CTCS 495: DEMOCRACY, MEDIA, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Professor Benzon - Mondays, 10am-2pm - SCA 216

Democracies around the world are in crisis—weakened in the face of a transnational and algorithmically supercharged twenty-first-century neo-fascist turn. Media technologies and practices are profoundly implicated in these social and political transformations. In this course, we will examine a range of media texts and practices that reflect, resist, or reinforce cultural processes and bodies that would undermine democratic institutions. While our explorations will traverse media forms and sites of expression broadly—encompassing film, television, online/virtual spaces—we will focus with particular intensity on interactive media—videogames, social media, interactive/immersive entertainment—which situate users as both observers and producers of politically inflected narratives, arguments, and interventions.

RESTRICTED TO CAMS MAJORS WITH A 3.5 GPA