

Communications in the Context of Central Asia

Course # MDIA 2071

Credits 6

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites: None

Course Description

The course examines how communications and media shape, reflect, and transform contemporary Central Asian societies and their global connections. During this course, you will explore how media practices, digital technologies, and communication networks intersect with critical contemporary issues, including decolonisation, environmental anthropocene, collective memory, solidarity movements, resilience narratives, globalisation processes, and the preservation of indigenous knowledge systems.

Through workshops, reading, homework and discussions, you will be invited to investigate both traditional and emerging media forms - from indigenous storytelling traditions to social media platforms - as sites where Central Asian identities, politics, and cultural practices are negotiated and contested. Students will analyse how communication technologies and media representations influence public discourse, social movements, and cultural preservation in the region, whilst considering meta-modernist approaches to understanding these complex, often contradictory processes.

This course culminates in groups developing and presenting proposals for practice-based creative projects that demonstrate critical application of contemporary communication strategies within Central Asian contexts. You will have opportunities to apply diverse methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks to your own creative visions, exploring how media and communication practices can address contemporary challenges whilst honouring local knowledge systems and cultural specificities.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- demonstrate an up-to-date introduction to modern art and media discourses.
- analyse contemporary contexts and critically evaluate the historical, cultural, environmental, and political factors influencing communications and media practices in Central Asia.
- integrate multiple communication forms and media technologies, including visual, audio, and digital elements, in creative works and be introduced to professional networks in media and communications.
- participate in discourses about global and regional communications and media practices, with particular focus on Central Asian contexts and cross-cultural dialogue.
- participate in discourses about global and regional art and media practices in Central Asia.

- generate original project proposals that engage with contemporary themes and communication methodologies relevant to Central Asian and international contexts, demonstrating critical application of media practices and communication theories.

Course Assessments and Grading

Item	Weight
Assessment 1. Naryn City Walk Essay (Report)	40%
Assessment 2. Project Dossier	30%
Assessment 3. Presentation of the Project	30%