

COM 460 Media Ethics
UHM Study Abroad Program in Florence, Italy
Spring Semester 2021

Credits: 3
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Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to ethics and social responsibility for media professionals through an examination of case studies that include Fascist and contemporary Italy and the greater world. Through viewings of groundbreaking documentary films we will explore the role of the media in disseminating truth, as well as the responsibility media creators have to themselves, their subjects, and audience. Special attention is given to the influence that money, power, and politics play in both the historic and modern media landscape. Guest filmmakers will be invited to discuss the ethical dimensions of their work.

This course has a Contemporary Ethical Issues (E) Focus designation. Contemporary ethical issues are fully integrated into the main course material and will constitute at least 30% of the content. At least 8 hours of class time will be spent discussing ethical issues. Through the use of lectures, discussions, and assignments, students will develop basic competency in recognizing and analyzing ethical issues; responsibly deliberating on ethical issues; and making ethically determined judgments.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will teach you to

- Adapt writing to a clearly identified purpose according to type of paper
- Discuss the different ethical standards between Italian and American media
- Identify the ethical dimensions of media creation
- Critique and evaluate your own ideas, actions, and work using ethical standards

STUDY ABROAD LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate awareness of your own cultural values and biases and how these impact your ability to work with others.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in your Study Abroad program.

3. Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups.
4. Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.

GRADING

Attendance: 15%

Participation: 10%

Paper: 40%

Film Responses: 20%

Presentation: 15%

Attendance

Attendance is required. At the end of each class you will be asked to write down one thing you took away from the discussion, and one question that you have after the discussion. This will count as toward your attendance. Each missed class will lead to a 2% deduction in your overall grade. More than five unexcused absences will be considered a withdrawal from the course.

Participation

Participation means showing up on time, staying through the end of class, having a good attitude and being respectful and interacting in discussions. "Participation" also means coming to class prepared, having completed any readings or assignments before class.

Paper

In this paper you will critically analyze the ethical dimensions of one of the film viewings during the semester. You will provide me your topic for each paper for approval before you start writing and I will provide you guidance and feedback along the way.

The parameters for each paper are:

- 2000 – 2500 words
- At least 5 citations drawn from peer reviewed research
- APA citation style
- 1" margins, double spaced

Film Responses

Prior to each class you be assigned a film and readings. You will write a 250-word response to these which analyzes the ethical issues raised by or in the film. This is not a review so keep any writing of the plot to under 100 words. Additionally, add a few questions that you have may have from the viewing. These questions will be used to generate class discussion and are not counted in the word count. Each response is worth 2 points toward your overall grade.

Presentation

In the final class you will present an ethical analysis of the film you wrote a paper about. You will have 5 minutes and time will be allotted for Q and A. You should use PowerPoint for your presentation and should provide me your slides before the beginning of class.

COURSE POLICIES and WISDOM

1. Unless otherwise specified, **No laptop or cell phone use** in class. Cell phones must be turned to silent. **No Exceptions.**
2. I expect that you will **communicate clearly and professionally via email** with me and your fellow classmates. Please put the course number, COM 460, in all email correspondence.
3. **I want to see you succeed.** If I know who you are, I can help you succeed. **Don't be a stranger.** I will set aside 30 minutes to speak with you all after class, am available during my regular office hours, and am happy to schedule a time to meet if after class or office hours don't work for you.

Title IX Disclosure

Title IX is a landmark federal civil rights that prohibits sex discrimination in education. Members of the UH Mānoa community, guests and visitors have the right to be free from all forms of sex/gender harassment, discrimination and misconduct, examples of which can include acts of sexual violence, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. All members of the campus community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others. To learn more about Title IX please visit the [UH Manoa Campus Title IX Website](#). Reporting: If a student chooses to confide in a faculty member or if a faculty member observes an incident regarding an issue of sexual violence, sexual harassment, domestic and intimate partner violence, stalking, gender-based discrimination, and gender-based bullying and hazing, faculty are required by federal law to report these issues to

- Dr. Dee Uwono, UHM's Title IX Coordinator - (808) 956-2299, t9uhm@hawaii.edu

Confidentiality: If a student does not wish to formally report an incident to a faculty member, but wishes to speak to someone confidentially about any of the behaviors listed above, the student can speak to the confidential space counselors on campus:

- Counseling and Student Development Center - (808) 956-7927, uhmcsdc@hawaii.edu

If you have experienced or observed discrimination or harassment you may make a formal complaint by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Dee Uwono, UHM's Title IX Coordinator - (808) 956-2299, t9uhm@hawaii.edu.

Kokua Program

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (Title II) and the Rehabilitation act of 1973- section 504 and 508, individuals with disabilities have protections against discrimination and are assured access to programs, services and activities. For more information see “Americans with Disabilities Act” and “Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Section 504 or Section 508”.

Students must self-identify to the DSSO and complete the intake process before receiving reasonable accommodations for the first time. Students must formally request specific academic adjustments/auxiliary aids, provided as accommodations, and substantiate that request with supporting documentation. To ensure the prompt and effective provision of accommodations, students should contact the DSSO as early as possible.

Visit the [Kokua Program Website](#) for more information.

Right to Resolve Academic Grievances

Any student who believes that a faculty member has acted improperly or in a manner otherwise inconsistent with the faculty member’s responsibilities or the student’s customary academic expectations, may initiate action to achieve a remedy. Read more about the policy in the college catalog, or on the UHM Office of Student Affairs website under [Academic Grievance Procedures](#).

Systemwide Student Conduct Code

To support a positive and safe learning environment, all students are required to adhere to the [student conduct code](#).

The student conduct code includes acts of academic dishonesty. Acts of dishonesty, include but are not limited to the following:

1. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.
2. Furnishing false information to any UH official, faculty member, or office.
3. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any UH document, record, or form of identification.

Alleged violations of the student conduct code are taken seriously and may be reported to the administration for investigation and disciplinary action.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE*(May change to accommodate guest presenters & student needs)*

Date	Discussion	Homework
Week 1 Online	Course Intro	Watch assigned films Complete Response
Week 2 Online <i>Film Response Due</i>	What are ethics? Writing workshop	Watch assigned films Complete Response
Week 3 In person Class Starts <i>Film Response Due</i>	Propaganda – The birth of Cinecittà	Watch <i>Videocracy</i> Complete Response
Week 4 <i>Film Response Due</i>	Media and Politics - Berlusconi	Watch <i>Amanda Knox</i> Complete Response
Week 5 <i>Film Response Due</i>	News in Italy – the case of Amanda Knox	Watch <i>Exit Through the Gift Shop</i> Complete Response
Week 6 <i>Film Response Due</i>	Public Media in Italy – Street Art	Watch <i>Fire at Sea</i> Complete Response Email me topic of paper
Week 7 <i>Film Response Due</i>	Ethics in Film. <i>Fire at Sea</i> , Are migrants art?	Watch <i>The Jinx</i> Complete Response
Week 8 <i>Film Response Due</i>	Ethical responsibility to the subject, <i>The Jinx</i>	Watch <i>The Act of Killing</i> Complete Response
Week 9 <i>Film Response Due</i>	Ethical responsibility to the audience, <i>The Act of Killing</i>	Watch <i>Burden of Dreams</i> Complete Response
Week 10 <i>Film Response Due</i>	Ethical responsibility to the self and crew	Watch <i>Lo And Behold: Reveries of the Connected World</i> Complete Response

Date	Discussion	Homework
Week 11 <i>Film Response Due</i>	Ethics of the Internet	Finalize presentations
Week 12 <i>Paper 2 Due</i>	Final Presentations	-