**Course Syllabus**

COM 105 Honors

Dr. AJ Moore

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Office hours - MW 1:00 to 2:30

Text: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by Philip K. Dick.

Course Description: This seminar will introduce students to the major questions and issues confronting the contemporary mass media and their impact on society. The course will examine the historical and philosophical roots of those questions and issues while also exploring the work of major thinkers on those topics. The course will emphasize the use of primary sources to which students will respond in writing and class discussion.  
  
Course objectives:  
  
In this course students will:  
  
1. Learn to identify the arguments in complex and influential texts on the media.  
  
2. Develop the ability to make meaningful connections among various points of view on the role and functioning of modern media.  
  
3. Read and analyze often contradictory arguments and theories about mass media that have been put forward by major thinkers in the field.  
  
4. Explore the various perspectives from which one can understand the mass media.   
  
5. Learn to discuss mass media by interweaving and supporting their own ideas with those of established scholars and thinkers in the field.  
  
Methods of Evaluation:  
  
Weekly written response to readings 50 percent   
Participation in discussion/quizzes 20 percent  
1 Short paper 10 percent  
Final paper 20 percent  
  
  
Attendance:  
It is expected that students will be present for all class meetings and activities. Absences will be considered in calculating final grades; frequent absences (more than three) will result in a severe reduction (3 percent each).  
  
  
Preparation of work:  
All work for this course must be typed, double-spaced; but very light print is not acceptable. Late work only will be accepted with prior permission for a deadline extension from one of the professors.   
  
All assignments should be written in your own words, not copied word-for-word out of any source. If you must utilize the exact words of any author, you should do so sparingly, and then place the material in quotation marks, followed by a footnote, endnote, or parenthetical indication of the source and page number. (For example, if Brave New World is the source you may cite it as Huxley, pp. ###-###.) Work that is copied verbatim without quotation marks and/or a citation constitutes plagiarism. IF YOU SUBMIT ANYONE ELSE'S WORK WITH YOUR NAME ON IT, THIS IS PLAGIARISM. IF YOU ENGAGE IN ANY FORM OF PLAGIARISM, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F IN THE COURSE AND A MEMO WILL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR AND THE DEAN'S OFFICE TO BE PLACED IN YOUR UNIVERSITY FILE.  
  
If you have any questions about how to avoid engaging in plagiarism, feel free to discuss them with Dr. Moore.  
  
Please be aware of the following Rider University policy:  
  
"Your Rider email account is your email address for all official email communications from the University. You are expected to check your Rider email account on a frequent and consistent basis in order to stay current with University-related communications. Any email from me about this course will only be sent to your official Rider email address. Any communication from you to me must come from your Rider email address."