# About Media Studies at Trent University

**3 minutes, 40 seconds in length**

Dr. Liam Mitchell – Professor, Media Studies:

Do you want to play video games and get credit for it? Take Media Studies.

## How would you describe Media Studies at Trent?

Kacy Newman, Media Studies student responds:

I think Media Studies is really exciting, it's one of my favorite courses personally. I always looked forward to going to it. I think it's really relevant to today's day and age.

Stelios Pappas, Media Studies student adds:

We're all part of this social-economic thing that is the Internet, and the Media Studies course seeks to provide significance of why we do the things we do online.

Description: Poster is a drawing of a demonstrator throwing a bouquet of flowers instead of a Molatof Cocktail bomb.

Description: Poster with a design of a computer monitor sitting on top of an Egyptian pyramid with a rainbow coming out of it with the title, “Bored? Scroll the infinite pages of the internet; a refreshing way to waste the day!”

Dr. Liam Mitchell – Professor, Media Studies:

Media Studies at Trent is an inter-disciplinary program, meaning that it draws on the specialties from a bunch of different programs. The reason that we organize Media Studies that way is that we think that media ``object``, things like television or Facebook or cell phones or anything really has to be analyzed from a whole bunch of different perspectives.

Description: Crowd of photographers snapping photos of an early Macbook in a glass case.

Dr. Liam Mitchell continues: So what we do is we let students choose which perspective they want to focus most clearly on so they can take three core classes and beyond that they can make the program that they want.

What do you enjoy most about the program?

Charlotte Hannah, Media Studies student responds:

Probably that it all connects and relates to a lot of the courses that I'm taking this year. Everything that we've talked about in class, it all connects in some way to something else that I've learned, and I can apply it to something else.

Dr. Liam Mitchell:

I like teaching media studies in the first place because I get to draw on my own experiences as someone who is actively engaged in the media, like all of us are, and what it`s allowed me to do is to really deeply think through what my own implication in media signifies, why it`s important, why there might be some broader significance to doing something as trivial as writing a Facebook update, or playing a game on the Internet and interacting with folks in that media environment.

Description: Graphic of a caricature of a hand-drawn fictitious world map of online communities, with the names of the countries being different types of social media such as YouTube, Twitter, etc.

## Why did you choose to take Media Studies at Trent?

Charlotte Hannah responds:

I have a big interest in Media Studies, like, particularily social media, because it`s, like, taught me how information in the digital age affects our lives, and I'm very connected to use social networking sites and wanted to understand how they work better, on a deeper level.

Description: Graphic of six circles each signifying one of the largest media companies in the world, including Vivendi Universal, AOL Time Warner, The Walt Disney Company, News Corporation, Viacom and Bertelsmann. A call-out box in the middle of the graphic reads, “Ultra-concentrated Media – Top selling brands. The largest media companies in the world – with just a few of their ‘family brand’. Biggest media mergers ever in 2000! Now with record-breaking monopoly!

## How would you describe your first year experience?

Kacy Newman responds:

First of all, I`m in love with Trent, but Media Studies was again, as I said, my favorite course and I always looked forward to going to it. I thought was just really, like, cool and fun, and it was never a boring lecture, there was never a lecture that I like lost focus in, and it was just like there was always something new and engaging, and something new to consider and new perspectives that I never actually thought of before.

Description: A black and white 1960’s photo of a woman wearing a headset with a lens over her right eye. Caption reads, “Small cathode ray tube and eyepiece device first was designed for astronauts to receive visual information in cramped spaceships. Now similar Hughes Aircraft headsets are used in industry and medicine by workers who find it convenient or essential to keep their eyes on the job.

Description: Photo of a cat with the caption above: “I can has cheezburger?”

Description: Another graphic of a lego style man in a lego world.

## What is it like to know your professor on a first name basis?

I think it's really great that you can talk to your professors on a first-name basis. One of the reasons why I came to Trent because I didn't want to be treated as a number, I wanted to be treated as a person.

Dr. Liam Mitchell:

It`s very much a me-you kind of relationship that I feel with them, and so I think that what I try to do in the classroom is make that really welcoming environment.

## Do you have a favourite first year memory?

Charlotte Hannah responds:

One of my favorite memories would be when we had a lecture and it was on gaming, and Liam was showing trifling with the Super Mario Brothers game, and so trifling is basically when you play a game backwards, or you just like, kind of defeat the purpose of the rules in a game, like you mess them up and try different things.

It stuck out the most for me because it was really unexpected, and I find Liam`s lectures to be, like, always fresh, thought-provoking and challenging.

## What advice would you have for a student who was thinking about taking this program?

Stelios Pappas responds:

If any students were looking at this course and having second thoughts, I would say, remove those second thoughts from your mind, and do yourself a giant favour. Participate in this course, read your readings, do everything you can to participate in this course because this course will illuminate your mind in such a way where you`ll be like, "I have never - ever - thought about life like this until now."