

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  
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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

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**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/scholoff.pdf>."

## Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

### **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.