

## **Political Science 190: Politics of the Media WI**

UH Manoa: Fall Semester 2014

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<https://laulima.hawaii.edu>

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This course will serve as an analysis of the politics within various media themselves as well as an examination of the media's role in the political process and the shape of the political landscape. This will enable us to understand how each component of the course affects the others. We will not limit ourselves to one type of media, but rather examine print, radio and television media.

We will use gender, race/ethnicity, and class as lenses through which to view various media in current times. In order to do this we will not only read about the media to examine some authors' takes on media's role in the political process, but we will also immerse ourselves in media in various ways to understand how it affects all of us everyday. Therefore, it will be your responsibility during this course to listen to the radio, watch various channels on television, and read newspapers with analytical and critical eyes and ears. You will report back to the class with your observations as much as possible on the laulima class discussion board.

As stated above, there are two components to this course. However, instead of spending half the course focusing on media's impact on politics and the other half focusing on politics within media, we will instead play the two off of each other to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between the two. This link is what affects us daily and its examination deserves some worthy consideration.

This class should serve as a space to questions our assumptions about the various media in society as well as a new way of understanding media issues through a political perspective.

Some learning outcomes of this course are:

- SLO 1: Students should understand key concepts and tensions in media studies;
- SLO 2: Students should be able to think critically about and through these concepts;
- SLO 3: Students should be able to read and write critically about media issues in politics;
- SLO 4: Students should be able to re-examine some of their assumptions about media issues;
- SLO 5: Students should develop empathy for, and open-mindedness about, viewpoints different and sometimes opposite to their own.

Some of the strategies used to obtain these learning outcomes are:

- Reaction journals used to facilitate inquiries into topics that are related to students' personal lives;
- Discussion board participation, Powerpoint presentations, projects; and papers;
- One midterm paper, a group project, and a final paper discussed below.

### **Course requirements:**

**\*Attendance and participation [Questions and Responses] (15%):** Since this class is based on online discussion and scheduled student presentations, regular attendance on laulima, especially the discussion board, is absolutely critical to your success in this class and to the success of your fellow students. If you don't "attend," you can't participate and missing week after week of class is equivalent to missing entire chunks of the semester of an in-person class. You are expected to contribute your thoughts, reactions, questions and responses online in the class. The questions and responses are based on the **readings**. You will ask **ONE critical question** based on the week's reading each week to be posted to the weekly discussion board. Please label your questions in the following way so that I can keep track of who is posting what: Jane's W1Q. Your fellow students should simply use the reply key to respond to your question. You will post **ONE response** to ONE of your classmates' questions of at least 100-150 words **per week**. They should also be labeled appropriately in the following way: Andy's W1R1. This means that when you do hit the reply key, you will have to change the subject line before you post your response. Clear labeling helps me to keep track of your work and give you appropriate credit for your posts, so thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

**\*Journal entries (15%):** These are your personal critical reactions to each week's **lectures** found on the course website. Please note that the lectures are not necessarily on the same topic as the readings. The journals should be **one (double-spaced) typed page**. These will be due once a week on Fridays by midnight. **Please submit these in the laulima assignments tool** either as a Word attachment or cut and paste the text into the body of the message. The journal assignments are linked to the **gradebook** tool and work together. If you submit your work in the wrong place(s), it becomes difficult to keep track of each student's work and there can be no guarantee of accurate recordkeeping. By submitting in the assignments tool, all of your assignments will be housed in the same tool and any discrepancies in recordkeeping can easily be addressed by either student or teacher. I will respond to your journals (and other assignments) in the same tool, so be sure to look there for my feedback on your work. **(Total of 12 pages)** There is 1 point possible for each journal. You will receive 1 point if you incorporate the lecture topic with current events and/or your personal experiences in your analytical critique. You will receive ½ point if you only discuss a current event OR only provide a synopsis of the lecture, or otherwise turn in lower quality or late work. You will receive 0 points if you don't turn the assignment in at all, or if it is too short or superficial to count as a full-fledged journal.

Note: for the questions/responses and the journal assignments, you will be not only graded on quantity (ie: whether you actually turn the assignments in, but also on *quality*.)

**\*Group project (20%):** This project is centered around a creative presentation and will be the result of an online collaborative group project. The goal will be to envision a solution to a problem in media politics of any scope. Groups will choose their own topics. It will force us to focus more on the solution(s) than the problem(s).

**\*One midterm paper (20%):** The midterm will examine students' assumptions about media politics and the issues we have studied thus far. Students will determine the exact topic of the paper with the instructor's final approval. Students will be required to submit a thesis and outline to the instructor in the Assignments tool and will be provided feedback on their submission. Subsequently, students will be tasked to conduct peer reviews of each other's papers. For the midterm, you should send your draft to the person **following** you in the Laulima mailtool. Your name will not appear in the list, so you will have to figure out where you fit alphabetically. When you are done with your peer review, please be sure to cc the instructor when you return the review to your fellow student via email. Please be sure to observe the dates listed for these WI activity steps listed in the course schedule below. **(4 pages)**

**\*One final research project (30%):** This paper will be the culmination of the course with each student choosing individual topics within the overarching topic of media politics for further research. Please be sure to submit your final paper topic proposal ideas as early as possible in the Final Paper topic discussion board as soon as possible after you have gotten your midterm back since the topics are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Students will be required to submit a thesis and outline to the instructor in the Assignments tool and will be provided feedback on their submission. Subsequently, students will be tasked to conduct peer reviews of each other's papers. For the midterm, you should send your draft to the person **before** you in the Laulima mailtool. Again, your name will not appear in the list, so you will have to figure out where you fit alphabetically. When you are done with your peer review, please be sure to cc the instructor when you return the review to your fellow student via email. Please be sure to observe the dates listed for these WI activity steps listed in the course schedule below. **Please submit the final PAPERS in the laulima assignments tool** as Word attachments. **(6 pages)**.

**Note:** It isn't fair for some people to have more time to turn in assignments than others. If your paper is late, there will be three points deducted from your grade EACH DAY that it is late. It is very easy to go from an A to a B to a C very quickly. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to turn your papers in on time.

**Note:** Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Taking credit for someone else's work is a grave ethical offense. It is especially tempting to engage in this practice as busy/overworked students, but *don't*. After reading your short journals throughout the semester, I become quite proficient at discerning your writing from someone else's. If I

do find that you are engaging in this practice, you will receive an “F” for that assignment and be placed on probation in my course, where I will keep a sharp eye on your further work. Therefore, please cite your sources in an appropriate way, (see the citation for the required texts below as an example) and if you have any questions you can either ask me, refer to your library, or to any style manual you have available.

*Note: Any class is like a marathon. If you don't run the entire race, you don't get a finisher's t-shirt. The same goes for this class. If you don't do all the work, and don't attend class online, you can't expect to get a passing grade.*

### **Required Readings:**

Grabber, Doris. 2010. *Mass Media and American Politics, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Washington D.C: CQ Press.

Reading materials marked with an asterisk (\*) will be available as pdf files in the course resources section of the class at <http://laulima.hawaii.edu>.

**Class Films: You can watch these and write a journal for extra credit. They are available through interlibrary loan from the UHWO Library. They come from UH Manoa's Sinclair Library/Wong A/V Center but some are also available on Netflix and other such services.**

*Media Hype: When News Coverage Goes Too Far*

*Weapons of Mass Deception*

*The Mickey Mouse Monopoly*

*Now with Bill Moyers: John Nichols and Robert McChesney on the Media and Democracy*

*Manufacturing Consent*

*Killing Us Softly 4*

*Good Night and Good Luck*

**Course Schedule:** This schedule is not set in stone. With class consensus, we may alter it to fit our needs.

### **Week 1: Introductions and Guiding Questions (SLO 1)**

Reading: Grabber, Chapter 1

Monday, August 25

Introductions – Please post your introduction to the Welcome and Introductions Discussion Board

Wednesday, August 27

Question due to Week 1 Discussion board by midnight

Friday, August 29

Response due to Week 1 discussion board

Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

**Week 2: Lecture Topic: Historical Perspectives of Journalism: From Partisanship to Independence (SLO 2)**

Reading: Grabber, Chapter 2

Wednesday, September 3

Question due to Week 2 Discussion board by midnight

Friday, September 5

Response due to Week 2 discussion board

Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

**Week 3 Lecture Topic: The Media Marketplace (SLO 2, 3)**

Reading: Grabber, Chapter 3

Wednesday, September 10

Question due to Week 3 Discussion board by midnight

**PICK GROUP PROJECTS IN GROUP PROJECT TOPIC DISCUSSION BOARD**

*Work on group projects for the next three weeks*

Friday, September 12

Response due to Week 3 discussion board

Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

**Week 4 Lecture Topic: Reporters, Official Sources, and the Decline of Adversarial Journalism (SLO 2, 4, 5)**

Reading: Grabber, Chapter 4

*Work on Group projects for the next two weeks*

Wednesday, September 17

Question due to Week 4 Discussion board by midnight

Friday, September 19

Response due to Week 4 discussion board

Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

**Week 5 Lecture Topic: News Gathering and News Making (SLO 2, 4, 5)**

Reading: Grabber, Chapter 5

*Work on group projects this week*

Wednesday, September 24

Question due to Week 5 Discussion board by midnight

Friday, September 26  
Response due to Week 5 discussion board  
Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

**Week 6: Group Project Presentations due No Lecture (SLO 3)**  
Reading: Grabber, Chapter 6

Wednesday, October 1  
Question due to Week 6 Discussion board by midnight

Friday, October 3  
Response due to Week 6 Discussion board by midnight  
**GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS DUE** – Please post powerpoint presentations in group project topic discussion board by midnight. **NO Journals due this week**

**Week 7 Lecture Topic: Media Influences on Attitudes and Behaviors (SLO 2, 3, 4, 5)**  
Reading: Grabber, Chapter 7

Wednesday, October 8  
Question due to Week 7 Discussion board by midnight  
**PROPOSE MIDTERM PAPER TOPICS BY MIDNIGHT**

Friday, October 10  
Response due to Week 7 discussion board  
Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool  
**VOTE ON MIDTERM PAPER TOPICS IN MIDTERM PAPER TOPIC DISCUSSION BOARD BY MIDNIGHT**

**Week 8 Lecture Topic: Ownership, Regulation and Guidance of the Media (SLO 2, 4, 5)**  
Reading: Grabber, Chapter 8

Wednesday, October 15  
Question due to Week 8 Discussion board by midnight  
**Submit thesis to Assignments tool by midnight.**

Friday, October 17  
Response due to Week 8 discussion board  
Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

**Week 9 Lecture Topic: Press Freedom and the Law (SLO 2, 4, 5)**  
Reading: Grabber, Chapter 9

Wednesday, October 22

Question due to Week 9 Discussion board by midnight

Friday, October 24

Response due to Week 9 discussion board

Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

Sunday, October 26

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR PAPER DRAFT TO THE PERSON **FOLLOWING** YOU IN THE LAULIMA MAILTOOL. THE LAST PERSON IN THE ALPHABETICAL LIST MUST SEND TO THE FIRST PERSON ON THE LIST. BE SURE TO COMPLETE YOUR PEER REVIEWS **ASAP**.

**Week 10: Midterm papers due (SLO 3)**

**No Lecture**

Reading: Grabber, Chapter 10

Wednesday, October 29

Question due to Week 10 Discussion board by midnight

Friday, October 31

Response due to Week 10 Discussion board by midnight

**MIDTERM PAPERS DUE – please post to laulima assignments tool by midnight**

**NO Journals due this week**

**Week 11: Lecture Topic: The Media and Policy Makers (SLO 2, 4, 5)**

Reading: Grabber, Chapter 11. Also, please be ready for next week's reading assignment.

Wednesday, November 5

Question due to Week 11 Discussion board by midnight

PICK FINAL PAPER TOPICS BY TODAY. POST IDEAS IN FINAL PAPER TOPIC DISCUSSION BOARD. TOPICS ARE PICKED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. THE EARLIER YOU PICK, THE BETTER CHANCE YOU HAVE OF GETTING YOUR FIRST CHOICE.

Friday, November 7

Response due to Week 11 discussion board

Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

**Week 12 Lecture Topic: Advertising (SLO 2, 3, 4)**

Reading: TBD

Wednesday, November 12

Question due to Week 12 Discussion board by midnight

Friday, November 14

Response due to Week 12 discussion board  
Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

**Week 13 Lecture Topic: The Rise of New Media (SLO 2, 3, 4)**

Reading: Grabber, Chapter 12

Wednesday, November 19

Question due to Week 13 Discussion board by midnight

**PLEASE POST YOUR FINAL PAPER THESIS AND OUTLINE IN THE ASSIGNMENTS TOOL BY MIDNIGHT**

Friday, November 21

Response due to Week 13 discussion board

Journals due by midnight – post to laulima weekly assignment tool

**Week 14 Thanksgiving Holiday – No lecture**

Wednesday, November 26

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR FINAL PAPER DRAFT TO THE PERSON BEFORE YOU IN THE LAULIMA MAILTOOL. THE FIRST PERSON IN THE ALPHABETICAL LIST MUST SEND TO THE LAST PERSON ON THE LIST. BE SURE TO COMPLETE YOUR PEER REVIEWS ASAP.**

**Week 15**

**Lecture Topic: Solutions to media crises (SLO 2, 3, 4, 5)**

Reading: Find and post successful and perhaps also not so successful examples of “citizen journalism” in the special Citizen Journalism Discussion Board. Questions and Responses should be based on these posts.

Wednesday, December 3

Question due to Week 15 Discussion board by midnight

Friday, December 5

Response due to Week 15 discussion board

Journals due by midnight – post to Laulima weekly assignments tool

**Week 16: Final papers due**

Friday, December 12

**FINAL PAPERS DUE - Please post final papers to laulima assignment tool by midnight**