

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Media and Communication Studies

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Specifics (see instructions):

In recent years, MCS has added (and UGC has approved) a number of electives. We encourage our students to take these electives and we count them all toward their degrees in MCS. However, neither the catalog nor the Degree Audit reflect this. To correct this situation, we are seeking UGC approval to add the following courses to the approved list of MCS electives that students can take to fulfill this portion of their degree requirement. The courses are:

MCS 311: Films of Resistance

MCS 322: Cultures of Surveillance

MCS 326: Media and Politics (cross-listed as POLI 326)

MCS 366: Podcasting

MCS 390: Transcultural Studies in Global Television (cross-listed as MLL 480)

As these are elective courses, their inclusion does not represent a change to program requirements. Rather, their inclusion provides students with more options for fulfilling their MCS elective requirements, as all MCS majors are required to take at least two MCS electives under the new curriculum we adopted in 2018. UGC approval of this catalog change will simply ensure that the catalog reflects our practice and the full scope of MCS course offerings.

The current list of MCS electives is as follows:

Course Number(s)	Course Name
MCS 345	Virtual Ethnography and Digital Life
MCS 355	Social Media: Networking and Mobility
MCS 370	Special Topics in Media and Communication Studies
MCS 377	Desktop Publishing and the Web
MCS 388	Modern Public Relations
MCS 395	Television Production Techniques I
MCS 484	Media Production Fellows
MLL 406	Theory and History of Multicultural Media
MLL 495	Intercultural Video Production I

Once approved, this should be the full list of MCS electives:

Course Number(s)	Course Name
MCS 311	Films of Resistance
MCS 322	Cultures of Surveillance
MCS 326	Media and Politics
MCS 345	Virtual Ethnography and Digital Life
MCS 355	Social Media: Networking and Mobility

MCS 366	Podcasting
MCS 370	Special Topics in Media and Communication Studies
MCS 377	Desktop Publishing and the Web
MCS 388	Modern Public Relations
MCS 395	Television Production Techniques I
MCS 484	Media Production Fellows
MCS 390/ MLL 480	Transcultural Studies in Global Television
MLL 406	Theory and History of Multicultural Media
MLL 495	Intercultural Video Production I

Rationale (see instructions):

Since their creation and approval, these courses have become a key part of our curriculum and regular favorites among our students. They reflect our curricular commitment to bridging theory and application. As many of these courses center on marginalized voices or independent media production, they serve to broaden students' perspectives. In so doing, they also equip students with theoretical and practical tools for civic engagement.