

MIT COMPARATIVE MEDIA STUDIES/WRITING: 2-Year Graduate Program Overview

Program Structure and Learning Progression

YEAR ONE: Foundations and Core Theory

First Semester (Weeks 1-15): Media Theory and Critical Frameworks

- Introduction to comparative media studies methodology
- Media theory and cultural criticism foundations
- Digital humanities methods and tools
- Academic writing for media studies
- Research methods and archival practices

Second Semester (Weeks 16-30): Writing Studies and Narrative Forms

- Writing studies theory and pedagogy
- Narrative across media platforms
- Game studies and interactive media
- Documentary and nonfiction forms
- Media archaeology and technology studies

YEAR TWO: Specialization and Research

Third Semester (Weeks 31-45): Advanced Research and Production

- Advanced media theory and contemporary debates
- Transmedia storytelling and platform studies
- Independent research project development
- Media production workshop
- Professional development and career preparation

Fourth Semester (Weeks 46-60): Thesis and Capstone Work

- Master's thesis research and writing
- Advanced writing workshop
- Public humanities and community engagement
- Teaching practicum
- Thesis defense and portfolio completion

Core Learning Outcomes

By completion, students will demonstrate:

- Mastery of comparative media studies theoretical frameworks
- Advanced writing and communication skills across multiple formats
- Critical analysis of media texts, technologies, and cultural contexts
- Research skills including archival work, digital methods, and ethnography
- Ability to produce original scholarly and creative work
- Understanding of media industries, policies, and social impacts
- Pedagogical skills for teaching writing and media studies

Assessment Philosophy

The program emphasizes:

- Process-oriented learning over high-stakes testing
- Collaborative and peer-review based assessment
- Portfolio development and reflective practice
- Integration of theory and practice
- Community engagement and public scholarship
- Professional development and career readiness