EMF 385
Radio, Culture and Society

Course Description:
Examination and analysis of the ways in which the radio medium has influenced the nation’s social and cultural environments since its beginning in the 1920’s to the present. Topics include radio’s role in community/public service; politics; war; race/ethnicity; gender; family, and religion.
Prerequisite: EMF 311

Required Textbook:

Recommended Reading:

Course Objectives:
At the completion of the course, the student should be able:
1. To recognize and explain major events in the history of radio in the United States.
2. To identify specific examples of radio’s role as an influential force in American life.
3. To write about the effects and implications of the radio medium on American society and culture.
4. To compare radio’s relationship with television, film, the Internet, and new media.

Student Outcomes:
1. To understand how radio has impacted society and culture through its programming.
2. To examine and analyze the role of radio for non-mainstream groups of society.
3. To learn how radio has shaped attitudes and perceptions towards various social groups.
4. To become aware of how various social groups have used radio as their voice to promote their culture and ideas and to counter discrimination and bias.
Grading:

The number of points you accumulate from the following assignments will determine your final grade in the course: Two Chapter Reviews

Radio Cultural Impact Paper/Project = 100
Quizzes/In Class Assignments = 100
Midterm Exam = 100
Final Exam = 100
Total Possible Points = 500

All final grades will be calculated according to the percentage of your accumulated points based on the total possible points for the semester.

465-500 points (93%-100%) = A
450-464 points (90%-92%) = A-
435-449 points (87%-89%) = B+
415-434 points (83%-86%) = B
400-414 points (80%-82%) = B-
385-399 points (77%-79%) = C+
350-384 points (70%-76%) = C
335-349 points (67%-69%) = D+
300-334 points (60%-66%) = D
000-299 points (0%-59%) = F

A grade of Incomplete is not given unless you are unable to complete the work required in the course because of verifiable medical reasons or documented circumstances beyond your control as stated on page 19 of the current TU Undergraduate Catalog.
Repeating the Course:

A student may not attempt this course for a third time without prior permission from the Academic Standards Committee. See the TU policy on —Repeating Courses‖ on page 19 of the current TU Undergraduate Catalog for further explanation.

All final grades will be calculated according to the percentage of your accumulated points based on the total possible points for the semester.

Attendance/Absence Policy:

Your instructor will take attendance at the beginning of every class session. Lateness or leaving early will also be noted. Your attendance pattern will be considered in arriving at your final grade in the course. After three excused absences, ten points will be deducted from your grade for each further absence. For further information see the section on —Class Attendance/Absence Policy‖ on page 18 of the current TU Undergraduate Catalog.

Because meeting deadlines is critical in the electronic media profession, the importance of meeting deadlines is stressed in this course. That means an assignment handed in after a deadline set by your instructor receives zero points.

Make-ups for any missed exams or assignments will be considered only if the following conditions have been met:

1. You called (410-704-3604) or e-mailed (jturner@towson.edu) the instructor before the time of the exam or due date.

2. You have submitted to the instructor in writing a valid, legitimate, and substantiated excuse for your absence, phone numbers for verification, and a proposal for when you will make-up the missed work.

Students should keep in mind that all make-up exams will consist of a totally essay format requiring numerous detailed and comprehensive answers for a passing grade. This syllabus contains ample ways for informing me about any absences you plan to have or to explain those that you didn’t plan on happening. Regardless of the reason for your absence, it is your responsibility to know what assignments, lecture notes, and class announcements you missed.

Consultations:

During office hours and other various times, you can find me in MC 112E. Besides regularly scheduled office hours, I will usually have time before and after class sessions to answer any questions or concerns you may have. If these times are unsatisfactory, an appointment can be scheduled. Don’t hesitate to contact me by phone, e-mail, or in person if you have a question or concern about class matters. If e-mailing a question to me, be sure to put EMF 385 in the subject line of your e-mail.

Writing Considerations:
All papers are to be typed, double-spaced, and sources of information properly documented where necessary according to the APA style format. Submitted papers will be evaluated not only on content, but on how well the paper demonstrates university-level writing skills (correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar). Furthermore, make sure you fully understand and adhere to the policy on plagiarism and cheating as described on the next page.

Explanation of Assignments:

**Chapter Reviews:** Each student chooses or is assigned two chapters from the main textbook to write a review. The review is to be typed single-spaced, summarizing the chapter in 2-3 pages. The title of the chapter and author’s name should be at the top of the page with your name. The summary should emphasize the chapter author’s position, arguments, or claims as to why and how radio played a role on this topic. Your conclusion should include your own opinion as to whether you agree or disagree with the author’s viewpoints on radio’s role in this aspect of culture and society. Finally, list two sources at the end used by the author that you would like to read yourself for further information on the topic. Each review is worth 50 points for a total of 100 points. The assignment will be evaluated on the following criteria: pertinent content (30%); critical thinking (30%); organization (20%); and writing mechanics (20%). **Chapter Reviews are due the week the chapter is listed to be discussed on the following class schedule.**

**Paper/Project:** Each student can choose to do either an 8-10 page research paper or a 5-10 minute audio/video project on a topic from the course. This assignment is worth 100 points. The research paper will be evaluated on the following criteria: pertinent content (30%); critical thinking (30%); organization (20%); and writing mechanics (20%). The audio/video project will be evaluated as such: content (30%); critical thinking (30%); organization (20%); and production quality (20%). Before proceeding with the project, students must submit a one-page, typed proposal of their topic, listing at least five possible sources, to be approved by the instructor.

**In Class Assignments:** A series of 10-point assignments done in class or brought to class based on class discussions and activities. The criteria for grading will be: following instructions (100%). Total equals 100 points for the semester.

**Mid Term Exam:** A combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions worth 100 points based on the chapter readings, lectures, videos, and other class material covered in the first half of the semester.

**Final Exam:** A combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions worth 100 points based on the chapter readings, lectures, videos, and other class material covered in the second half of the semester.

**Total Points = 500**