

**BOOK AND MEDIA STUDIES PROGRAM
ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

PROPOSED COURSE OFFERINGS 2024-2025

**Fall / Winter 2024-2025 Preliminary Timetable
subject to change.**

All courses will be offered In Person except where noted

BMS100H1F INTRODUCTION TO BOOK AND MEDIA STUDIES

Instructor: Felan Parker

Class: Wednesday 1-3 / Tutorial: Wednesday 3-4 / 4-5 / Thursday 9-10 / 12-1 / 1-2 / 4-5

Introduces the academic study of media in all its forms, including books and print media as well as modern electronic and digital media. Provides an overview of key theories of media, culture, and society and relates them to contemporary issues, enabling students to apply different critical approaches to their everyday experiences with media.

Exclusion: SMC219Y1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

BMS100H1S INTRODUCTION TO BOOK AND MEDIA STUDIES

Instructor: Felan Parker

Class: Wednesday 1-3 / Tutorial: Wednesday 3-4 / 4-5 / Thursday 9-10 / 12-1 / 1-2 / 4-5

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Exclusion: SMC219Y1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

BMS110Y1Y THE PRINTED BOOK

Instructor: TBA

Class: Monday 11-1

In this full-year seminar, students will learn about the revived art of letterpress printing. Starting with a historical overview of the printing itself—from the development of movable type onwards—and its massive impact on society, this course will teach students about the importance of printing, the development of the book as technology, and their power, then and now, to shape humanity. Topics covered will include the development of movable type and of the printing press, the emergence of books as a form of knowledge transmission, and the way both have affected the way we live our lives. Students will have an opportunity to produce printed materials using 19th and 20th century printing presses.

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representations (1), Society and its Institutions (3)

BMS200Y1Y BOOK AND MEDIA HISTORIES

Instructor: Iris Gildea

Class: Tuesday 9-11

Traces the long history of media in culture and society, including books and other communication technologies. Covers historical developments including orality and writing, printing and the book, image and sound reproduction, wired and wireless communication, electronic and broadcast media, and contemporary digital media. Examples and case studies will be drawn from a variety of different sociocultural contexts, media industries, and creative practices.

Recommended Preparation: BMS100H1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

Breadth Requirements: Creative and Cultural Representations (1), Society and its Institutions (3)

**BMS201H1F INFORMATION LITERACY, WRITING AND RESEARCH
FOR BOOK AND MEDIA STUDIES**

**Instructor: TBA
and**

Class: Thursday 9-11 / Tutorial: Thursday 12-1 / 1-2 / 3-4

BMS201H1S

Class: Thursday 9-11 / Tutorial: Thursday 12-1 / 2-3 / 3-4

Instructor: TBA

Develops foundational skills for students in Book & Media Studies, including academic writing, information literacy, media literacy, citation, qualitative and quantitative research, primary and secondary sources, library resources, and practical techniques for analyzing different forms of media.

Recommended Preparation: BMS100H1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

BMS301H1F SPECIAL TOPICS IN BOOK AND MEDIA CULTURES
Minority Language Media

Instructor: Pa Sheehan

Class: Tuesday 1-3

This course will be focusing on media in the following minority languages within the branch of Celtic languages; Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Breton (all continuously living), Cornish and Manx (recently revived). Since the establishment of Raidió na Gaeltachta (Irish language) in 1972 up until the launch of BBC Alba (Scottish Gaelic) in 2008, various radio stations and television channels broadcasting exclusively or predominantly in these minority languages have been actualized. This course will explore their objectives, successes and failures as well as examining how the languages themselves have been impacted by the increased exposure

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

BMS301H1S SPECIAL TOPICS IN BOOK AND MEDIA CULTURES
Death, Rituals, and Media Technology

Instructor: Jean-Olivier Richard

Class: Thursday 11-1

This seminar explores the intersection of religious beliefs about death and the afterlife (with a focus on Christian teachings and rituals) and the history of media technology. Readings and discussions will cover such themes as spirit photography in Victorian mourning practices; anatomy, embalming, and biomedical communications; the representation of death and dying in print, film, TV, and videogames; social media and digital legacy; technologies of death and life prolongation; as well as the connections between Christian eschatology and the transhumanist movement.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

BMS302H1S OPEN TOPICS IN BOOK AND MEDIA STUDIES
Manga and Anime Culture

Instructor: Xianwei Wu

Class: Friday 11-1

This class examines the culture of Manga and Anime from a historical perspective, from manga's connection to the art of Edo Japan to the influential bodies of work by Osamu Tezuka and Hayao Miyazaki, and manga and anime's current boom as a global phenomenon. The history of manga and anime culture provides a unique perspective that's parallel to and independent from Western popular culture, and serves as a counter example of how the process of globalization and soft power manifest through the complex flow of official and unofficial culture. The class will primarily discuss the various theories and historical contexts that gave rise to our contemporary understanding of manga and anime as an artform and a fledgling industry, we will also be closely analyzing the texts that have captured the imagination of millions around the world.

Prerequisite: Completion of 9.0 credits

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

BMS302H1S OPEN TOPICS IN BOOK AND MEDIA STUDIES
Mediaeval Video Games

Instructor: TBA

Class: Wednesday 10-12

Mediaeval history, settings, and themes are common in video games of all kinds, from attempts to accurately represent the middle ages (successfully or not) to loosely mediaeval-inspired fantasy worlds. In this cross-listed course, students will learn to apply concepts from mediaeval studies, media studies, and game studies to critically understand these popular cultural representations of the middle ages.

Prerequisite: Completion of 9.0 credits

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

BMS314H1F MEDIA REVOLUTIONS

Instructor: TBA

Class: Thursday 3-5

This class offers a deeper examination of the intersections of technology and human thought, perception and culture. The advent of new media technologies, from literacy through to social media, will be examined as revolutions in technology, semantic fields of cultural meaning-making and human action. Students gain a strong focus on technological advancements as insights into cross-cultural change at significant turning points in book and media history.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and its Institutions (3)

BMS316H1F SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS

Instructor: Xianwei Wu
and

Class: Monday 1-3

BMS316H1S**SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS****Instructor: Xianwei Wu****Class: Wednesday 3-5**

Social media, digital platforms, and networked technologies are deeply embedded in our contemporary lives, both shaping and shaped by users. But what are their social, cultural, political, and economic impacts? What consequences do they have for how we think, feel, socialize, work, play, and understand ourselves? Students in this course will explore, examine, and debate these questions with reference to their everyday experiences and current examples.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representations (1)**BMS319H1S****MEDIA ETHICS****Instructor: TBA****Class: Tuesday 3-5**

Provides students with a theoretical foundation that enables them to identify and analyze ethical issues in mainstream and non-mainstream media. Traditional principles of journalistic truth-seeking, objectivity, and minimizing harm are revisited in the light of global, interactive media, produced by both citizens and professionals.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)**BMS320H1F****TRAUMA AND MEDIA****Instructor: Iris Gildea****Class: Online Asynchronous**

An exploration of diverse media narratives including film, books, music and social media to address cultural approaches to trauma theory in contemporary anti-oppressive and decolonizing frameworks. This course was offered in 20209 and 20215 as SMC317H1 and cannot be repeated for credit.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities**BMS331H1F****THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK:
ELEMENTS OF BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PRINT CULTURE****Instructor: TBA****Class: Wednesday 11-1**

An exploration of the history of the book from ancient inscriptions to e-books. This course develops an awareness of the interplay between material object and conceptual categories in book history by focusing on significant episodes in the evolution of the book as a medium, such as the rise of the context and the introduction of print. This course also delves in the practices of bibliography, the features of typography, and the material details of the printing process, while also highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of book history from a global perspective. Typically, this course will involve in-person workshops and visits to print studios and rare books collections on campus.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1**Exclusion:** SMC228H1**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and its Institutions (3)**BMS331H1S****THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK:
ELEMENTS OF BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PRINT CULTURE****Instructor: TBA****Class: Tuesday 11-1**

An exploration of the history of the book from ancient inscriptions to e-books. This course develops an awareness of the interplay between material object and conceptual categories in book history by focusing on significant episodes in the evolution of the book as a medium, such as the rise of the context and the introduction of print. This course also delves in the practices of bibliography, the features of typography, and the material details of the printing process, while also highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of book history from a global perspective. Typically, this course will involve in-person workshops and visits to print studios and rare books collections on campus.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1**Exclusion:** SMC228H1**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and its Institutions (3)**BMS332H1F****THE HISTORY OF READING: READERS, READERSHIPS, RECEPTION****Instructor: TBA****Class: Friday 1-3**

This course explores the history of reading in western culture in a global context. Attention is given to the pivotal episodes in this history with a focus on its changing modes and shifting cultural significance. By surveying the habits, institutions, and aims of reading, students in this course will gain a greater understanding of its rich history and its complex evolution, and will enable them to reflect on the critical place of reading in their daily lives.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1**Exclusion:** SMC228H1**Distribution Requirements:** Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and its Institutions (3)**BMS351H1S****THE ILLUSTRATED DANTE****Instructor: TBA****Class: Monday 1-3**

This course will explore the multifaceted relationship between text, image, and culture from late medieval illuminated manuscripts up to the present day through an examination of illustrated versions of Dante's Divine Comedy. As early

as the fourteenth century and into the present day, the reading and reception of Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy has been tied to its presentation in illustration. Students will also study how engagements with Dante's poem have given life to visual responses and creative re-elaborations

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Exclusion: BMS302H1S (Special Topics in Book & Media Histories: The Illustrated Dante) offered in Winter 2024.

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

BMS353H1F FANDOM, FAN FICTION, AND PARTICIPATORY CULTURE

Instructor: TBA

Class: Friday 11-1

In this course, students will explore the idea of fandom, the history of fandom and fandom scholarship, fan activities across the globe, and what it means to be a fan. By applying the broad conceptual frame of participatory culture, the course will examine a wide range of fan creations. It will also examine the evolution of fan interaction with the objects of fandom, with the media industry, and with society at large. Students will have the opportunity to explore and create some fan artefacts of their own, and in the process, to dive deep into the complex world of fandom.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Exclusion: BMS301H1F (Special Topics in Book & Media Cultures: Fandom and Fan Fiction) offered in Fall 2023.

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

BMS354H1S TRANSNATIONALISM AND EAST ASIAN MEDIA

Instructor: TBA

Class: Monday 1-3

This course examines East Asian media industries and cultures in a transnational context. Topics to be explored include media production, distribution, reception, and regulation; representation, identity, and nationhood; cross-cultural exchange; and the global circulation of East Asian media. Media and cultural forms examined may include print media, film, television, radio, news media, popular music, animation, comics, video games, digital media, and social media.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1 .

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

BMS386H1F/S BOOK AND MEDIA INTERNSHIP

Credit is offered to a student doing an internship with a media organization. A faculty supervisor assesses and assigns the necessary written component cognate to the internship. Students are responsible for securing their own internship. A description of the internship, working bibliography, marking scheme, and academic supervisor's support must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/bms-internship-form> or from the SMC Principal's Office, smc.programs@utoronto.ca.

Enrolment in this course is intended for Book and Media Studies students not enrolled in the Arts & Science Internship (ASIP) stream of the program. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Exclusion: SMC386H1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Society and its Institutions (3)

BMS387H1F ADVERTISING AND MEDIA

Instructor: Felan Parker

Class: Thursday 1-3

And

BMS387H1S

Instructor: TBA

Class: Thursday 1-3

This course presents a critical media studies approach to advertising and consumer culture, past and present. Advertising, marketing, branding, and promotion play a central role in capitalist societies and media industries, reflecting and refracting dominant cultural attitudes and ideologies. How does advertising shape what and how we consume? What are its social, cultural, economic, and environmental impacts? Students will learn to analyze the form, content, and ideology of advertisements, and think critically about the advertising they are subjected to in everyday life.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Exclusion: SMC387H1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

BMS391H1S THE MEDIA FRANCHISE

Instructor: Felan Parker

Class: Tuesday 1-3

One of the most significant developments in popular media since the late 1970s is the rise and proliferation of media franchises, which spread their commercial interests and fictional worlds across many multiple media. Reflective of the broader logics of media industry conglomeration and convergence, in media franchises movies, television series, novels and comics, games of all kinds, toys and merchandise, paratexts like promotional materials, etc. are linked together in order to maximize profits. These dense networks of commercial products serve as a platform for new forms of serial narrative and world-building such as "transmedia storytelling," and also generate vibrant, diverse fan cultures that extend far beyond the official franchise and its canonical texts. Drawing on a wide range of scholarly and critical work, this course examines the modern media franchise from historical, industrial, formal/aesthetic, and

sociocultural perspectives. Media franchises to be examined include Marvel, Star Wars, DC, Harry Potter, The Matrix, and more. (This course was previously offered as SMC301H1 Seriality and Transmedia in 20181, and BMS301H1 The Media Franchise in 20211 and cannot be repeated for credit.)

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

BMS392H1S

MEDIA IDENTITIES

Instructor: Iris Gildea

Class: Wednesday 11-1

An exploration of media's influence on the constructions and representation of identity and power relations across race, gender and class in individual and collective spheres. Applies a social justice and intersectional framework to media technologies and industries in order to expose socio-political influence on identity and to position media consumption and production as potential vehicles for restorative mediations of marginalized identities.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Exclusion: SMC392H1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

BMS393H1S

MEDIA ECOLOGY

Instructor: Paolo Granata

Class: Monday 9-11

This course presents an advanced introduction to Media Ecology, an interdisciplinary field of inquiry which examines how media environments affect human perception, understanding, feelings, and values. The course is grounded in intensive discussions of the assigned readings, focusing on both historical and contemporary discourses of environmental, structural, and systematic approaches in media theory.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

BMS394H1F/S / BMS395Y1

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN BOOK AND MEDIA STUDIES

An independent research project to be proposed by the student and supervised by a full-time faculty member affiliated with the Book and Media Studies Program. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/smc-ind-study-form> or from the SMC Principal's Office, smc.programs@utoronto.ca. Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for Y and F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor. and may be in person or online as appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

Prerequisite: (BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1) or SMC219Y1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

BMS401H1S

ADVANCED TOPICS IN BOOK AND MEDIA CULTURES

Media & Democracy

Instructor: TBA

Class: Thursday 11-1

Description: TBA

Prerequisite: Any BMS 0.5 credit at the 300-level and SMC219Y1/(BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1). Further prerequisites may vary from year to year, consult the current Timetable for more information.

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

BMS401H1F

ADVANCED TOPICS IN BOOK AND MEDIA CULTURES

Animated Film in Europe

Instructor: TBA

Class: Friday 10-1

Trends in the history of European animated film, focusing on Central and Eastern European cinematic traditions. Aesthetics of animated image and peculiarities of animation as an art form. Films are analyzed in their artistic, cultural and political contexts. Taught in English, English subtitles.

Prerequisite: Any BMS 0.5 credit at the 300-level and SMC219Y1/(BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1). Further prerequisites may vary from year to year, consult the current Timetable for more information.

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

BMS401H1S

ADVANCED TOPICS IN BOOK AND MEDIA CULTURES

Media and Censorship

Instructor: Xianwei Wu

Class: Thursday 2-4

With the rapid rise of digital technology, our understanding of censorship is also quickly changing, terms like "cancel culture", "wokeness", even "fake news" have been increasingly used to connote some kind of censorship to different groups of people, pointing to the conceptual fluidity of the term. The practice of censorship has taken on countless forms throughout history and across cultures. This class will provide a theoretical overview of the multiple understandings of censorship, including censorship's relationship to media technology, to our understanding of free

BMS430H1S**MINDFUL MEDIA****Instructor: Iris Gildea****Class: Wednesday 11-1**

This seminar integrates critical media studies with mindfulness pedagogy to yield an experiential and theoretical exploration of critical media literacy. A critical media studies lens is applied to various topics that dominate contemporary mediascapes, such as violence, mental health, body image, etc. Through experiential practice and study of mindfulness pedagogy, students develop practices of critical media literacy able to be applied to their own lives and in future work/study in various media industry and educational praxes.

Prerequisite: Any BMS 0.5 credit at the 300-level and SMC219Y1/(BMS100H1, BMS200Y1, BMS201H1). Further prerequisites may vary from year to year, consult the current Timetable for more information.

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirement:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

BMS431H1F**MEDIA AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE****Instructor: Iris Gildea****Class: Wednesday 1-3**

This course explores the relatively new field of ecomedia to consider how media technologies, mainstream media practices and dominant media narratives intersect and contribute to global environmental crises. Students will engage in individual and collaborative qualitative and experiential research methods to apply critical media literacy skills and decolonial lenses to reimagine how contemporary media practices can promote environmental justice and/or cultivate a reparative eco-consciousness on individual and collective levels.

Prerequisite: Completion of 9.0 credits

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirement:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

BMS432H1S**THE GAME INDUSTRY****Instructor: Felan Parker****Class: Thursday 1-3**

Commercial video games are an extremely profitable global industry, emblematic of how media is produced, distributed, marketed, and monetized in contemporary capitalism. Students will examine a variety of issues, including the history of the industry, consolidation and concentration of ownership, digital distribution and platformization, systemic sexism, racism, and discrimination in the industry, labour and collective organizing, independent and alternative game production cultures, local, regional, national and transnational contexts, and more. To make sense of these complex phenomena, students will learn to apply critical lenses and methods from game studies, media industry studies, and cultural studies. No previous experience or expertise with video games or knowledge of the game industry is required to take this course.

Prerequisite: Completion of 9.0 credits

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirement:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

BMS434H1F**BOYS' LOVE AND THE CULTURE OF DESIRE****Instructor: Xianwei Wu****Class: Wednesday 11-1**

The Boys' Love genre of homoerotic stories primarily written by women for women originated in East Asia and has gained international popularity in recent years. From novels and manga to live action TV series, the world of Boys' Love is ever expanding to become increasingly more inclusive and global, reflecting a fast-changing world and an amazingly multifaceted understanding of desire. This class looks at Boys' Love from its historical origins to its modern manifestations, to explore how the genre reflects the hidden desires of its international audience communities.

Prerequisite: Completion of 9.0 credits

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirement:** Creative and Cultural Representation (!)

JSM354H1F**STONE BOOKS TO SKY BOOKS: THE BOOK AS INSTITUTION, COMMERCE AND ART****Instructor: TBA****Class: Thursday 11-1**

Evolution of the book and printed media in Central and Eastern Europe: legends (and forgeries) of ancient letters, mediaeval illuminated manuscripts, forbidden and "supernatural" books, hand-written and painted books of modernist and avant-garde artists, books as a way of living and dying. Readings in English.

Prerequisite: Completion of 9.0 credits

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirement:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

BMS494H1F/S / BMS495Y1Y**INDEPENDENT STUDY IN BOOK AND MEDIA STUDIES**

An independent research project to be proposed by the student and supervised by a full-time faculty member affiliated with the Book and Media Studies Program. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/smc-ind-study-form> or from the SMC Principal's Office, smc.programs@utoronto.ca. Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for Y and F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

Prerequisite: Completion of 9.0 credits

Distribution Requirements: Humanities

