

# Starting Lineup

Meet the professors and instructors who will be guiding you and the other Media and Social Action ARC students through the four courses you'll be taking together this academic year.



## Alison Gash

*"Power, Politics and Inequality"*  
(Fall term)

**Takeaway from my class:** I hope students will realize that inequality is a problem we all share, but also

one that we each can combat.

**Issues I hope UO first-years will help solve:** Where to begin: 1) climate change; 2) political in-fighting; 3) fake news.

**Dream dinner guests:** Eleanor Roosevelt, Diane Nash, Ellen DeGeneres, Lisa Murkowski.

**Thanks, Oregon:** Since moving here, I am far more concerned about agriculture, produce and organic living than I ever thought possible as someone born on the East Coast.

**The books I return to:** Right now there are a few: Candy Freak, The Nix, and Of Love and Other Demons. Also any number of World War II historical fiction novels. I like irreverent books, I am obsessed with WWII, and I like candy.

**When not teaching, you'll find me...:** Trying to get my children to listen.

**My advice to a first-year college student:** Think how to expose yourself to things that you might never experience—but that could change you for the better. Push yourself to take intellectual and professional risks. Now is not the time to be careful. Now is the time to figure out what you are made of.



## Dean Mundy

*"Principles of Public Relations"*  
(Winter term)

**Takeaway from my class:** Students will learn core public relations principles as well as the

fundamental importance of holistic, ethical, strategic communication.

**The issue I hope UO first-years will help solve:**

Teach the rest of us how to talk to each other again. We've forgotten how to discuss (in person) important topics, which means we've forgotten how to resolve differences.

**Dream dinner guests:** Meryl Streep, Hillary Clinton, Tina Fey.

**Thanks, Oregon:** I'm an east coaster, and I was pleasantly surprised that the laid-back stereotype of the West Coast is based on truth. I'm still learning, but living here is teaching me how to better balance work and life.

**The books I return to:** Serious answer? The Grapes of Wrath. Why? It's part literature, part history, part beauty, part desolation, all human. Fun answer? Harry Potter. Why? Because it's genius, and it always reminds me that simple, targeted writing is much more exciting to read.

**When not teaching...:** I love to run, to garden, and to binge watch "House of Cards" (and anything else—"Game of Thrones", "Veep", "The Handmaid's Tale", etc.).

**My advice to a first-year college student:** Explore! Get to know college, and get to know yourself. College isn't for confirming what you want to do and who you are. It's for discovering what you want to do and who you are.

**Favorite UO landmark:** The pedestrian bridge that crosses to the Autzen side of the Willamette. So beautiful.

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## Ed Madison

*"Media and Social Change"*  
(Spring term)

**Takeaway from my class:** You'll learn how to use your smartphone to tell stories that are socially relevant.

**The issue I hope UO first-years will help solve:** Healing the ideological divide in our country that makes it difficult for people with a broad range of viewpoints to communicate.

**Dream dinner guests:** Steve Jobs, Oprah Winfrey, Richard Branson.

**Thanks, Oregon:** Living here has made me appreciate the outdoors and sustainable living practices. It is an amazingly beautiful place to live.

**The book I return to:** *Creativity, Inc.*, by Ed Catmull (cofounder of Pixar), is a must-read for students who want to make their mark in any area of professional media.

**When not teaching, you'll find me...:** Camping or kayaking near the Oregon coast.

**My advice to a first-year college student:** Consider yourself a professional right out of the gate. Start making media and forming alliances with like-minded peers.

**Favorite UO landmark:** Allen Hall's First Amendment Plaza



## Charles Butler

*"Media and Social Action seminar"*

**Takeaway from my class:** A better understanding of how issues of serious consequence to many people are reported and interpreted by the media.

**The issue I hope UO first-years will help solve:** Educational disparity. It would be great if every child and teenager in the U.S. had the opportunity to gain the best education possible.

**My dream dinner guests:** Mickey Mantle, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Johnny Carson, Sarah Butler.

**Thanks, Oregon:** I've just experienced my first Oregon July. Wow! It's a lot different from a New Jersey July.

**The book I return to:** *In Cold Blood*. Truman Capote sure knew how to get the grittiest of details into every page.

**When not teaching, you'll find me...:** Enjoying a slice of pizza, a Coke, and a copy of *Sports Illustrated*.

**My advice to a first-year college student:** Don't wait until senior year to get to know your professors outside of class. Start telling them your story now.

**Favorite UO landmark:** Prince Pückler's. Coffee-chip ice cream. 'Nuff said.



## Rachel Allen

*"Media and Social Action seminar"*

**Takeaway from my class:** Take time to personally reflect on critical issues, contribute to the conversation and take action together.

**The issue I hope UO first-years will help solve:** Everyone's journey is different. Instead of comparing your life to others, understand their story.

**My dream dinner guests:** Gina Rodriguez, Emma Watson, Isa Chandra Moskowitz.

**Thanks, Oregon:** For helping me embrace a different pace of life.

**The book I return to:** Harry Potter series. Solid life lessons through fantasy fiction.

**When not teaching, you'll find me...:** Walking my St. Bernard, taking a PiYo class, cooking vegetarian meals.

**My advice to a first-year college student:** Explore, ask questions and challenge yourself through opportunities.

**My favorite UO landmark:** Autzen Stadium. Go Ducks!