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


Additional readings may be suggested during the course.
COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1. Introduction
(8 January 2014)

Required


Recommended


II. REPRESENTING POLITICS

Week 2. Political Bias
(15 January 2014)

Required


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


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  

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  

Street, *Mass media*… Ch 5  

Week 6. Conglomerate Control  
(12 February 2014)  

Required  

Street, *Mass media*… Ch 6  

19 February 2014 NO CLASS READING WEEK
Week 7. Watchdogs or Lapdogs?
(26 February 2014)

Required


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


Street, Mass media… Ch 7

Week 8. Globalization and the Webs of Power
(5 March 2014)

Required


Street, Mass media… Ch 8

IV. MASS MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY

Week 9. Transforming Political Communication?
(12 March 2014)

Required


Street, Mass media… Ch 9
Week 10. New Media, New Politics?
(19 March 2014)

Required


Street, *Mass media*… Ch 10

Recommended


Week 11. Power and Mass Media
(26 March 2014) RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Required


Street, *Mass media*… Ch 11

Week 12. A Free Press?
(2 April 2014)

Required


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