

**English 885 Seminar in Critical Theory: Media and Cultural Studies**  
**Fall 2022 | Mondays 5:30-8:10**  
**Michael Newman [mznewman@uwm.edu](mailto:mznewman@uwm.edu)**

This course will cover canonical theoretical writings in media and cultural studies that inform current scholarly understanding of cultural production in media industries, textual forms and aesthetics of modern media and culture, and the constitution and activity of audiences (aka readers, spectators, or users). Authors will likely include Adorno and Horkheimer, Barthes, Benjamin, Carey, Crenshaw, Dyer, Fiske, Habermas, Hall, Hebdige, hooks, McRobbie, Mulvey, Radway, and Williams. Our seminar will center Marxist, feminist, and anti-racist approaches to studying media and culture.

*Course texts:*

Meenakshi Gigi Durham and Douglas Kellner, eds. [\*Media and Cultural Studies: Keywords\*](#), 2nd ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

ISBN 0470658088 (paperback)

List price \$64.50; used copies available for much less

Additional readings will be posted to Canvas as PDFs or web links.

Students will work in groups on a book review assignment engaging with a recent monograph in media and cultural studies selected from a list of options; the texts for this project may be purchased or accessed from the campus library, depending on availability.

*Assignments:*

Several short papers on one or more readings, informal class presentations, a book review, and a longer synthesizing paper at the end of the semester.