

MEDIA ARTS IN BRITIAN
Media Arts-3355 Contemporary British Broadcasting
Phyllis Slocum, Department of Media Arts Summer 1, 2026
May 17, 2026 through June 17, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MRTS 3355 Contemporary British Broadcasting – Course Objectives

The contemporary British media landscape is a rapidly changing environment – from a government- funded television/radio operation (as discussed in media history lectures) to a more consumer, advertiser- based format. Competition to the premier organization, the BBC, is coming from commercially supported networks (primarily television). The explosion of film and cutting-edge production is also a key element in the contemporary British media scene. Along with that comes communication/media via multiple platforms – telephone, tube, street media etc.

Through digital media readings, lectures, screenings, field trips, and visits to radio, television, and film production/broadcast facilities, students will study current aspects of one of the most progressive and inventive broadcasting industries in the world. Students will have a chance to see firsthand the huge global platform of international media giant BBC and see first-hand-cutting edge production facilities at one of the largest global studios, VERSA. Significant attention will be focused on entertainment and the film/TV program as well as the exploding impact of social media on both the information and entertainment landscape.

Students will apply academic principles to their study of contemporary British media events, locations, and ideas through exposure to speakers, field trips with professional academic-oriented guides, and UNT professor-delivered lectures. Response papers to speakers, in-class discussion, and an individual semester-long project will include an emphasis on understanding the contemporary aspects modern British media.

The semester-long project will apply a contemporary approach to the study and presentation of student work coupled with more traditional academic endeavors including respondent papers reflecting the impact of various guest speakers and student oral presentations during academic engagement hours.

TEXT BOOKS; BROADCAST/DIGITAL MEDIA/READINGS

Text: Crisell, A. (2002). An Introductory History of British Broadcasting (2nd Ed.).
(London/New York: Routledge)

- **Broadcast/Digital Media/Reading:** Contemporary electronic media as assigned including the Guardian website. Local newspapers and broadcast channels including BBC; ITV; Sky etc. Material discussed in class.
- This course will be conducted in a presentation and discussion fashion and will expand on material contained in text/additional materials (handouts, anecdotes, topics brought up by

class members, discussions about outside readings). Students will be expected to keep up with assignments, and be able to contribute to these discussions.

- Web/internet-based assignments will be required and must be completed on time during the semester. Complete and easy to follow instructions will be provided to students.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: (due dates listed in final syllabus distributed prior to departure)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| • Required book review- Text Assigned prior to trip | | May 18, 2026 |
| • 2 Speaker papers | Assigned various | Due See Syllabus |
| • Class participation-discussion | On-going | On-going |
| • One on one meetings w/instructor | On-going | On-going |
| • Semester long project | Assigned | May 19, 2026 |

GRADING: Based on 4 Areas

1. Speaker Papers
 - Undergraduate students will write a total of two summary papers responding to guest speakers focusing on the key points gleaned from the presentation. (See syllabus).
 - Length/style announced in class. In-class discussion will be conducted prior to the assignment due date.
2. Class Participation-What you have learned - and Attendance
 - Students will be expected to attend all events/lectures/trips and be prepared with background information prior to guest lectures. There will be weekly group discussions with each student sharing experiences/ideas/events. Class discussion groups will be twice a week with time/date TBA based on scheduling.
3. One-on-One with UNT Professor on Web-Based Project and Response Papers
 - Each student will outline proposals for their four individual projects which make up the semester-long project.
4. Semester Long Project: Social Media-Internet/Web Based
 - Students will be required to have a digital camera of some type. Quality is not a consideration, but it must have the capability of transferring videos and photographs to a local computer.
 - Students will complete a series of assignments based on British media. Assignments will include both contemporary and historical aspects of British media. Students will be required to complete a set number of excursions around the London area and environs. The subject matter will be discussed with the instructor before approval.
 - Each assignment will be documented visually and accompanied by a written account including required references. These may include research, video/stills/audio and supporting references which may be primary (acquired first-hand material, interviews, surveys, etc.) or secondary (books, articles, web sources, research reports).

- Each assignment will reflect a tie to media in some way as explained by the faculty leader during the first three days of the semester. The students' series of short papers will reflect media in an historical/contemporary/and societal manner with a sense of context and analysis. All work is due the day of departure from London. *Further details will be provided in the completed syllabus and during class time in London.* Confidentiality and technical safety will be built into this project.

Grades: Class evaluation/grades will be based on 5 areas: TOTAL PTS - 380

- Media research projects (3) 105 (35 pts each)
- 2 Speaker papers 100 (50 each)
- Class engagement presentations 125
- Text Book Review 10
- Participation/Attendance 50

ATTENDANCE

- Students are expected to be in class, site visits/productions, and assemble on time. **Show up ON TIME** for all classes, site visits and productions. Travel in London during rush hour can be challenging. **PLAN ACCORDINGLY!!** Attendance will be considered in your final grade.

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For study abroad courses, students requesting accommodations should notify their faculty leader as early as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Note that while the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not extend beyond US borders, and international accessibility requirements vary broadly from US standards, UNT study abroad programs will endeavor to provide accommodations wherever practicable. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact ODA by phone at 940.565.4323.

Contemporary British Broadcasting/History of British Broadcasting
 Class schedule/assignments may change – be flexible. You will receive adequate notice

DATE	
Sunday May 17	Depart Dallas: Arrives LHR: May 18 (Monday) Time: About noon Will coordinate arrival with AIFS coach pickup at Heathrow – see below
Monday May 18	Arrive London: Go through Immigration/Customs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIFS staff member will meet students at the airport (<u>in the arrivals area</u>). Students will go by private coach (bus) as a group to the AIFS Centre at Kensington with baggage. Short information session at AIFS offices with UNT faculty and AIFS contacts. • TUBE passes will be distributed. • AIFS will arrange travel by Taxi to home stays. • Students settle in and locate their tube/bus stations for the next day.
<p>Tuesday May 19</p>	<p>Class Room Session 10:00 -12:00 pm: UNT Instructor overview; class discussion. Classroom Bld- 2 Elvaston Place London</p> <p>AIFS Conduct and Heath-Safety Orientation: UNT Instructor & AIFS staff review personal safety tips and legal issues for students. Covers health/safety issues specific to students. AIFS personnel discuss contemporary issues of British life/culture to prepare students for their upcoming experience.</p> <p>12:00 – 1:15 - Break for Lunch – Local area</p> <p>Class Session: 1:15 – 5:30 Ground field trip begins – led by Blue Badge guide & UNT instructor with on-site academic instruction of media locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes physical orientation of city, location of St. Paul’s Cathedral, guided tour of Westminster Abby. UNT instructor & BB guide discuss location and growth of first media companies/sites in London and the geographical importance of London as an historic and contemporary media/meeting place. Transportation by private coach. Guide: Gary McGowan <p>Welcome Dinner 6:00 pm: Duchess of Kent Restaurant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will have menu for students – group dinner
<p>Wednesday May 20</p>	<p>Class Room Session - 10:00 to 12:30:</p> <p>UNT instructor details syllabus-discuss changes and logistics of various excursions; presents final project overviews; discusses response papers to each speaker; and explains details of participation expectations. Due dates for each assignment will be announced so students can manage their time and plan their academic individual field excursions in an orderly fashion. This is a critical and time-consuming session outlining academic requirements. Students are encouraged to explore the media environment of London and environs and push the concept of “out of the box” thinking regarding media.</p> <p>Break for Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30: Explore Kensington area</p> <p>Class Room Lectures: 1:30 pm –4:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up lecture: “Magna Carta” – individual visit to British Museum • Set up lecture: “First “Sensational-Tabloid” media murder case. Media use of photos for the first time in working with police • Detail address for tonight’s excursion • Set up of Friday day trip to Oxford –historical/academic touchpoint and contemporary television and movie shooting site.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up Lecture for The Globe – Mid Summers Night Dream Historical media context of Globe <p>6:00 -9:00 pm - Jack the Ripper Media Site Walk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class meets Blue Badge guide at Exit 3 - Aldgate East Tube station by the Whitechapel Gallery. On-site night walk with accompanying lecture focused on media involvement. This is also key to cultural orientation to the city of London. Guide: Justin Roxburgh, Blue Badge Guide <p>Academic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning session focuses on academic work (see above) • Afternoon session focus: (1) session will discuss impact of Jack the Ripper case as the first real relationship between media and police in early days of mass media. Development of tabloid reporting and media involvement in 1st global serial murder case in history. • Set up lecture for Magna Carta (basis for US freedoms)/Rosetta Stone. British Museum location -Students encouraged to visit. Natural History Museum, Albert Hall, media sites for films, overview of other excursions .
<p>Thursday May 21</p>	<p>Class Room Session: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Blue plaque team exercise!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class exercise <i>Timed Scavenger hunt</i> in Kensington area. Details provided in class – teams report findings in class. <p style="text-align: center;">Break for Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 pm Local Area</p> <p>Class Room Activities: 1:30 pm-5:00 pm</p> <p>Class Lecture - British Politics/Media/Social Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation: What Have You Learned? Students will share experiences/questions/observations. • Quiz/Review required reading: BBC Origins/British Media prior first speaker: Prof. John Paul Green - discuss key facts of beginning of BBC/ public service media. • Discussion/Lecture British Political structure
<p>Friday May 22</p>	<p>Class Session: 8:30 am -5:30 pm Oxford Day Trip – Meet Taylor House *****NOTE: Hard out – 8:30 am—Be at Taylor House 8:15</p> <p>Lectures by UNT instructor and Blue Badge Guide will take place on private coach – Only UNT students on board. Christ Church, New College Gary McGowen Blue B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 on-site Oxford guides -- full academic tour/special TV/Film sites

	<p>Academic Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford is key in the educational and historic story of England. On site Blue Badge guide will lead visit to two colleges; understanding the academic implications; the history behind the location and people who attended this university and its various colleges. • b) Oxford is one of the most “filmed” cities in the nation. Media credentials include films/TV(such as Harry Potter; Mission Impossible/Midsomers Murders; Downton Abby) to name a few. Guide will discuss its film and television pedigree.
Saturday May 23	Free day
Sunday May 24	Free day
Monday May 25	<p>Class Room Session – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Course requirements – student weekend check-in One on One with students: Times assigned in class <p>Class Room Session - 2:30- 5 pm: Guest Speaker Prof. John Paul Green Professor of Broadcasting Studies-University of Sunderland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Response Paper assigned (Green) – Due Thu May 29 6 pm <p>Academic Engagement: Session covers the BBC – British Broadcasting Corporation – from its early days through to today’s contemporary issues. Prof. Green (Journalism, Media, and Cultural Studies) will focus on the origins of the BBC and how it has helped shape US media thinking.</p>
Tuesday May 26	<p>Class Room Session –9:30am – 12 noon: - Guest Speaker: Prof. John Paul Green: British Television/Dr. Who/TV production</p> <p>Academic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNT instructor sets up BBC Entertainment growth, expanding platforms, and physical distribution of media sites across the U.K. Dr. Green covers impact-issues of British entertainment television on the US and globally including social issues surrounding “Dr. Who” as a media phenomenon, its impact in the UK and globally. Focus also on future of British television development/BBC-ITV <p>2d Response Paper Assigned (Green) – Due Fri. May 29-6 pm</p> <p>Afternoon: Work on papers/assignments – open time with instructor</p>
Wednesday May 27	<p>9:45 am : Site Visit –Morning Alexandria Palace – First Broadcast Venue UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet at Aly Paly – EAST COURT • Full tour/World War II impact and British Broadcasting Origins <p>Academic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra Palace is situated in North London and known around the world as the birthplace of television. Never owned by the BBC, but

	<p>in 1935 the Corporation leased the eastern part of the building from which the first public television transmissions were made.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Break for Lunch</p> <p>Classroom Participation/Lecture 2:00 pm-4:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Have You Learned? • Students will share experiences/questions/observations <p>Classroom Lecture: US/Brit Media WWII (Tubman Classroom)</p> <p>Academic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide historical and contemporary information. Foundational information of what and how US media was involved in the early days of WWII prior to Pearl Harbor. Contemporary information allows students to see through examples with which they are familiar how US broadcasters transformed the profession from a print-based delivery style to the more video-audio oriented style used today
<p>Thursday May 28</p>	<p>Day trip to Hampton Court: Early Start- 9 am Meet at Taylor House (Gary McGowan - Blue Badge Guide) all day event</p> <p>Academic Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel by <u>Thames riverboat outbound with train return</u>. BB guide will accompany group/commentary and historical significance. Entrance to the palace is included. • Private UNT tour of palace, historical significance, film and entertainment history. • Return by train/tube on your own after tour
<p>Friday May 29</p>	<p>Class Site Visit- British Museum 11:00 am group entrance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosetta Stone impact on Media – explore Museum
<p>Saturday May 30</p>	<p>Free Day</p>
<p>Sunday May 31</p>	<p>Free Day</p>
<p>Monday June 1</p>	<p>Classroom Session 9:30 –2:00 pm– Guest Speaker Ben Moore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC Senior Reporter Ben Moore –Social Media and the Digital elements of today’s BBC and reaching younger audiences on air and online. 25 year veteran of British media, senior journalist. Creative storyteller of global events across multiple platforms. • Day long engagement/lecture/creative program <p>3d Response Paper Due Date: Friday June 6 – 6 pm</p> <p>5 pm London Pub Quiz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victoria Pub: 1 Lower Belgrave Street, Victoria SW1 0NR Cultural norm in the UK

<p>Tuesday June 2</p>	<p>Class Room Session: 10:30 to 12:30 (Tubman Classroom)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation: What Have You Learned? Students will share experiences/questions/observations. <p style="text-align: center;">Break for Lunch</p> <p>Class Session: BBC -White City Studios: Tour: 2 pm -4pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details provided in class
<p>Wednesday June 3</p>	<p>Class Session 10:30 am Meet at The Globe Theatre – Southbank 11:00 am - On-site Tour The Globe (theatre) guided tour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Break for Lunch – Borough Market/BFI/Tate Modern</p> <p>2:00 pm –Shakespeare/Globe- Mid Summers Night Dream</p> <p>Academic Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Wanamaker, US film star and globally recognized director spearheaded the rebirth of this Globe theatre and its educational and theatrical events through private donations. <p>Instructor pre-lecture focuses on how the plays/theatre were part of entertainment and discourse in the 14th century when the population was illiterate. Social and political commentary along with pure mass entertainment was key to the theatre scene in that era.</p>
<p>Thursday June 4</p>	<p>Day Excursion to Stonehenge and Bath: 8:15 AM Meet at Taylor House- Travel via Coach</p> <p>10:30 – 2:00 Bath: Film and Television Shooting Sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple film sites and discussion of media significance of Bath/Walking Tour of Bath: Maeve/Rosemary Blue Badge <p>Lunch at iconic Bath Market during walking tour</p> <p>Academic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgerton; In Pursuit of Love; Poldark; and so many more- Home of Jane Austen – Bath is premier current TV filming site for contemporary BBC, ITV, NetFlix and other media companies • 17th century “fake news” media-advertising: Bath Spa University-how Bath was “marketed” as a health and medicinal destination. • Founded in 1st century AD by Romans contains some of the finest Roman ruins in the country. Also key city in Georgian time reflecting importance during reign of George III (American Revolution). <p>Leave for Stonehenge: Arrival 3:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour Stonehenge – Depart 4:15 • Arrive in Kensington 6:45 pm <p>Academic Engagement</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iconic, cultural and societal location. New research indicated Stonehenge was a meeting place that allowed exchange of ideas, goods, trade, and developed cultural norms. • World Heritage site
Friday June 5	<p>Class Room Session: 10:30 -12:00 Guest Lecture – Kevin Marsh Editor/Author/Professor – President-Founder of Offspring Media.</p> <p>Academic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsh is a current professor Bournemouth University Media School, international consultant/owner of OffSpin Media, acclaimed published author, 33-year veteran of the BBC and former Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a patron of St George's House Windsor, an alumnus of the Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership, a former student at the Salzburg Global Seminar, a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House and was participant at four World Economic Forums. He speaks regularly to UNT students both in person and via SKYPE. <p>4th Speaker Paper Due if you write on Kevin-Mon Due June 11-midngiht</p> <p>Break for Lunch</p> <p>Class Session Group 1: 2:15 Charing Cross Underground Movie Sites Meet Tom Cammish at Charing Cross Train Station</p> <p>Class Session Group 2: 4:30 Charing Cross Underground Movie Sites Meet Phyllis Slocum at Charing Cross Train Station BOTH GROUPS BRING ID – Picture ID</p> <p>Academic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive behind-the-scenes Charing Cross Station Tour. • Features spots regularly seen on screen and stands in for a working tube station. • Examples include Bond film, <i>Skyfall</i>, <i>Thor 2</i>, <i>The Bourne Ultimatum</i>, BBC's <i>Sherlock</i> <i>Killing of Eve</i> <p>How films shoot underground sites – technology/production</p>
Saturday June 6	Free Day
Sunday June 7	Free Day
Monday June 8	<p>Class Room Session 10:00 am -12 noon Taylor House Asif Sadiq, MBE: Guest speaker Equity Diversity / Warner Brothers UK</p> <p>Academic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asif Sadiq: Senior Vice President at WarnerMedia for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, International. Former Global Head of Diversity, Inclusion and Social Impact at Adidas. Long/rich career in diversity & inclusion space with senior executive roles at The Telegraph Media Group, EY Financial Services and the City of London Police. Over his 20-year career he has worked in Europe, North America, Middle East, Africa and Asia.

	<p>5th Speaker paper: Due Wednesday June 12 6 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break for LUNCH <p>Class Session Afternoon: 1:30-2:30 pm What Have You Learned</p> <p>Work time – papers/assignments/other</p>
Tuesday June 9	<p>Day Excursion to Brighton - Leave from Blackfriars TIME TBD Location: TBA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel by train to Brighton – entrance to Royal Pavilion • Blue Badge Guide – film and television focus – Gillian Chadwick • Return via Train – your choice
Wednesday June 10	<p>Class Session: 9:00-10:00 am Site VISIT: Wimbledon Tennis Complex Broadcast Production Meet at Wimbledon Tube: 10:15 – walk to facility Tour- 11:15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter through Gate 4 on Church Road (The All England Lawn Tennis Club. SW19 5AG). Bags will be searched at entrance.
Thursday June 11	Work Day
Friday June 12	Work Day
Saturday June 13	Free Day
Sunday June 14	Free Day
Monday June 15	<p>10:30 am: Travel to Warner Brothers Studios – All Day site visit</p> <p>Site Visit Harry Potter Warner Brothers Studios</p> <p>Academic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backlot tour showcases the contemporary methods used in creating, shooting, and editing blockbuster films. The architecture, design, & detail involved is showcased in the WB Studios. The tour is led by a Warner Brothers professional guide then open to student interactive engagement.
Tuesday June 16	<p>Class Session: 10:00 am -11:30 am Classroom Engagement – What Have You Learned?</p> <p>Final discussion – work/assignments and other academic issues AIFS describes departure details for next day</p>
Wednesday June 17	Depart London Heathrow Airport: Transfers from home stays by taxi to Heathrow

	Arrive DFW Airport:
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