

POLITICS AND THE MEDIA IN THE U.S.

POLITICAL SCIENCE 203S

Fall 2003
Tuesdays 7:00-9:30 in 307 Perkins

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Duke University

Purposes

To comprehend what is known about the relationships between the media and politics and government in the United States. To explore the main concepts (see list attached) and raise the key issues involved in the relationship. To analyze and critique recent research represented by the required reading and by manuscripts submitted to Political Communication and assessed by the journal's reviewers (for ethical reasons manuscript authors and reviewers will not be identified). To engage in original research ourselves.

Required Reading

The following required readings should be purchased at the Regulator Bookshop on Ninth St.:

David C. Barker, Rushed to Judgment
Bruce Bimber, Information and American Democracy
Richard L. Fox and Robert W. Van Sickel, Tabloid Justice
Samuel Kernell, Going Public, 3rd. ed.
Marian Meyers, ed., Mediated Women
David L. Paletz, The Media in American Politics, 2nd ed.
A. Trevor Thrall, War in the Media Age
Gadi Wolfsfeld, Media and Political Conflict
The journal Political Communication 20:2 (April-June 2003)

Papers

You will make a significant contribution to our understanding of the course subject matter by writing an original, empirical, analytical, and systematic research paper on an important subject raised in the seminar. Look to The Media in American Politics as your source and guide: e.g. its case studies, Appendix B "Movies on Congress," etc. Papers must be word-processed and paper-clipped. Joint papers are encouraged. The specific topic and form of your paper will be chosen by you in conjunction with the instructor. Thus, a carefully thought out and developed proposal, utilizing the relevant course reading and listing, at least, the subject, questions to be asked, methods, and sources must be submitted on September 23rd. Completed papers are due at our last meeting on November 25. No late papers will be accepted.

Grades

Fifty percent each for class participation and the paper.

Office Hours

Wednesdays 2:15-3:45 p.m. in 501 Perkins and by appointment.

SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READING

- Aug. 26: Introduction
- Sept. 2: Media Modes
Paletz, chaps. 1 and 2.
- Sept. 9: News and Commentary
Paletz, chap. 3 and Appendix A.
Political Communication 20:2 (April-June 2003).
- Sept. 16: Restraints
Reception
Paletz, chaps. 4 and 5.
Barker
- Sept. 23: Political Socialization
Public Opinion
Paletz, chaps. 6 and 7.
Meyers, chaps. 1-4, 11-12, 14-16, 18, 21-22.
- Sept. 30: Political Participation
Interest Groups and Political Parties
Paletz, chaps. 8 and 9.
Wolfsfeld
- Oct. 7: Campaigns and Elections
Paletz, chap. 10.
Kahn and Kenney, "The Slant of the News..." American Political Science Review 96:2 (June 2002): 381-94.
- Oct. 21: Congress
Paletz, chap. 11 and Appendix B.
- Oct. 28: Presidency
Paletz, chap. 12.
Kernell
- Nov. 4: Bureaucracy (including Police and Military).
Paletz, chap. 13.
Thrall
- Nov. 11: Judiciary
Paletz, chap. 14.
Fox and Van Sickle
- Nov. 18: Public Policy
Paletz, chap. 15.
- Nov. 25: Conclusions and Change

Paletz, chap. 16.
Bimber

CONCEPTS

Agenda setting
Attack ads
Bias
Borking
Censorship
Civic (public) journalism
CNN effect
Cameras in the courtroom
Cultivation approach
Defamation (slander)
Elite press
Framing
Indexing
Information gap
Invasion of privacy
Investigative reporting
Iron triangles
Issue attention cycle
Issue networks
Market domination
Media content (types)
Media effects
Media manipulation
Media ownership
Metalinguistic viewers
Monopolistic competition
News
News leaks
Objectivity
Obscenity
Oligopoly
One-shot effect
Performance forum
Political efficacy
Political humor (types)
Political participation
Political socialization
Polysemic
Popular press
Pornography
Presentation
Prestige press
Priming
Prior restraint
Pseudo participation
Pseudo reportage

Public access
Public broadcasting
Public opinion
Public policy (stages)
Public service announcements
Purveyors (of news)
Recall
Regulation (of media)
Restrains (on media)
Receive-accept-sample
Referential viewers
Right of reply
Scandals
Schematic thinking
Sedition
Selective exposure
Selective perception
Selective retention
Shield laws
Social issues
Social learning
Social movements
Social play
Social understanding
Sources
Spiral of silence
System legitimacy
Tabloid press
Tabloidization
Terrorism
Third-person effect
Trial balloon
Uses and gratifications
Violence
Watchdogs