

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLITICS AND MEDIA

POL 4460G/9766B

Spring 2014

Wednesday: 11:30 – 1:30
Room: SSC 4013
Office Hours: Thurs 11:00 – 12:00
Or by appointment

Instructor: Prof. Marta Dyczok
Office: SSC Room 4414
tel: 661-2111 x84982
e-mail: mdyczok@uwo.ca

Course Description

Does the government control the media—or do the media control the government? Do the news media educate or manipulate the citizenry? Much of what we know about politics, political leaders, party politics, or public policy comes from the media - television, radio, newspapers, and the internet. This course looks at the relationship between politics and media, explores how media, civic engagements, and politics are intertwined. It notes how constantly changing technology affects media systems and thus democracy, drawing on examples from around the world. The joint graduate/4th year undergraduate course will be conducted in seminar format and meet weekly.

Undergraduate Assignments

Seminar Participation 20%
Seminar Presentation 20%
Media Monitoring 10%
Research Paper 25%
Exam 25%

Graduate Assignments

Seminar Participation 20%
Seminar Presentation 20%
Media Monitoring 10%
Research Paper 50%

Readings

Textbook

Street, John. *Mass media, politics, and Democracy* 2nd ed. (Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011)

Additional readings may be suggested during the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1. Introduction

(8 January 2014)

Required

Street, John. *Mass media, politics, and Democracy* 2nd ed. (Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), Introduction

Recommended

Keane, John, *The Media and Democracy* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1991)

II. REPRESENTING POLITICS

Week 2. Political Bias

(15 January 2014)

Required

Entman, Robert, "Framing: toward clarification of a fractured paradigm," *Journal of Communications* Vol. 43, No. 4 (1993): 51-58

McCombs, Maxwell E. *Setting The Agenda: The Mass Media And Public Opinion* (Polity, 2004), Chapter 1

Street, *Mass media...* Chs 1 and 2

Week 3. Politics and Entertainment

(22 January 2014)

Required

Delli Carpini, Michael X. and Bruce Williams, "Let Us Infotain You: Politics in the New Media Environment," in in Lance W. Bennet and Robert Entman (eds.) *Mediated Politics: Communication in the Future of Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), Chapter 8, 160-181.

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 3

Van Zoonen, Lisbeth, *Entertaining the Citizen* (Landham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield, 2005), Chapter 1, pp. 1-18

Week 4. Media Effects

(29 January 2014)

Required

Dyczok, Marta, "Was Kuchma's Censorship Effective? Mass media in Ukraine before 2004." *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol. 58, No. 2 (March 2006): 215-238

Hall, Stuart, "Encoding/Decoding," in S. Hall, D. Hobson, A. Lowe and P. Willis (eds) *Culture, Media, Language* (London: Hutchinson, 1980); 128-38

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 4

III. THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF MEDIA

Week 5. State Control and State Propaganda

(5 February 2014) **RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

Required

Freedman, Des. *The Politics of Media Policy* (Cambridge: Polity, 2008), Chapter 1

Herman, E and Noam Chomsky, *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of Mass Media* (New York: Pantheon, 2002) 2nd ed, Introduction, pp. xi - lviii

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 5

Week 6. Conglomerate Control

(12 February 2014)

Required

McChesney, Robert, *Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communication Politics in Dubious Times* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999), Chapter 1, pp. 15-77.

Schiller, Herbert I., "Not Yet the Post-Imperial Era," in *Critical Studies in Mass Communication* (1991) vol. 8: 13-28

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 6

19 February 2014 NO CLASS READING WEEK

Week 7. Watchdogs or Lapdogs?

(26 February 2014)

Required

Coleman, S., S. Anthony and D. E. Morrison (eds.) *Public Trust in the News. A Constructivist Study of the Social Life of News* (Oxford: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 2009) (NOT IN LIBRARY)

Davies, Nicholas. *Flat Earth News* (London: Chatto & Windus, 2008), Chapter 1

Schlesinger, Philip. "Is there a crisis in British journalism?" *Media, Culture and Society*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (March 2006): 299-307

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 7

Week 8. Globalization and the Webs of Power

(5 March 2014)

Required

Boyd-Barrett, Oliver and Tehri Rantanen (eds.) *The Globalization of News* (London, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1998), Chapter 1, pp. 1-18

Couldry, Nick and Tanja Dreher, "Globalization and the Public Sphere: Exploring the Space of Community Media in Sydney," in *Global Media and Communication*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (April 2007): 79-100

Herman, E. and Robert McChesney, *The Global Media: The New Missionaries of Corporate Capitalism* (London: Cassel, 1997), Chapter 2, pp. 41-69.

Garnham, Nicholas, "Information Society' as Theory or Ideology: A Critical Perspective on Technology, Education and Employment in the Information Age," in *Information Communication and Society*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (2000): 139-52

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 8

IV. MASS MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY

Week 9. Transforming Political Communication?

(12 March 2014)

Required

Mancini, Paolo. *Between Commodification and Lifestyle Politics. Does Silvio Berlusconi Provide a New Model of Politics for the Twenty-First Century?* (RIJS: Oxford, 2011)

Putnam, Robert D. "Tuning in, Tuning out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 28, No 4 (Dec1995): 664-683.

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 9

Week 10. New Media, New Politics?

(19 March 2014)

Required

Curran, James and T. Witschge, "Liberal Dreams and the Internet: A Case Study," in Nick Fenton (ed.) *New Media, Old News* (London: Sage, 2010), Chapter 6, pp. 102-118

Dalhgren, Peter, "The Internet, Public Spheres, and Political Communication: Dispersion and Deliberation," in *Political Communication*, Vo. 22, No. 2 (2005): 147-62.

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 10

Recommended

Dalhgren, Peter, "The public sphere and the net: structure, space, and communication," in Lance W. Bennet and Robert Entman (eds.) *Mediated Politics: Communication in the Future of Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001): 33-55

Week 11. Power and Mass Media

(26 March 2014) **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

Required

Curran, James, *Media and Power* (New York and London: Routledge, 2002) on-line
Street, *Mass media...* Ch 11

Week 12. A Free Press?

(2 April 2014)

Required

Schudson, Michael, *Why Democracies Need an Unlovable Press* (Cambridge: Polity, 2008), Chapter 2, pp. 11-26.

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 12, Conclusion

(Graduate) Statement of Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf