Reading TBD & Forum Postings	
1/17	6	Hipps and Van Eman comparative reading and review	
1/24	7 Module Class sessions Begin	Jan 23	General introduction: Sight, Sound, Body & Technology Sight: The role of text
		1/24	Sound : Music and Mediums
		1/25	Body: Drama of Worship
		1/26	Technology: Movies and Television
		1/27	Technology: Movies and Television
1/29	8	1/30	New Media and Convergent Media
		1/31	New Media Gaming
		2/1	New Media: Digital Natives
		2/2	Media Projects Discussion
2/6	9	Reading & Research work Convergence Project and Final Paper	
2/13	10	Mediated Conversations/Convergence Projects & Forum Postings	
2/20	11	Mediated Conversations & Forum Postings	
2/27	12	Course Project finalization Course Evaluations (approximate release time by the Dean's Office)	
3/5	13	Course projects due	

