

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

# POLITICS AND MEDIA

## POL 4460G/9766B

Spring 2015

Wednesday: 11:30 – 1:30  
Room: SH 3355  
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](mailto:mdyczok@uwo.ca)

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### **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/4<sup>th</sup> 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* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011)

Additional readings may be suggested during the course.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **Week 1. Introduction**

(14 January 2015)

##### *Required*

Street, John. *Mass media, politics, and Democracy* 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

(21 January 2015)

##### *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**

(28 January 2015)

##### *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**

(4 February 2015) **RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

*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**

(11 February 2015)

*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) 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Introduction, pp. xi - lviii

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 5

#### **18 February 2015 NO CLASS READING WEEK**

#### **Week 6. Conglomerate Control**

(25 February 2015)

*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 No. 1: 13-28

Street, *Mass media...* Ch 6

## **Week 7. Watchdogs or Lapdogs?**

(4 March 2015)

### *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**

(11 March 2015)

### *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?**

(18 March 2015)

### *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?**

(25 March 2015)

*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**

(1 April 2015) **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?**

(8 April 2015)

*Required*

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

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