

TERM PAPER
DEADLINES: Ap. 2 / Ap. 30 / May 11
COM 312, Spring 2023

Students will prepare a term paper based on an original and critical review of academic and non-academic literature on **any topic related to media and gender in the SWANA region or in representations of the SWANA region**. The topic should use a feminist media studies approach to address any gendered problem related to media Production, Products, and/or Reception and consider potential policy solutions. Topics must be approved by the instructor and therefore students will prepare an Abstract to propose their term paper topic and approach (see rubric below). After approval, students are required to submit their term papers on turn-it-in in two parts: 1) a complete draft that will be graded in/complete and 2) a final version revised based on a feedback from your instructor on the draft. Both the draft and final paper should be 9-10 double-spaced pages in length, excluding references (see rubric below). **Kindly be reminded that there is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism in all submissions – the abstract, draft, and final paper.**

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR ABSTRACT AND BIBLIOGRAPHY (due Ap. 2)

Pick a research topic related to media and gender that concerns Production, Products, and/or Reception in the SWANA region or in representations of the SWANA region (see for example themes, readings, and resources in syllabus). Identify a primary research question (and any secondary questions) related to this topic. Conduct preliminary research using literature about this problem and potential policy solutions, starting with the library resources and academic journals (see research workshop – Week 10), to prepare an abstract and working bibliography (see abstract tips – Week 10). Submit a 1-paragraph abstract (approx. 300 words) about your proposed topic and include at least six references for your draft bibliography for approval and grading. **You are not allowed to cite Wikipedia.**

Submitting Your Abstract and Bibliography

- Upload in Word or PDF format to Blackboard via the assignment link;
- Include the following information in the file you upload to Blackboard: Your name and title of assignment. A cover page is not required. Save the file as *Term_Paper_Abstract_Your_Name*
- Abstract and Bibliography deadline: **Sunday, Ap. 2, at 11:00pm.**

GRADED IN/COMPLETE (worth 5% of total course grade)

- Submits abstract (~300 words) and reference list by the deadline
- Identifies a research topic related to media and gender that concerns Production, Products, and/or Reception in the SWANA region or in representations of the SWANA region
- States a primary research question (and any secondary questions)
- Describes the approach to this problem (e.g. two or three main ideas of your critical literature review and how your discussion will build on these)
- Considers the potential policy solutions
- A working bibliography that identifies in APA format at least six relevant sources (this is just a start and the final term paper must have more references)

HOW TO WRITE YOUR TERM PAPER (draft due Ap. 30, final due May 11)

After receiving feedback on and approval for your proposed abstract, conduct additional research to add to your proposed bibliography (you need more than six references for the final paper). Then

write a critical literature review that builds original arguments or a theoretical framework that unpacks your research question (do not summarize different writers or create a laundry list).¹

Next, build on the outcomes of your literature review in the discussion. This section should draw clearly on the literature reviewed to provide an original analysis about the research problem. The discussion can focus on media practices, policies, or research. You can use the outcomes of the literature review to analyze media content (e.g. using textual, content and/or multimodal analysis), compare media policies (e.g. using reports on employment practices or ownership), or you could build arguments using previous media research (e.g. scholarship that reports on data collected from journalists or audiences).

Support your discussion with one detailed example from a lived experience.² This example needs to be related to the research problem. The example can be from your own personal experience or the life experience of someone you know personally. Be sure to detail and reflect on the lived experience using the research question(s). **This is a requirement for all papers.**

Be sure your arguments throughout the literature review and discussion (including the lived experience) help you answer the research question(s).

You are not required to write a summary conclusion, but rather conclude by considering the media policy implications of your paper. **This is a requirement for all papers.**

Submit your draft paper in Word or PDF format to the turn-it-in link on Blackboard by the deadline. Revise your draft based on feedback from the instructor, then submit in Word or PDF format via the Turn-it-in link on Blackboard by the deadline.

TERM PAPER OUTLINE³ (all papers must use the following headings)

[1 page] Cover Page

- Your Name, Assignment Title, and revised Abstract (single-spaced, 300 words max).

[1-2 pages] Introduction

- Motivate your paper, identify the media and gender problem related Production, Product, or Reception that you will investigate;
- Include a clear thesis statement that identifies the topic and the approach of your paper;
- Indicate a clear research question and identify any secondary research questions that will be answered by your paper;
- Identify the structure of your paper briefly.

[3 pages] Literature Review

- Introduce the literature review by identifying the main themes or arguments you will explore;

¹ Thompson, P. (2017, September 11). Avoiding the laundry list literature review. Retrieved from: <https://patthomson.net/2017/09/11/avoiding-the-laundry-list-literature-review/>

² Using lived experiences to address research problems builds on feminist standpoint theory, read more about this research method: <https://iep.utm.edu/fem-stan/>

³ RESOURCES ON HOW TO WRITE A TERM PAPER AND CONDUCT RESEARCH:

- Steenbergen, C., and Diner, R. (2004, November). 12 Step Guide to Research and Writing for Students: One Essay at a Time. *Thirdspace*, 4(1). Retrieved from: https://journals.lib.sfu.ca/index.php/thirdspace/article/view/resources_12stepguide/3156
- University Libraries (2019). Women's Studies Research Guide. University of Maryland. Retrieved from: https://lib.guides.umd.edu/womens_studies

- As you develop the main ideas, provide a clear indication how the literature review informs your research problem concerning media and gender problem related to Production, Product, and/or Reception;
- Use the literature review to develop arguments or a framework that address your research question(s);
- Synthesize the literature you cite by bringing together ideas from different authors to build your own arguments, avoid the laundry list (see FN1: Thomson, 2017).

[3 pages] **Discussion**

- Develop paragraphs that build on the outcomes of your literature review to provide an original analysis about the research problem;
- The discussion should include your own analysis, comparisons, or arguments and can address media practices, policies, or research;
- Be sure to use the discussion to answer your research question(s);
- Support your discussion with one example from a lived experience to further address the research question(s).

[1-2 pages] **Conclusion**

- A summary conclusion is not needed;
- Consider the outcomes of your paper and identify the potential policy solutions.

[no page limit] **References**

- Do not limit yourself to the six references included with the draft abstract, you must do additional research and include more than 6 references in your draft and final term paper;
- At least 50% of your references should be original (i.e. not from the course materials) and from academic sources (journal articles, books, presentations, etc.);
- Use APA⁴ formatting completely and correctly for each reference;
- Alphabetize your reference list.

SUBMITTING YOUR PAPER

- Upload your 9-10 page paper and reference list in Word or PDF format to Blackboard via the turn-it-in link;
- See cover page instructions above, don't forget the revised Abstract;
- Include the following information in the file you upload to Blackboard: Your name and title of assignment. Save the file as *Term_Paper_Your_Name*.
- Draft term paper deadline: **Sunday, Ap. 30, at 11:00pm**
- Final term paper deadline: **Thursday, May 11, at 11:00pm**

GRADING RUBRIC (worth 25% of total course grade)

- Submits a complete draft term paper by the deadline (graded in/complete) and includes revised abstract (10%)
- Provides an introduction that motivates the research question and includes a clear thesis statement (10%)
- Well-argued, critical, and correctly cited literature review that unpacks the research question and uses at least 50% original and academic sources (20%)
- Strong application of literature review outcomes in your discussion that further builds on research question and in conclusion identifies the potential policy solutions (20%)

⁴ See Purdue OWL's APA Style and Formatting Guide:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_basic_rules.html

- Supports discussion by detailing a lived experience to further address the research question (10%)
- Develops strong paragraphs and arguments that address the research question (10%)
- Clear and correct vocabulary, spelling, and grammar, also provides consistent in-text citations and correct reference list, using the APA style (10%)
- Follows assignment instructions and hands work in on time (10%)
- *If you submit your final term paper before the deadline you will receive extra credit of +.50*