Media Studies Minor

The Media Studies Minor is designed for students who want to develop their knowledge of how media shapes our identity, culture, and society. It includes a study of a wide range of media from various theoretical, historical, and creative approaches. The minor involves one required course, "Contemporary Media Theory," four electives, and a qualifying paper/project. You may declare the minor at any point; courses already taken can be counted. Please contact the Media Studies Minor Coordinator Minh-Ha Pham (mpham@pratt.edu) for more information.

About the Minor

The minor in Media Studies provides students with an understanding of media, media structures, histories, content, and consequences. But what is "media"? At Pratt, we have a capacious view and approach to this question. "Media" includes traditional and digital media forms such as books, newspapers, television, film, music, video games, DVDs, mobile devices, memes, and social media platforms. But students will also find courses in which architecture, fashion, graphic design, and the law (among other forms) are interrogated as media, as things that mediate our relationships with ourselves (shaping racial, gender, sexual, class, and national self-identities) as well as our relationships to others and to the world.

We live in a media-saturated world. The Minor in Media Studies at Pratt helps students make sense of it through practices of critical and creative engagement.

How to Minor in Media Studies

To fulfill the requirements for the Minor in Media Studies, students must complete one required course, "Contemporary Media Theory," and four electives. We strongly suggest that one of these courses focus on non-dominant groups or communities. Electives
relevant to media studies offered through Pratt’s Social Science and Cultural Studies Department or other departments may also be counted toward the minor with approval.

In order for a course to count for the minor, you must earn a grade of B- or better. You may register for the minor at any point during your undergraduate career at Pratt, and courses you’ve already taken can be counted towards it. Since declared minors are guaranteed registration in the relevant courses, it is to your advantage to declare the minor early on. If you register for the minor and decide later to opt out, there is no penalty. Please see the Media Studies Minor Coordinator to declare the minor.

Completing the minor means submitting a Qualifying Paper/Project—generally a paper or project you’ve done for one of the classes that count towards the minor, which you feel represents your best work. The faculty member serving as Minor Coordinator will advise on any recommended revisions if necessary. You may submit a qualifying paper/project at any time, before or after you’ve completed the coursework for the minor.

For a list of courses that count toward the minor, please see below. If you believe that another course not listed here should count, please see the Minor Coordinator. Relevant Independent Study courses can count toward the minor with approval.

**Required Course**

**HMS-440C Contemp. Media Theory (3 credits)**

This course explores the transformation of society and consciousness by and as media technologies during the long 20th century; students will read some of the most influential works of media analysis written during the past century as well as explore cutting edge analysis generated during the last 20 years.

**Electives**

Take four courses from this menu of electives:
HMS 331C: Games/Simulation/Performance (3 cr.)
HMS 340D: Cinema and New Media (3 cr.)
HMS 340E: Documentary Image (3 cr.)
HMS 340S: Special Topics in Cinema/Media Studies (3 cr.)
HMS 341B: Japanese Film/Media: Gender, Society, Politics (3 cr.)
HMS 342S: European Cinema/Media (3 cr.)
HMS 390S: Special Topics in Music/Sound Studies (3 cr.)
HMS 404E: Photography and American Literature (3 cr.)
HMS 430C: Networks and Complex Systems (3 cr.)
HMS 431S: Special Topics in Cultural Studies (3 cr.)
HMS 432A: Feminist Film/Media Theory (3 cr.)
HMS 434A: Analyzing Race, Seeing Whiteness (3 cr.)
HMS 434B: Representing Difference (3 cr.)
HMS 434S: Special Topics in Critical Race Studies (3 cr.)
HMS 440B: Cinema and the City (3 cr.)
HMS 440S: Special Topics in Cinema/Media Studies (3 cr.)
HMS 461: Race, Gender, Internet (3 cr.)
HMS 465: Culture and Copyright (3 cr.)
HMS 472: Bodies, Technology, Visuality (3 cr.)
HMS 490A: Electro-Acoustic Music (3 cr.)
HMS 491A: The Artist's Book (3 cr.)