Course Objectives
This course is designed to build and expand on the introduction to theory provided by MCMA 504, as well as to incorporate the critical understanding of research provided by MCMA 508. We will attempt to examine the field as a whole from the macro level, digging into areas of intersection between schools of thought, and exploring late developments in mediated communication.

Course Materials
The readings for this course consist of four books, as well as a variety of journal articles. All journal articles will be linked via Desire2Learn, and are also available through the university's database subscriptions.

Books:

Course Requirements
As this is a doctoral seminar, and a small one at that, student-driven discussion is the key to making this course a successful endeavor. Completing the readings before class is vital, but that's meaningless if they're not understood. To that end, your first assignment is to annotate the readings for the semester. These annotations will help you in preparing to discuss the readings, and will hopefully be useful to you in revisiting this material in the future. Your set of annotations will be turned in at the end of the semester, and is worth 10% of your semester grade. Additionally, each student will lead discussion in two class periods (we will discuss scheduling and so forth in class), which is worth another 15%.

You will also write three essays during the semester. The first will be a critical exploration of the texts and collection of the *Canonic Texts* book; the other two will be in the form of a take-home midterm and an in-class final. These are worth 10%, 20%, and 30%, respectively.

Grade weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annotations</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Canonic Texts</em> essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance
We have only a short time together, and there is plenty of material we can’t fit into the semester as it is. Therefore, it’s important that you make every effort to make it to every class meeting. If you can’t make it, please let me know in advance. However, I’m not interested in adjudicating excused and unexcused absences. Instead, not being in class will affect your participation grade, and more than two absences will drop you a letter grade. Given the late time slot and length of the class, we will generally take an intermission in each class period, unless discussion momentum carries us past it.

Academic Honesty
Students must adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses punishable under the academic dishonesty provisions of the Code of Student Conduct. Violations may lead to failure on a graded assignment, failure in the course and/or expulsion from SIUC. Please note that things like uncited quotes fall into this area as well.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 – Jan. 21 – COURSE INTRODUCTION

Week 2 – Jan. 28 – THE STATE AND NATURE OF THE FIELD


Week 3 – Feb. 4 – SCHOOLS OF COMMUNICATION THEORY I

Canonic Texts in Media Research:

Introduction (pp. 1-8)
Part I: The Columbia School (pp. 10-53)
Part II: The Frankfurt School (pp. 56-102)
Part III: The Chicago School (pp. 104-151)

Week 4 – Feb. 11 – SCHOOLS OF COMMUNICATION THEORY II

Canonic Texts in Media Research:

Part IV: The Toronto School (pp. 154-212)
Part V: British Cultural Studies (pp. 214-259)

Week 5 – Feb. 18 – DEVELOPMENTS IN EFFECTS I

Canonic Texts essay due

Media Effects chapter 3 (pp. 34-49).


Week 6 – Feb. 25 – DEVELOPMENTS IN EFFECTS II


Week 7 – Mar. 3 – DEVELOPMENTS IN EFFECTS III


Oliver, M. B., & Krakowiak, K. M. Individual Differences in Media Effects. Media Effects chapter 23 (pp. 517-531).


Week 8 – Mar. 10 – EXTENDING AND DEVELOPING THEORY IN CONTEXT

Mid-term essay due


**Week 9 – Mar. 24 – NEW AREAS**


**Week 10 – Mar. 31 – WHAT ARE MEDIA, ANYWAY?**


**Week 11 – Apr. 7 – CULTURAL THEORY**

Smith, P., & Riley, A. *Cultural Theory: An Introduction*. 
Week 12 – Apr. 14 – MEDIA IN THE LIFE-WORLD

Deuze, M. Media Life.

Week 13 – Apr. 21 – MEDIATIZATION

Communication Theory 2013 special issue, 23(3):

Couldry, N. & Hepp, A. Conceptualizing Mediatization: Contexts, Traditions, Arguments.

Jensen, K. B. Definitive and Sensitizing Conceptualizations of Mediatization.

Altheide, D. L. Media Logic, Social Control, and Fear.

Landerer, N. Rethinking the Logics: A Conceptual Framework for the Mediatization of Politics.

Block, E. A Culturalist Approach to the Concept of the Mediatization of Politics: The Age of “Media Hegemony.”

Jansson, A. Mediatization and Social Space: Reconstructing Mediatization for the Transmedia Age.

Knoblauch, H. Communicative Constructivism and Mediatization.


Week 14 – Apr. 28 – DEVELOPING AND APPLYING THEORETICAL IDEAS

We will share and discuss ideas for moving ahead with the topics we’ve covered throughout the semester. More details about prep for this week will be provided in class.

Week 15 – May 5 – WRAP UP


Final Exam – May 12, 5:00pm

Annotations due