A movie title I would use to describe myself would probably be “Life Unexpected”. I chose this title because I am Arab American girl who was brought up in a very strict Muslim household. At a very young age my parents instilled in me that I could only marry an Arab Muslim man. They didn’t care much about me having an education or pursuing a career. They wanted me to marry a wealthy Arab man, and become a stay at home mother. However, right after high school I fell in love with an African American Caribbean man who is now my husband. At first we went through a lot of family struggles, and it was definitely a hard journey. Now my parents adore him and we have built a family together. I never expected my life to play out the way that it did, and life certainly came at me unexpected.
Classroom Participation

Student Engagement

Padlet

Ice Breaker

Blogs

Debate on Truth One: the importance of brands

Brand name products have been around since the mid-to-late 1800s, but they have exploded in importance during the last two decades. Even celebrities starting referring to themselves as “brands.” What products do you buy because of the brand? Do you buy Coke or Pepsi? Do you wear designer clothing? Mac or PC? Why do you think you or your friends buy name-brand shoes (think Nike)? Why do you choose your favorite brands? What do your favorite brands mean to you? Where do you get that meaning? Think about the varied IMC techniques that can be used to promote a brand.

Using the Bok Model

Use the Bok model for ethical decision making to analyze a newspaper editor’s decision about whether to run Richard Drew’s photo of the man falling from the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Respond to each of the three steps: Consult your conscience, seek alternatives, and hold an imagined ethical dialogue with everyone involved. What did you decide to do? Explain why you made that decision.

Note: The biggest challenge with this assignment is for students to conduct the dialogue. Resist the temptation to argue your own point of view. Read the two related articles first before responding.

Resources:

Esquire Magazine article on the photograph and the photographer, Richard Drew.
When The Visual Reality Hurts by Kenneth Irby
Check Out 9/11: The Falling Man on Hulu.
Classroom Participation

- Student Engagement
- Padlet
- Ice Breaker
- Blogs
# Quality of Written Work

## Peer Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checked</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>The critical review identifies, summarizes (and appropriately reformulates) the problem, question, or issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>The critical review identifies and considers the influence of context and assumptions using various media theories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>The critical review develops, presents, and communicates his/her own perspectives, hypothesis or position based on media theory(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>The critical review is well-organized and easy to understand. The critical review is presented well, without major grammatical or spelling errors and citations are in accordance with APA guidelines, as appropriate. The critical review has a 4-part structure of writing a critique. It includes a descriptive title, an introduction, a conclusion and appropriate section headings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□</td>
<td>The critical review is responsive to the content of the assignment. The summary statement identifies, and assesses conclusions, and implications of your recommendations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Add Comments:**

Make sure that your review goes beyond a description of what is happening. I think the main point you’re trying to get across is the fact that *The Office* (make sure you italicize titles in text) mirrors the experience of the average white-collar working stiff. Ultimately you need to state a claim that is more than “the show is good.”

Your character analyses are strong, but you need to discuss how they are connected. I agree that Michael, Jim, Pam, and Dwight are the characters you should focus on, but make sure you discuss many relationships.

Cite sources other than the textbook.
Quality of Written Work

Peer Review

• You use several different media theories that connect with your experience. You can also include the genre theory to your first half of your paper.
• Some words are repetitive. Try using formal and academic language instead of the words “like” and “awesome.”
• There is a four-part structure however I think the Background and Music section can be combined and adding a Media Theories section can make your paper better organized and clear.
• Work on condensing your ideas in paragraphs because some are a bit lengthy.

“This is a very good synopsis of the different shows produced by Shonda Rhimes. In your introduction and conclusion of the different issues she brings to light you reference her ability to transform the world through television. I think you have a lot of opportunities where you can introduce different media theories. I would suggest exploring cultivation theory and agenda setting theory and how they can be applied to your own observations. Great job!”

“Hi,
I went ahead and did a Peer Review of your paper. Great job! I was enthused the whole way through!

Attached is the checklist, and I'll put a separate comment attaching your paper with some suggestions using the "tracked changes" method. This allows you to see the recommendations and what I would do.

Congratulations!”
Presentation of Work
(Peer Voting using Google Forms)

COMM 380: Peer Voting for Publication
Voting for Publication (5%)

Your First Name

Your Last Name

Below Vote for Publication by Selecting "Accept" or "Reject"

30 Rock

- Accept: 13 (65%)
- Reject: 7 (35%)

Post-Modern Family

- Accept: 9 (45%)
- Reject: 11 (55%)

The Political Economy of The Wire

- Accept: 12 (60%)
- Reject: 8 (40%)

ART

- The Workhouse Arts Center by Victoria Fisher
- Modern American Realism: The Sara Roby Foundation Collection by Maria Reyes
- Barbara Kruger: Belief + Doubt by Ryan Persinger
- Believing in Doubt by Rawan Elbaba
- Symbolic Interactionism of Polk Dota Obsession by Tae Lim
Presentation of Work
(Peer-Voted Publications)

MEDIA CRITICISM

About Us
This site is a showcase of peer-reviewed articles written by students enrolled in the Department of Communication's Media Criticism course (COMM 380) at George Mason University.

Art
Critical Reviews in Art, Photographic and gallery exhibitions written by students enrolled in COMM 380.

Film & Television
Critical Reviews on programming, television series and Film releases. Articles cover issues in the industry. All articles are written by students enrolled in COMM 380.

Music
Album and concert analysis consists of the student. Critical Reviews on new and old film releases and issues concerning the industry. All articles are written by students enrolled in COMM 380.

Curating the world artfully
What aspects of the course and the way it was taught helped you to learn?

• The Critical Peer Reviews were excellent. It helped me understand that although our class was to write our own reviews, part of the process was to evaluate others, and develop our "critical thinking process" ourselves in the meantime.

• I valued the opportunity for the peer review of the subject critical analysis. This was a means of sharing our works in the online forum.

• The Critical Peer Reviews were excellent. It helped me understand that although our class was to write our own reviews, part of the process was to evaluate others, and develop our "critical thinking process" ourselves in the meantime.
“Nowadays, when one thinks of media, they think of modern conveniences like television or the internet. Seldom does art pop to the top of one’s head, and when it does, it is likely in its most traditional forms – a gallery of paintings or sculptures; Picasso or Van Gogh.

So I decided to choose something different, an art exhibit that is both unique and close to home: the Workhouse Arts Center.

Just as Anish Kapoor forced our Media Criticism class to rethink their traditional views of sculpture, so does the Workhouse Arts Center force its audience to rethink its traditional views of media. Originally a prison, the Workhouse Arts Center is made up of nine public-accessible buildings centered around a large yard that used to be a recreational yard for prisoners.

Each of these buildings contains an exhibition on a specific medium. For instance, in building 9, visitors can view both a gallery of glassblown artwork as well as see both professional and student glassblowers hard at work creating work. Building 2 is an active theater, and Building 13 is a prison museum. As you can see, the Workhouse Arts Center is not your average art exhibit.

Even though I did not choose to spend my Saturday viewing art, I am glad that I did. I was able to use the exhibits to learn a lot about a unique form of media and I got to find enjoyment in seeing a lot of interesting types of art along the way. Every different piece of art conveyed a different content message to me, and the Workhouse Arts Center achieved one of its goals: I found gratification in its exhibits. I might even visit again sometime – without the essay requirement attached!”
Hi Prof. Miller,

I just wanted to write you and tell you how much I've enjoyed your Media Criticism course. Originally, I needed the extra credits and the course sounded interesting, so I just signed up. After taking the course, however, I feel I've learned more than I anticipated. I'll admit it was a lot of work, but it was worth every minute! You provided the students with a number of helpful, and very interesting, resources on every topic. I appreciate that you took the time to do that and also coordinate making the "help" videos, as I know I needed them most.

Lastly, I think that you provided your students with an opportunity to get their work published, and that is something they won't have in every course. I didn't know the importance of this until now. So again, I just wanted to say thank you and let you know that I think this is a great course for COMM students to take.

-Carli