

POSC 4371-101
Marquette University
Media and Politics in the United States
Spring 2016
MW 2 – 3:15

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Office Hours: MW 12-2, T 9-12, F 12-1

Course Objectives:

This course will explore the role of the media in American politics, especially the influence of the media on Americans' political attitudes, beliefs, and behavior. Particular attention will be paid to the relationship between the media, the public, and government, including the formation of public policy. The course will also examine

Required Books:

News Analysis

Each student will be conducting a news analysis on an issue of their choice. This involves following media coverage of an issue in a variety of sources over a period of time, and writing an essay summarizing and analyzing your findings. Specific requirements will be distributed in class. Also, in addition to the hard copy of the essay that is turned in to the instructor, students are required to electronically submit their essays to D2L.

The News Analysis is due Monday, November 21, 2011, 11:59 PM. It is located in the D2L course shell.

For more information, please contact your instructor.

Thank you for your attention to this assignment.

Best regards,

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Those who are involved in university sanctioned activities should submit a schedule of anticipated absences within the first 2 weeks of class, and also come talk to the instructor well in advance of any other university sanctioned activity that will result in a missed assignment/quiz/exam.

Incidents of academic dishonesty, such as cheating, dishonest conduct, or plagiarism will be punished to

the fullest extent allowed by Marquette University policy.

Grading Scale:

93-100	A
88-92	A/B
83-87	B
78-82	B-
73-77	C
69-72	C/D
61-68	D
60 and below	F

Course Schedule

Wed., Jan. 20 – Course Introduction

Mon., Jan. 25 – Overview of Media and Politics in the U.S
Media Politics, “Image is Everything” Ch. 1

Wed., Feb. 3 - Press Freedom

“Terrorism, Censorship, and the First Amendment,” (D2L)

“Julian Assange and the New Wave,” *The Economist*, 7/2011 (D2L)

“Government Phone Surveillance for Dummies,” *The Atlantic*, June 2013 (D2L)

“Legislative Protection of News Sources: the Constitution Privilege and its Limits,” *Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press* (D2L)

Media Effects Research and Theory

Mon. Feb. 8 – News and Public Opinion

Media Politics, “News and Public Opinion” Ch. 8

“Models of Media Influence” (D2L) <http://publ>

“What you know depends on what you watch: Current events knowledge across popular news sources,” Fairleigh Dickinson University, 2012. icmind.fdu.edu/2012/confirmed/

Quiz #2

Wed., Feb. 10 – Media Consumption and Knowledge

Mon., Feb. 29 – What gets Reported

Media Politics Ch. 3, pp. 65-89

“A \$34 Million Waste of the Taxpayers’ Money in Afghanistan,” NPR -

<https://www.npr.org/blog/thetwo-way/2012/07/11/201105870/a-34-million-waste-of-the-taxpayers>

- listen to audio before class

Mon., Apr. 4 – Advertising

Media Politics, Ch. 6 pp. 160-180

“In Defense of Negativity,” John Geer (D2L)

Quiz #7

Wed., Apr. 6 - Campaign Finance

Media Politics, “Campaigning through the Media” Ch.6 pp. 181-186

“Outside Group Campaign Advertising: The Money Behind the Scenes”

[REDACTED]

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Voters (D2L)

Trevor Potter on The Colbert Report – video in class

Mon., Apr. 11 – Candidates and Communication Skills

Media Politics, Campaigning through the Media,” Ch. 6 pp. 186-190

“McKinley’s Front Porch Campaign,” William Harpine (D2L)

Wed., May 4 - Evaluating Media Politics
Media Politics Ch. 11 in its entirety

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE IN WWP 484 ON WE

