

This course aims at familiarizing students with main contemporary contributions of critical media and cultural studies. While mainstream media studies focus on rather positivist approaches on media industries, media production and media culture that often function in a rather celebratory manner, critical approaches offer a broad and in-depth view that assesses how the media work and develop as institutions that are situated in specific historical, economic, political and social contexts.

Critique is an essential feature of social, political and individual life across time in human history.

In the media context, critique emerges through the advance of normative frameworks of thought and practice that allow the assessing and the evaluation of media practices.

The course will equip students with concepts and knowledge to understand media-related phenomena in a systemic, historical and socially embedded sense, as part of a broader socio-political and economic context. This way, students will acquire a better understanding of the forces that shape the development of media as industries and as cultural and socio-political institutions

This course can suit well students of journalism, politics, sociology, arts, history, and literature, and all those that wish to broaden their perspectives with a theoretical input.