

# Course Change Request

## New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 02/19/19 11:59 am

Viewing: **PSYC 316 : Media Psychology**Also listed as: **COMM 316**

Last edit: 02/19/19 9:23 pm

Changes proposed by: s-oberhelman

### Contact(s)

Name	E-mail	Phone
Joshua Hicks	joshua.hicks@tamu.edu	9798452097

Course prefix PSYC Course number 316

Department Psychological and Brain Sciences

College/School Liberal Arts

Academic Level Undergraduate

Undergraduate course level justification (Select One)  
Prerequisites

*All prerequisites will be enforced through COMPASS.*

Effective term 2020-2021

Complete Course  
Title  
Media Psychology

Abbreviated MEDIA PSYCHOLOGY  
Course Title

### Catalog course description

Examine the role of media and its impact on human behavior, emotions and thoughts; topics include mass media, social media and how they influence individual and societal functioning across a range of important psychological topics; e.g., self-image, sexual behavior, mental health, violence.

Prerequisites and  
Restrictions  
PSYC 107.

Should catalog prerequisites / concurrent enrollment be enforced? Yes

### In Workflow

1. **PBSI Department Head**
2. **Curricular Services Review**
3. **LA Committee Preparer UG**
4. **LA Committee Chair UG**
5. **LA College Dean UG**
6. **UCC Preparer**
7. **UCC Chair**
8. **Faculty Senate Preparer**
9. Faculty Senate
10. Provost II
11. President
12. Curricular Services
13. Banner

### Approval Path

1. 01/31/19 1:49 pm  
Heather Lench  
(hlench): Approved for PBSI  
Department Head
2. 02/01/19 10:24 am  
Terra Bissett  
(t.bissett): Rollback to Initiator
3. 02/06/19 10:08 am  
Heather Lench  
(hlench): Approved for PBSI  
Department Head
4. 02/07/19 10:02 am  
Terra Bissett  
(t.bissett): Rollback to Initiator
5. 02/12/19 9:05 am  
Heather Lench  
(hlench): Approved

- for PBSI  
Department Head
6. 02/12/19 1:09 pm  
Terra Bissett  
(t.bissett):  
Approved for  
Curricular Services  
Review
7. 02/12/19 2:14 pm  
Steve Oberhelman  
(s-oberhelman):  
Approved for LA  
Committee  
Preparer UG
8. 02/18/19 2:57 pm  
Steve Oberhelman  
(s-oberhelman):  
Rollback to  
Initiator
9. 02/19/19 9:23 pm  
Heather Lench  
(hlench): Approved  
for PBSI  
Department Head
10. 02/20/19 10:17  
am  
Terra Bissett  
(t.bissett):  
Approved for  
Curricular Services  
Review
11. 02/20/19 11:03  
am  
Steve Oberhelman  
(s-oberhelman):  
Approved for LA  
Committee  
Preparer UG
12. 02/20/19 11:04  
am  
Steve Oberhelman  
(s-oberhelman):  
Approved for LA  
Committee Chair  
UG
13. 02/20/19 11:04  
am  
Steve Oberhelman  
(s-oberhelman):

Approved for LA  
College Dean UG  
14. 02/20/19 1:56 pm  
Sandra Williams  
(sandra-williams):  
Approved for UCC  
Preparer  
15. 03/08/19 3:32 pm  
Sandra Williams  
(sandra-williams):  
Approved for UCC  
Chair

Enforced Prerequisites / Concurrent Enrollment

And/Or	(	Course Prefix/Number	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level	)	Concurrency?
		PSYC 107	D	UG		
Crosslistings	Yes	Crosslisted With	COMM 316			
Stacked	No	Stacked with				

Semester 3      Contact      Lecture:    3      Lab:      0      Other:      0      Total      3  
Credit Hour(s) (per week):

Repeatable for credit?      No

CIP/Fund Code      4228130001

Default Grade Mode      Letter Grade (G)

Method of instruction      Lecture

Will this course be taught at another branch?

Will sections of this course be taught as non-traditional? (i.e., parts of term, distance education)

Will this course be taught as a distance education course?      No

Is 100% of this course going to be taught in Texas? Yes

Will classroom space be needed for this course? Yes

This will be a required course or an elective course for the following programs:

Required (select program)

Elective (select program)

Program(s)
(BA-PSYC) Psychology - BA
(BS-PSYC) Psychology - BS

Has/will this course be(en) submitted for core curriculum consideration? No

Has/will this course be(en) submitted for Writing or Communication consideration? No

Has/will this course be(en) submitted for ICD or CD consideration? No

## Course Syllabus

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Syllabus: Upload syllabus

Upload syllabus [COMM-PSYC 316 Syllabus\\_.docx](#)

Letters of support or other documentation No

Additional information

Reviewer Comments **Terra Bissett (t.bissett) (02/01/19 10:24 am)**: Rollback: Please update catalog course description to comply with catalog style guide (<http://registrar.tamu.edu/Our-Services/Curricular-Services/Catalog/Style-Guide-for-Catalog-Course-Descriptions>).

Committees will question the use of "Introduction" for a 300-level course. Course prerequisites are to be enforced for all undergraduate courses – please answer yes to "Should catalog prerequisites be enforced?" and complete the table on the form; answer on form if the course will be required or elective; Syllabus: Update course number and course title; course prerequisite missing; learning outcomes should be both measurable and observable– committees will question the use of "understand"; missing grading scale and clearly indicated grading weights of exams, assignments, etc; missing link to student rule 7 under attendance & make-up policy; missing link to Aggie Honor Code.

**Terra Bissett (t.bissett) (02/07/19 9:56 am):** Minor edits made to catalog course description and enforced prerequisite table to comply with catalog style guide.

**Terra Bissett (t.bissett) (02/07/19 10:02 am):** Rollback: Syllabus: please update course number; prerequisites should match form; please include "For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu/>" at the end of ADA statement.

**Terra Bissett (t.bissett) (02/12/19 1:07 pm):** Updates received.

**Steve Oberhelman (s-oberhelman) (02/18/19 2:57 pm):** Rollback: need for cross-listing and revision of syllabus

**Sandra Williams (sandra-williams) (03/08/19 3:32 pm):** UCC approved March 2019.

Key: 19030

**Texas A&M University**  
**COMM/PSYC 316– Media Psychology**  
**Spring, 2021**

**Course Meeting:** 12:40 – 1:30  
MWF (3 credit hours)  
Classroom: PSYC 108

**Required textbooks:**

- *From Smartphones to Social Media: How Technology Affects Our Brains and Behavior.* (1<sup>st</sup> edition). 2018. Carrier, M. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Publishing. (ISBN-13: 9781440851780)
  - *Copy available in Course Reserves in Library Annex and there is an online version available through the TAMU LibCat*
- Various websites, videos, and articles available as links embedded in Power Point presentations or posted on eCampus.

**Prerequisites:** [PSYC 107](#)

**Co - Instructors:**

Dr. Pamela Stanush Edens (PSE); Room 283 Psychology Bldg; Email: [pamedens@tamu.edu](mailto:pamedens@tamu.edu)  
Dr. John F. Edens (JFE); Room 207 Psychology Bldg.; Email: [johnedens@tamu.edu](mailto:johnedens@tamu.edu)  
Office Hours: TBD

**Course Description:**

Media psychology and its impact on human behavior, emotions, and thoughts; focus on mass media and social media; influence of individual and societal functioning across a range of psychological topics such as self-image, sexual behavior, mental health, violence. U3/U4 classification or approval of instructor

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Explain what 'media psychology' is, how it evolved, and how it is similar to and different from other subfields of media and psychology.
- Explain how different forms of media (e.g., social media) have positively and negatively impacted individuals and society in the last half century.
- Appraise methods by which social scientists research different forms of media and its effects on human functioning.
- Identify key areas of focus in media psychology (e.g., effects of social media on self- and body-image; effects of videogames and aggression; internet trolls) and what the current scientific status tells us about these topics.
- Apply critical thinking skills to evaluate media messages (e.g., identify 'fake news') and media sites/personalities/advertising or marketing campaigns.

**Website:** The course website is the eCampus system (<http://eCampus.tamu.edu>) at TAMU. This website will provide the syllabus, Power Point slides, extra readings/videos, and miscellaneous material.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance is your responsibility. Participating in lecture and in-class exercises is an important way to actively learn the material in this class. In addition, there will be material presented in lecture that is not in the textbook. If you miss class, it is up to you to use a class contact (i.e., another student) to get the class notes. I do not provide students with class notes. Several times during the semester, short videos will be shown during class time and the material in these videos will be included on tests. Power Point slides providing an *outline* of material discussed in class will be provided weekly on eCampus. The slides do not contain the majority of information provided in lecture and relying on them alone without lecture notes will not be sufficient for studying for the tests. DO NOT rely on the Power Point slides alone to provide you with all the information presented in class.

**In-class Quizzes:** There will be a total of 13 unannounced quizzes administered during the semester. Each quiz is worth 2 points. The quizzes are open book and open notes. The purpose of the quizzes is to help students learn the material but also to encourage attendance, which is not formally taken. The quiz total will be the sum of the 10 highest quiz scores. Thus, a high score of 20 points can be earned (students can miss 3 quizzes and still receive full credit). Make-up quizzes are available only to students who present documentation of a University Excused Absence (please see Student Rule 7 <https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/>)

**Exams:** There will be four **non-cumulative** tests that will cover material from the lectures, readings, videos, and discussions. Tests 1, 2, 3, and 4 (or final exam), each will be worth 100 points and will consist of 50 multiple-choice items. The final exam will be administered according to the final exam schedule. Since a portion of each test will be information

covered in lecture that is not in the textbook, it will be difficult to do well on the tests if you miss classes. Examinations will cover material in the textbook, lectures, videos, guest lectures, and extra readings. You must bring your student ID or Driver's License to each exam.

**Make-up exam policy:** If you must miss an exam, you are responsible for following the University policy governing absences and makeup opportunities; these are detailed in Student Rule #7 (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>). If an exam is missed for any reason, the student must contact me as specified in Student Rule 7. If a student has an authorized University excuse, they will be allowed to take a make-up exam without penalty. If an exam is missed due to illness, an excuse from the Health Center or a Physician must be provided. If a make-up is missed due to a reason that does not qualify as a University excuse (e.g., oversleeping), a make-up exam can be taken but there will be a 25% penalty. Make-up exams will not be the same as those given on the actual test date and will include both short-answer and multiple-choice questions. The make-up exam times are as follows:

- Make-up Exam #1: Feb.11 (Mon.) at 8:00 a.m. in Room 337, Psychology Building
- Make-up Exam #2: Mar. 8 (Fri.) at 8:00 a.m. in Room 337, Psychology Building
- Make-up Exam #3: Apr. 15 (Mon.) at 8:00 a.m. in Room 337, Psychology Building

If you have an 8:00 class, you must schedule an alternate time by emailing me.

**Reading Assignments:** There will be reading assignments from the textbook for each class. You are expected to have read the assigned material in advance. Even though we will not cover everything in the textbooks during class, you will be expected to know the readings in their entirety for the exams. There are also extra readings that are occasionally assigned; these can be found on eCampus in the folder titled, Extra Readings.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- **Current Event OR Podcast Analysis (15 points)**
- **Technology in the Classroom Analysis and Reflection (15 points)**
- **Digital Story Telling Project OR Media Consumption Log and Analysis (50 points)**
  - All assignments MUST be **typed** double-spaced using Times New Roman (12 pt) with 1-inch margins. These assignments are to be completed outside of class. Completed assignments must be uploaded to eCampus. Electronic submissions are time stamped and late work will be deducted 3 points for each day it is late; for example, assignments turned in after the specified time on the due date lose 3 points, those turned in the day after the due date lose 6 points, etc.
  - All assignments will be graded on comprehensiveness, detail, accuracy and coherence of writing. Instructions for these assignments can be found on eCampus.

Point System	Point Value	Date
Test # 1	100 points	Feb. 8
Test # 2	100 points	Mar. 6
Test #3	100 points	Apr. 10
Test #4 (Final)	100 points	May 3 (10:30 – 12:30)
Current Event or Podcast Analysis	15 points	Feb. 20
Technology in the Classroom Analysis and Reflection	15 points	March 25
Digital Story Telling Project/Media Log Assignment	50 points	Part 1: March 1 Part 2: April 24
In-class Quizzes	20 points	various
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 points</b>	

Grade for Course	Total Points Required
<b>A</b>	450 and higher
<b>B</b>	400-449
<b>C</b>	350-399
<b>D</b>	300-349
<b>F</b>	299 and below

**Contacting Us:** The most effective way to contact us is by email.

Contact	Questions Related to:
<a href="mailto:pamedens@tamu.edu">pamedens@tamu.edu</a>	Course administration (e.g., eCampus, policies, attendance, etc.)
<a href="mailto:johndens@tamu.edu">johndens@tamu.edu</a>	Course Content for Modules 1 and 3
<a href="mailto:pamedens@tamu.edu">pamedens@tamu.edu</a>	Course Content for Modules 2 and 4
<a href="mailto:pamedens@tamu.edu">pamedens@tamu.edu</a>	Assignment-related information

Our policy is to reply to email messages within 24 hours. If you have not heard from us within 24 hours, please feel free to send the message again. When communicating via email, please include your class title somewhere in the message (i.e., Media Psychology or COMM/PSYC 316, either in the subject line or in the text). When requesting information about the class, please look to make sure the information you are requesting is not already explained in the syllabus. I am happy to answer questions that help clarify information that is ambiguous or confusing. You do not need to contact me if you are going to miss class, however, if there is a major event in your life that is causing you to miss multiple classes, I would like to be aware of this.

**Course Etiquette:** The nature of this course is such that students may have a variety of opinions on any one subject. In order for maximum learning to occur, students must feel comfortable sharing their beliefs and experiences in the classroom setting. In order to encourage a respectful classroom environment, please abide by the following ground rules:

- Cell phone use is prohibited during class time.
- Computers will be allowed for taking notes for Module 1 and 3. For Module 2, computers and phones are not allowed without prior, express consent of the instructor.
- Be respectful of others' opinions.
- Be on time. It is disruptive when students come in late and leave early. If you must leave early, please let me know and if you are late, please sit in the back.
- Do not chat with your classmates when someone else in the class is talking.
- Do not wear headphones, answer cell phones, read the newspaper, or complete crosswords during class.
- Please feel comfortable emailing me or seeing me during office hours if there is classroom behavior that is disrupting that I have not addressed.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities at White Creek Complex on West Campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu/>

### **Limits to Confidentiality**

Texas A&M University and the Department of Psychology are committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws provide guidance for achieving such an environment. Although class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to student record policies and laws, University employees—including instructors—cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues that jeopardize the health and safety of our community. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices if you share it with me, even if you do not want the disclosed information to be shared:

- Allegations of sexual assault, sexual discrimination, or sexual harassment when they involve TAMU students, faculty, or staff.
- Credible threats of harm to oneself, to others, or to university property

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In many cases, it will be your decision whether or not you wish to speak with that individual.

If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Student Counseling Service (<https://scs.tamu.edu/>)

Students can report concerning, non-emergency behavior at <http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu>.

### **Respect for Diversity**

To make this environment comfortable for everyone, please remember that there are many students with different experiences and needs in one room. This class does not tolerate remarks that are sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise ridicule people.

Respectful environment:

There are a number of topics during the semester that can make some people uncomfortable. To make this environment comfortable for everyone, please remember that there are many students with different experiences and needs in one room and these diverse experiences and backgrounds are not always obvious to the casual observer. Whereas it is 100% OK to



disagree with someone, you must state your disagreements about the issue (and not the other person) and in a way that is respectful (i.e., does not belittle people or groups). This class does not tolerate remarks that are sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise ridicule people.

**Academic Integrity Statements:** Any individual caught cheating or violating the honor code in any way will receive a “F” in the course.

AGGIE HONOR CODE “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System.

To see the rules and additional information, please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>

Date	Lecture Topic	Readings/Assignment Due Dates
Jan. 14	First Day: Introduction to Psychology	Carrier (2018) Introduction
Jan. 16	Introduction to Media Psychology	Links in PP slides
Jan. 18	Introduction to Media Psychology	Links in PP slides
Jan. 21	<i>No classes – Martin Luther King</i>	<i>No readings</i>
Jan. 23	Introduction to Media Psychology	Links in PP slides
Jan. 25	Media & Science	Carrier (2018) Chapter 6 (pp. 125-143); links in PP slides
Jan. 28	Media & Science	Carrier (2018) Chapter 6 (pp. 125-143); links in PP slides
Jan. 30	Media & Science	Carrier (2018) Chapter 6 (pp. 125-143); links in PP slides
Feb. 1	Media Manipulation, Social Influence & Fake News	Links in PP slides
Feb. 4	Media Manipulation, Social Influence & Fake News	Links in PP slides
Feb. 6	Media Manipulation, Social Influence & Fake News	Links in PP slides
<b>Feb. 8</b>	<b>Test #1</b>	
Feb. 11	Overview: Types of Media and Media Effects	Carrier (2018) Chapter 8 (pp. 188 – 197) <i>Make- up Exam #1</i>
Feb. 13	Media: Information and Attention	Carrier (2018) Chapter 5
Feb. 15	Media: Information and Attention	Carrier (2018) Chapter 5
Feb. 18	Media: Information and Attention	
Feb. 20	Media and Learning	Carrier (2018) Chapter 7 Carrier (2018) Chapter 8 – (pp. 181-187) <b>Current Event or Podcast Analysis Assignment Due</b>
Feb. 22	Media and Neuroplasticity	eCampus reading(s)
Feb. 25	Media: Impact on Children	eCampus reading(s)
Feb. 27	Media: Impact on Adolescents	Carrier (2018) Chapter 1 (pp. 22-24) eCampus readings (s)
Mar. 1	Media Addiction	Carrier (2018) Chapter 10 (pp. 225 – 236) <b>Digital Story Telling Project/Media Log Assignment – Part 1 Due</b>
Mar. 4	Media Addiction	Carrier (2018) Chapter 10 (pp. 237 – 252)
<b>Mar. 6</b>	<b>Test #2</b>	
Mar. 8	<i>No class</i>	<b>Required Documentary (see eCampus)</b> <i>Make-up Exam #2</i>
<b>Mar 11–15</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>No classes</b>
Mar. 18	Media, Clinical Psychology, and Mental Health	Carrier (2018) Chapter 9; links in PP slides
Mar. 20	Media, Clinical Psychology, and Mental Health	Carrier (2018) Chapter 9; links in PP slides
Mar. 22	Media, Clinical Psychology, and Mental Health	Carrier (2018) Chapter 9; links in PP slides
Mar. 25	Media, Clinical Psychology, and Mental Health	<b>Technology in Classroom Assignment Due</b>
Mar. 27	Media and Personality	Links in PP slides
Mar. 29	Media and Personality	Links in PP slides
Apr. 1	Media and Personality	Links in PP slides
Apr. 3	Media and Violence	Carrier (2018) Chapter 2; links in PP slides
Apr. 5	Media and Violence	Carrier (2018) Chapter 2; links in PP slides
Apr. 8	Media and Violence	Carrier (2018) Chapter 3; links in PP slides
<b>Apr. 10</b>	<b>Test #3</b>	

Apr. 12	Socialization of Media	Carrier (2018) Chapter 1
Apr. 15	Social Relationships	Carrier (2018) Chapter 1 <i>Make-up Test #3 Due</i>
Apr. 17	Media and Self-Image/Identity	eCampus reading(s)
Apr. 19	<i>No class – Reading Day</i>	
Apr. 22	Media and Gender/ Race	eCampus readings (s)
Apr. 24	Media and Gender/ Race	<b><i>Digital Story Telling Project/Media Log Due – Part 2 Due</i></b>
Apr. 26	Media and Impact on Social/Sexual Relationships	Carrier (2018) Chapter 4
Apr. 29	Media and Impact on Social/Sexual Relationships	Carrier (2018) Chapter 4
Apr. 30 (Redefined)	Media: Conclusions and Future Directions	
<b>May 3 Fri</b>	<b><i>Test #4 (Non-cumulative) (10:30-12:30)</i></b>	