



Culture and Media Student Handbook

Updated Fall 2022

I. Program Mission

Culture and Media students and faculty are committed to understanding and decoding the ways in which a diverse array of media influence our daily lives as well as the impact that we, both as individuals and collectively, can have on the cultural and political climates that surround us.

Through a combination of theory and practice, our students - as scholars, writers, filmmakers, artists, and designers - learn the critical thinking and making skills to actively engage in the process of world-making across three thematic areas:

- Cultural Studies: critical analysis of texts, identities, and representations with a focus on questions of power
- Media Studies: theories, histories, and practices of media, including photography, film, television, video, and digital media
- Screen Studies: the critical, analytical, and hands-on production practices of filmmaking and cinematic arts

Notably, Culture and Media is home to three different BA options.

- Students may complete a BA in Culture and Media by completing a combination of courses in the Culture, Media, and Screen areas of focus of the program (see Option A below);
- Students may also complete a BA in Culture and Media by focusing in either the Culture or Media areas of study (see Option B below);
- Students may complete a BA in Screen Studies by pursuing the Screen Studies focus area alone (for details on the BA in Screen Studies, see the Screen Studies Handbook).

II. Program Structure

Option A: A Combination of Media, Culture, and Screen Studies Courses

To complete Option A in the Culture and Media program, students must take the following 12 courses:

Introductory courses:

Two of the three following core courses:

- LCST 2120 Introduction to Cultural Studies
- LCST 2450 Introduction to Media Studies
- LCST 2122 Introduction to Screen Studies

Eight Elective courses*, distributed as follows. If you're unsure which courses count in each focus area, email the departmental faculty advisor; remember that you need 12 courses in total (with all the requirements) for the major.

- Two courses in Screen Studies
- Two courses in Media Studies
- Two courses in Cultural Studies

* *Please note:*

- *Two must be practice-based courses.*
- ** Practice-based courses include Media Toolkit, Public Radio Culture, Editing, Cinematography, OnAir/Podcasting, Oral History (others may apply, including courses offered through the Code as a Liberal Art minor).*
- *Six of the electives must be at the 3000-level or above.*
- *We recommend that at least one is a 4000-level course (or a graduate-level course)*

Senior Capstone (see Section VI for additional information)

Select one of the following options *:

- One advanced (4000-level) and one graduate-level course taken at at the School of Media Studies in the M.A. in Media Studies or at NSSR in the M.A. in Liberal Studies
- or two advanced (4000-level) culture and media courses
- or LCST 4990 Senior Thesis Project and one 4000-level course or LCST 4990 Senior Thesis Project and one graduate-level culture and media course

** For LCST 4990 Senior Thesis Project, a senior project or thesis must be approved by your chosen thesis supervisor and the departmental faculty advisor for Culture and Media. Please note that you will need to begin the process of finding a supervisor and developing a project in the semester prior to the one in which you wish to complete the thesis.*

Option B: A Focus on Media or Culture

To complete Option B in the Culture and Media program, students must take the following 12 courses:

Introductory courses:

2 of the 3 following courses:

- LCST 2120 Introduction to Cultural Studies
- LCST 2450 Introduction to Media Studies

- LCST 2122 Introduction to Screen Studies

Electives

- Six electives in your area of focus
- One course in each of the other two focus areas

* *Please note:*

- *Two must be practice-based courses.*
- ** Practice-based courses include Media Toolkit, Public Radio Culture, Editing, Cinematography, OnAir/Podcasting, Oral History (others may apply, including courses offered through the Code as a Liberal Art minor).*
- *Six of the electives must be at the 3000-level or above.*
- *We recommend that at least one is a 4000-level course (or a graduate-level course)*

Senior Capstone (see Section VI for additional information)

Select one of the following options *:

- One advanced (4000-level) and one graduate-level course taken at at the School of Media Studies in the M.A. in Media Studies or at NSSR in the M.A. in Liberal Studies
- or two advanced (4000-level) culture and media courses
- or LCST 4990 Senior Thesis Project and one 4000-level course *or* LCST 4990 Senior Thesis Project and one graduate-level culture and media course

** For LCST 4990 Senior Thesis Project, a senior project or thesis must be approved by your chosen thesis supervisor and the departmental faculty advisor for Culture and Media. Please note that you will need to begin the process of finding a supervisor and developing a project in the semester prior to the one in which you wish to complete the thesis.*

Grade Minimums

The minimum grade for core courses is B (B-, C+, C, C-, D, or F requires retaking, if you want to continue with the major). Any C grade in a non-core LCST class forfeits counting toward the major (although it can still count for overall credits).

Moreover, a minimum GPA of 3.0 is expected for all those students intending to declare in Culture & Media. (Slightly lower GPAs can be accepted if the student receives an A in the Intro course connected to their track, or both Intro courses, if mixing-and-matching between tracks.)

Transferring Credits

Transfer students may be able to apply transfer credits toward the major in Culture and Media with the permission of the departmental faculty advisor. [Read more](#) and consult the declareDepartmental Faculty Advisor for approval. These, however, must strongly mirror the content and approach of our own roster of courses.

Any external courses that could conceivably be counted toward the major need to be approved by one of the departmental advisors, either before the fact – when taking courses outside of the major – or after the fact, in the case of transfer students. (Please provide course descriptions and syllabi where possible.) The same policy applies to waiving required courses (but be aware that these are rarely granted, since our core courses provide important common experiences and reference points for the major).

Note that courses that exceed the maximum credits that can be counted toward the major can still count toward a student's overall graduation credits (minimum 120 credits).

III. Course Structure

Culture and Media classes include lectures, seminars, and integrative courses (i.e., practice-based courses that offer students a chance to acquire production-based skills). Some classes incorporate additional screening sections, which will be built into the student's course schedule during registration.

IV. Advising

Prior to declaring the major, students are assigned a faculty advisor and a Student Success Advisor. The Student Success Advisor is an important resource for advising questions and concerns, and should be the first stop for information concerning college-wide policies and procedures. They can also assist with questions pertaining to the Screen program. All administrative changes in DegreeWorks, such as the application of transfer credits and assigning faculty to independent studies, must happen through the Student Success Advisor.

The faculty advisor is there to assist in course selection and to help students get the most out of their major. After a student has declared their major, their primary advisor is the designated departmental faculty advisor.

- **Heather Davis** for Cultural Studies and Media Studies: davish1@newschool.edu
- **Genevieve Yue** for Screen Studies: yueg@newschool.edu

Students may on occasion also contact the chair:

- **Orville Lee**: leeo@newschool.edu

Every student who has earned 30 credits must declare a major by their fourth semester or no later than the beginning of their fifth semester (except transfer students entering with 60 credits, who may take one additional semester before declaring). For many students this occurs after they have completed two semesters of coursework. Follow the process outlined in [Declaring a Major](#).

V. Course Sequencing/Suggested Course Schedule

The following are sample course sequences. Option B includes the recommended sequence for the production courses. Note: there are not always spaces to accommodate every student's desired course sequence, and students who are not able to get into their preferred courses should meet with the DDA to determine alternate pathways.

Option A: A Combination of Media, Culture, and Screen Studies Courses

Year 1:

Complete at least two introductory level courses from the following list:

- Introduction to Cultural Studies
- Introduction to Media Studies
- Introduction to Screen Studies

Year 2:

- Fall semester: Complete at least two LCST courses (2000- or 3000-level courses are recommended)
- Spring semester: Complete at least two LCST courses (2000- or 3000-level courses are recommended)
- Fall or Spring semester: Complete one practice-based course

* Ensure you have a mix of culture, media and screen courses since you'll ultimately need two in each category.

Year 3:

- Fall semester: Complete at least two LCST courses (2000-, 3000-, or 4000-level courses are recommended)
- Spring semester: Complete at least two LCST courses (3000-, or 4000-level courses are recommended)

* Ensure you have a mix of culture, media and screen courses since you'll ultimately need two in each category.

Year 4:

- Fall semester: Complete a LCST course at any level. (If you're missing coverage in any of the three categories, take a course that covers the missing area.) Take a 4000-level (or graduate course)
- Spring Semester: Complete capstone requirement (e.g., a 4000-level or graduate course or approved senior project or thesis)

Option B: A focus on Media or Culture

Year 1:

Complete at least two introductory level courses from the following list:

- Introduction to Cultural Studies
- Introduction to Media Studies
- Introduction to Screen Studies

Year 2:

- Fall semester: Complete at least two LCST courses in different focus areas (2000- or 3000-level are recommended)
- Spring semester: Complete at least two LCST courses (2000- or 3000-level are recommended)

*We recommend that one of these 4 courses be practice-based

* Ensure you have taken at least two courses in your area of focus and completed your two electives in the other focus areas.

Year 3:

- Fall semester: Complete at least two LCST courses in your area of focus (2000-, 3000-, or 4000-level courses are recommended)
- Spring semester: Complete at least two LCST courses in your area of focus (3000-, or 4000-level courses are recommended)

* By the end of Year 3, you should have completed at least six courses in your chosen area of focus.

Year 4:

- Fall semester: Complete a LCST course at any level in your area of focus and complete the first part of capstone requirement (e.g., a 4000-level or graduate course)
- Spring Semester: Complete second part of capstone requirement (e.g., a 4000-level or graduate course or approved senior project or thesis)

VI. Senior Work

1. Independent Senior Thesis Project (LCST 4990)

Seniors who are pursuing the independent project/thesis option must first apply and then register for the 4 credit course, Independent Senior Project (LCST 4990). In the preceding semester, students must submit the following:

- A [preliminary application](#) by **March 1** for the fall term and **October 1** for the spring term. This should be submitted via email to the departmental faculty advisor for Culture and Media —Heather Davis (davish1@newschool.edu). Before final approval, they must complete a full proposal under the direction of their faculty supervisor.

- Written approval from the full-time faculty member who will be guiding the independent study. *Part-time faculty members may supervise independent senior thesis and projects but only with approval from the dean's office.

VII. Transfer Students

Transfer students who are interested in the Culture and Media major should contact the departmental faculty advisor or chair about declaring the major and the major's course requirements. We recommend that you speak to either the departmental faculty advisor or chair *before* enrolling in courses.

Please note that transfer students must complete two of our three foundation courses (Introduction to Cultural Studies, Introduction to Media Studies, and Introduction to Screen Studies), but you may be able to apply transfer credits toward the major from your previous institution. [Read more](#) and, again, set up an appointment with the departmental faculty advisor to discuss potential transfer credits and to develop a plan for your degree completion.

VIII. Minors

Culture and Media Minor (for students majoring in another field):

- Two of our three Introductory Core Courses (LCST 2120 Introduction to Cultural Studies, LCST 2450 Introduction to Media Studies, LCST 2122 Introduction to Screen Studies)
- Three to four additional LCST Culture and Media courses, at least two at the 3000 level or higher
- Students must receive a grade of C or better in all courses taken to fulfill the minor.

* For the minor, we will accept no more than one transfer credit from another division at The New School (e.g., an NMDS course) or outside institution but only with approval from the departmental faculty advisor or chair and only under exceptional circumstances.

Minors at Lang (for Culture and Media majors):

- The New School offers more than 50 minors. If you're a Culture and Media major and want to pursue a minor, visit the minors website:
<https://www.newschool.edu/undergrad-minors/>

IX. Dual Degree Programs (BA/BFA and BA/MA)

- *BA/BFA*

The New School's BA/BFA dual degree program (called BAFA for short) is designed for students who want a comprehensive education in liberal arts and music or the arts. Students who are interested in this program must apply to complete the five-year curriculum (168-180 credits, depending on the chosen majors), which leads to the award of both a BA from Eugene Lang College and either a BFA from either Parsons School of Design or a BFA from the School of Jazz at the College of Performing Arts. Students who choose to pursue this dual degree receive careful advising to ensure that they meet the requirements of both degrees.

To pursue the BAFA, students must be admitted to both colleges (Eugene Lang College and either Parsons School of Design or the School of Jazz at the College of Performing Arts). Students may apply during the initial application to The New School or after completing up to one year of study at Eugene Lang College, Parsons School of Design, or the School of Jazz at the College of Performing Arts. Visit [The New School's website](#) for more information.

- *BA/MA in Media Studies (NSPE) or Liberal Studies (NSSR)*

The New School's Bachelor's-Master's program allows students across the university to save time and money by earning graduate credits that apply to both their New School undergraduate degree and a graduate degree from The New School for Social Research or the New School for Public Engagement.

To be eligible you must:

- Have completed, or be in the process of completing, 60 credits toward a bachelor's degree;
- Have earned a minimum GPA of 3.3;
- Have Completed, or be in the process of completing, four undergraduate courses relevant to your desired area of graduate study in which you earned a grade of 3.0 or higher

Notably, the BA in Culture and Media has *three* graduate options:

- the MA in Liberal Studies at NSSR
- the MA in Media Studies at NSPE
- the MA in Creative Publishing and Critical Journalism

Option 1: MA in Media Studies at NSPE (recommended for students interested in pursuing a career in the media industry)

You can count 12 credits toward your BA at Lang and your MA at NSPE (e.g. once accepted to the BA/MA, we recommend that you start taking graduate courses and use these courses to also meet your Capstone requirements at Lang)

Application: <https://www.newschool.edu/bachelors-masters/>

Deadline: Feb. 10 (Fall Admission); October 15 (Spring Admission)

[Read more](#) and consult your Student Success Advisor at Lang as well as the Media Studies Advisor: mediastudiesadvising@newschool.edu

To register for courses: Email mediastudiesadvising@newschool.edu (include the CRN numbers of any courses for which you wish to register)

Recommended path forward: Begin by enrolling in NMDS 5006 Media Theory and *NMDS 5008 Media Design

*You may be exempt from NMDS 5008 if you have already completed one or more practice based courses at Lang (e.g., Media Toolkit); contact mediastudiesadvising@newschool.edu for details.

Option 2: MA in Liberal Studies at NSSR (recommended for students interested in furthering their exploration critical theory and/or and media theory) or the MA in Creative Publishing and Critical Journalism

Deadline: Feb. 10 (Fall Admission); October 25 (Spring Admission)

[Read more](#) and consult your Student Success Advisor at Lang as well as the Liberal Studies Advisor: LiberalStudiesAdv@newschool.edu

To register for courses: Email LiberalStudiesAdv@newschool.edu (include the crn numbers of any courses for which you wish to register)

Recommended path forward: Begin by enrolling in [GLIB 5542 - Making the Modern World](#)

Option 3: MA in Creative Publishing and Critical Journalism (recommended for students interested in writing, designing, and editing print and online journals and books containing intellectually serious written work aimed at a general reader).

Deadline: Feb. 10 (Fall Admission); October 25 (Spring Admission)

[Read more](#) and consult your Student Success Advisor at Lang as well as the Liberal Studies Advisor: cpcjadvisor@newschool.edu

To register for courses: Email cpcjadvisor@newschool.edu (include the crn numbers of any courses for which you wish to register)

X. Faculty and Staff OFFICE

Quirk-Goldblatt, Nina
nquirk@newschool.edu

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Bering-Porter, David

Film and Media Theory, Zombie Movies and Exploitation Cinema, New Media, Critical Studies and Contemporary Theory
66 W. 12thSt., Rm.
beringpd@newschool.edu

Davis, Heather (Culture and Media Director and Departmental Faculty Advisor)

davish1@newschool.edu

Eichhorn, Kate

Media History, Media Theory, Critical Theory, Youth Cultures and Subcultures, Feminist Theory
eichhorc@newschool.edu
212.229.5100 x3477

Fitch, Nathan

Film production, documentary
fitchn@newschool.edu

Goldsmith, Leo

Video Art, Sound
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Kienitz Wilkins, James

Directing, Screenwriting, Production
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Lee, Orville (Chair, Culture and Media Studies)

Cultural Theory, Critical Theory, Knowledge, Aesthetics
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212.229.5100

Levitt, Deborah

Media Theory, Film Theory, Animation, Digital Culture, Critical Theory, Science and Technology Studies

65 west 11thSt., Rm. 070

levittd@newschool.edu

212.229.5100 x2213

Lugacy, Talia

Directing, Screenwriting, Production

64 W. 11thStreet, Rm.

lugacy@newschool.edu

Pettman, Dominic

Philosophy of Technology, Critical Theory, Animal Studies, Postmodern Theory, Posthumanities, Popular Culture, Transgressive Fictions, Subcultures, Music, Affect, Digital Culture.

65 W. 11thSt., Rm. 462

pettmand@newschool.edu

212.229.5100 x2986

Solomon, Rory

Infrastructure studies, network studies, and software studies

Program Director and Assistant Professor of Code as a Liberal Art

solomonr@newschool.edu

Velez, Pacho

Directing, Screenwriting, Ethnography, Contemporary Art, Political Documentary

65 West 11thStreet, Rm.

velezp@newschool.edu

Wark, McKenzie

Digital Culture, Video Games, New Media Aesthetics, Media Activism, Political Avant-Gardes, Cultural Theory

65 W. 11thSt., Rm. 456

warkk@newschool.edu

212.229.5100 x2241

Yue, Genevieve (Director of Screen Studies)

Avant-garde film and video, art and cinema, film theory, media theory and history, feminist film theory, East Asian cinema

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(212) 229-5617 x3574

Zahedi, Caveh

Documentary, Production, Directing, Screenwriting, Film History, Auteurist Cinema

64 W. 11thSt., Rm. 107

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212.229.5100 x2270

AFFILIATED FULL-TIME FACULTY

Napolin, Julie

History and Theory of Technology, Audio Culture

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RECURRING PART-TIME FACULTY

Beck, Michelle

Digital Movie-Making, New Media Art

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Griff-Sleven, Hanna

Oral history

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Hallak, Al

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Montague, Sarah

Radio, Sound, Audio Culture

MontaguS@newschool.edu

Perlin, Jenny

perlinj@newschool.edu

Shepard, Frank

Philosophy, Humanities, Religion

shepardf@newschool.edu

Vega-Llona, Silvia

Cultural Geographies, World Cities and Transnationality, Film Theory and History

VegaS@newschool.edu

XI. Alumni

Culture and Media wants to hear from alumni! We are still in the process of creating an online space where alumni can connect with each other and with the program. For now, if you have any ideas on how you would like an alumni space to work, please email eichhorc@newschool.edu or yueg@newschool.edu.

XII. Frequently asked questions

Q: I want to major or minor in Culture and Media. What courses should I take first?

A: If you're thinking about majoring or minoring in Culture and Media, we highly recommend that you complete at least one introductory course first. To major or minor in the program, you must complete two out of three of these courses, which include [Intro to Cultural Studies](#), [Intro to Media Studies](#), and [Intro to Screen Studies](#). These courses will also give you a better sense of what our program entails and whether or not it's a good fit.

Q: I took Introduction to Media Studies in another division at The New School—can it count as LCST 2450?

No.

Q: I'm ready to declare my Culture and Media major or minor—how do I do this?

A: If you're ready to declare your major, you can do so at any time. You're advised to meet with the departmental advisor first to clarify your program of study. Guidelines for declaring your major are [here](#).

Q: Where do I find the degree requirements for the Culture and Media major?

A: They are on the home page for Culture and Media and in this handbook.

Q: Is there a Culture and Media minor? Where are the requirements listed?

A: Yes, there is a minor and the degree requirements are listed on the home page for Culture and Media and in this handbook.

Q: How many NFLM courses can I count toward the Culture and Media major or minor at Lang?

A: Majors may count up three NFLM courses (approved by the program director) and minors may count up to one NFLM course (only under exceptional circumstances and if approved by the program director).

Q: DegreeWorks indicates that I need a 2000-level elective to graduate but I'm missing that requirement. What do I do?

A: You can replace the 2000-level requirement with an additional 3000- or 4000-level course. If your student success advisor says this is not the case, please email your student success advisor and cc the departmental advisor or chair on the email so we can clarify the course replacement policy.

Q: Who do I talk to if I have specific questions about Screen Studies courses or requirements for graduation?

A: Please contact the Director of Screen Studies—Dr. Genevieve Yue.

Q: I'm a transfer student. Can I count my courses completed at my previous college?

You can't use transfer credits to fill core requirements in Culture and Media but we may count some of your previous courses as breadth requirements; to count transfer credits, send the course name, title, description (ideally, also syllabus), and your grade in the course to the department chair, Orville Lee.

Q: Can I transfer credits from other divisions at The New School?

Up to three transfer courses (from other colleges or divisions at The New School) may be accepted as electives with approval from the department chair, Orville Lee.

Q: I received a grade lower than B in one of my required courses (e.g., Intro to Cultural Studies, Intro to Media Studies, or Intro to Screen Studies). I need this course to graduate so can you just raise the mark to a B?

No. The only way to change a grade is to launch a formal appeal.

Q: How do I appeal a grade?

A student can petition for academic review of a grade by following the procedure outlined at [The New School website](#) and below within 60 days from the date the grade was posted or within 30 days if the student has petitioned to graduate. Before appealing for a change of grade, you should first ask the instructor to explain his or her reasons for assigning the grade. If you are not satisfied with the explanation, you can appeal the grade as follows:

Write a letter to the faculty member stating clearly your objection to the grade received and requesting a different grade. Copy your letter to the department chair or director, or, if the faculty member is also the department director, to the dean or school's director.

The instructor must return a written response to your letter within one month of receipt, likewise copied to the department chair or director (or the school's dean or director).

If you are not satisfied with the faculty member's response, you can appeal further by writing to the school's dean or director, who will designate another member of the administration or faculty to review your and the instructor's previous communications.

The person designated will convene an appeals committee to investigate your outstanding differences and make a recommendation to the dean or director. The dean or director will make a final decision about the grade.

Q: I want to complete a study abroad? Will you accept credits completed at another school toward my major or minor in Culture and Media?

Prior to leaving for your study abroad program, arrange to meet with the departmental advisor. We can't technically accept the courses before you complete them, but the departmental advisor can offer advice on which courses are most likely to count toward your degree. Follow up when you return from your study abroad program.

Q: Can I do an internship as part of my Culture and Media Studies degree?

Yes (as an elective), but you'll need to have your internship approved by the internship office.

For more information visit the internship homepage:

<https://www.newschool.edu/career-services/internships/>