

COURSE OUTLINE:

Preparatory Tasks, Complete these tasks before the start of the quarter and no later than September 12.

1. **Carefully review the syllabus**, note questions that you will want to raise about the course and assignments during the *Canvas* "Intro Self" discussion which is open now and due the first Tuesday of the quarter.
2. **Choose a book** to read and discuss from the Required Reading list in the syllabus. Confirm your selection by clicking the tab on the first page of the *Canvas* site which will assign you to the related Reading Group on *Canvas*. There is room for up to six people in each reading group, please do not sign up for a book if there are already enough discussants. Once the groups are selected we will set a time for a group discussion during the fifth week of the quarter.
3. **Keep a media log or journal for 48 hours**, noting the multiple forms of media that you use. What do you watch, read, and listen to? Are media part of your religious life? When do you intentionally use media, and when is it simply a part of your environment? (Think about billboards, recorded messages, your exposure to other people's cell phone calls, radio, etc., as well as the media that you consciously choose) Looking back over your list, consider when/if you are free of media, and when it is most present in your life? You need not submit your media log, but we will discuss this exercise on *Canvas* at the beginning of the second week.

Week One: Sept. 12 - 16

Assignment 1: By Tuesday at 11:59 PM, Post in the "Introductions" discussion on *Canvas*. You will have the chance to introduce yourself by sharing your geographic location, time at Iliff, degree program and vocational goal. Say something about what you hope to get from this course. In preparation you should review the syllabus so you can post any questions about the course structure and assignments that you would like Professor Mahan to address.

Assignment 2: Complete the week's readings:

By Wednesday, at 11:59 PM post an entry (typically 125 to 250 words and not more than 300 words) responding to one of the posted questions. Use your words carefully to make a succinct comment that adds to the conversation. One of the course goals is to build skill in making a brief substantive comment in social media forums. Please note the discussion of what constitutes a substantive contribution in the syllabus under "Requirements, Assignments, and Grades"

By Friday, at 11:59 PM log back on and continue the conversation of the weeks reading by posting two or more comments that extend the discussion by responding to your classmates' posts and/or their response to your original postings, or raising new points. (One major response should run 50 - 75 words; the others might typically be 20 to 50 words) I may add comments as well.

Assignment 3: by Thursday at 11:59 PM choose the website you will be following between now and week seven and post it on Canvas. A list of suggested sites is posted on Canvas, but only to suggest the range of possible sites. You are encouraged to seek out other sites.

Reading: Mahan, Chapter 1, "Relating Media, Religion and Culture" and the Lofton and Stolow reflections that follow.
Pike, "Religion" (from *Key Words in Media, Religion, and Culture*, D. Morgan, ed.), pdf posted in Canvas

Week Two: Sept. 19 – 23

Assignment 1: 48 Hour Media Log,

By Monday, at 11:59 PM post a brief and substantive reflection on your experience keeping the log. See directions at the Canvas site.

By Friday, at 11:59 PM continue the discussion by responding to at least two of your colleagues' posts.

Assignment 2: Reading Discussion: Complete the week's readings:

By Tuesday, at 11:59 PM post an entry (typically 125 to 250 words and not more than 300 words) responding to one of the posted questions from one of the essays. Use your words carefully to make a succinct comment that adds to the conversation. Post a shorter response (50 to 75 wds) in response to one of the posted questions about the other reading.

By Thursday, at 11:59 PM log back on and continue the conversation by posting two or more responses to your classmates' posts and/or their response to your original postings. (One major response should run 50 - 75 words; the others might typically be 20 to 50 words) I may add comments as well.

Assignment 3: By Wednesday, at 11:59 PM view and respond to instructor's remarks, "Religion and Media".

Reading: Mahan, Chapter 2, "Making and Articulating Religious Identity" and the Ward and Schofield Clark reflections that follow.

Mahan, Chapter 3, "Believing and Practicing in a Digital World" and the Whitehead and Chiou reflections that follow.

Week Three: Sept 26 - 30

Assignment 1: Complete the week's readings, using the reflection questions to guide your thinking about each essay.

By Tuesday, at 11:59 PM post an entry (typically 125 to 250 words and not more than 300 words) responding to one of the posted questions from one of the essays. Use your words carefully to make a succinct comment that adds to the conversation. Post a shorter response (50 to 75 wds) in response to one of the posted questions about the other reading.

By Thursday, at 11:59 PM log back on and continue the conversation by posting two or more responses to your classmates' posts and/or their response to your original postings. (One major response should run 50 - 75 words; the others might typically be 20 to 50 words) I may add comments as well.

Assignment 2, By Wednesday, at 11:59 PM, view and respond to the instructor's remarks "Bible: Form and Reformation".

Reading:

Mahan, Chapter 4, "Old and New Media" and the Wagner and Hemenway reflections that follow.

Mahan, Chapter 5, "Stability and Change" and the Echchaibi and Morgan reflections that follow.

Week Four: October 3 - 7

Assignment 1: Complete the week's readings, using the reflection questions below to guide your thinking about each essay.

By Tuesday, at 11:59 PM post an entry (typically 125 to 250 words and not more than 300 words) responding to one of the posted questions from either the Mahan chapter or the Stolorow essay "Technology." Post a shorter response (50 to 75 wds) in response to one of the posted questions about the other reading. Use your words carefully to make a succinct comment that adds to the conversation.

By Thursday, at 11:59 PM log back on and continue the conversation by posting two or more responses to your classmates' posts and/or their response to your original

postings. (One major response should run 50 - 75 words; the others might typically be 20 to 50 words) I may add comments as well.

Assignment 2: By Wednesday, at 11:59 PM, view and respond to the instructor's remarks, "Digital Media, Digital Culture".

Reading:

Mahan, Chapter 6, "Organized Religion in the Age of Digital Media" and the Pike and Thievenin reflections which follow
Stolow, Jeremy, "Technology," Post on Canvas

Assignment 3: By Friday, at 11:59 PM, Final Paper/Project Proposal, due on Canvas.

Week Five: GATHERING DAYS,

(Note: each session counts as a week's attendance)

October 14, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Overview:

Review discussion of Media, Religion and Culture.

Additional Reading Discussion on the book you selected on Canvas and preparing to introduce the rest of the class to your author and book.

Instructor presentation re media, economics, and theology.

Discussion/Questions/Feedback regarding final projects.

October 15, 8:00AM to Noon

Overview:

Talking circle presentation regarding additional reading book.

Instructor presentation re religion and popular culture. "What do we mean by Popular?"

Application discussion, "How will what we are learning shape our work?"

Week Six: October 17 - 21

NOTE: There is no assigned reading or Canvas discussion this week. Treat this as recovery from "Gathering Days" time and as space to work on your website report or final project.

Week Seven: October 24 - 28

Websites: This week we will be discussing the web sites that you have been following.

Assignment One: Web sites,

By Monday at 11:59 PM, Post a 400 – 500 word description of your website. See the guidelines posted at October 25.

By Tuesday, at 11:59PM, Read at least six of the website descriptions, and post a substantive comment or question on at least three of them.

By Thursday, at 11:59 PM, Explore one of the websites you read about earlier this week. Post a comment which extends the discussion of the website.

By Friday, at 11:59 PM, Overall, how do the websites illustrate or counter points we have made more generally about religion, media, and culture? Can a website be an effective location for religious life? If so, what features help this happen?

Assignment Two: By Wednesday, at 11:59 PM, View and respond to the Instructor's remarks "Media as more than tools"

Week Eight: October 31 - November 4

Instructor's Reflections: TBA

Assignment: Complete the week's reading, using the reflection questions below to guide your thinking.

By Tuesday, at 11:59 PM post an entry (typically 125 to 250 words and not more than 300 words) responding to posted questions about the reading. Use your words carefully to make a succinct comment that adds to the conversation. Post a shorter response (50 to 75 wds) in response to one of the posted questions about the other reading.

By Thursday, at 11:59 PM log back on and continue the conversation by posting two or more responses to your classmates' posts and/or their response to your original postings. (One major response should run 50 - 75 words; the others might typically be 20 to 50 words) I may add comments as well.

Reading:

Mahan, Chapter 7, "To Censor, Shape, or Engage with Media and the Arts?" and the Campbell and Shafi reflections that follow.

Week Nine: November 7 - 11, Student Projects. This week you will complete, post and discuss your independent projects.

Assignment One: By Wednesday at 11:59PM post your independent project to Professor Mahan.

Assignment Two: By Wednesday at 11:59 PM post a 200 to 250 word précis of your paper on *Canvas*.

Assignment Three: By Friday at 12:00MIDNIGHT read the paper précis of at least six of your colleagues and post a comment or questions for at least three colleague's work.

Week Ten: November 14 - 18, Last Reading & Concluding Discussion.

Assignment One: By Tuesday at 11:59 PM, Reading, "Reading, Listening, Watching" Post an entry (typically 125 to 250 words and not more than 300 words) responding to the posted questions about the reading. Use your words carefully to make a succinct comment that adds to the conversation.

Assignment Two: Concluding Discussion

By Wednesday, at 11:59 PM, Post an entry in the Concluding Discussion.

By Thursday, at 11:59 PM, Post a short entry (50 to 75 wds) that extends the Concluding Discussion.

Assignment Three: complete the Course Evaluation Questionnaire from the Office of the Dean. I will see these after I post grades and look forward to your feedback!

Reading: Mahan, Chapter 8, "Reading, Listening, Watching" and the Plate and Clanton reflections which follow.