

## Syllabus

### *PS 415/515 Politics and the Media: Cultural Representations of Politics*

*Winter 2015, OSU, BEXL 328, MW 0800-0930*

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1.	Course Introduction .....	1
2.	Course Philosophy.....	2
3.	Schedule.....	3
4.	Bibliography of Required Texts .....	9
5.	Course Assignments and Grading .....	11
6.	Final Grade Distribution .....	14
7.	Student Learning Outcomes.....	15
8.	Course Policy .....	16
9.	General Argumentation Rules (for Presentations and Papers) .....	17
10.	Students with Disabilities .....	17
11.	Student Conduct.....	17
12.	Appendix I: Presentation Guidelines .....	18
13.	Appendix II: Citation Guide MLA .....	20
14.	Appendix III: Citation Guide APA.....	21

### **1. Course Introduction**

For most citizens, access to politics is primarily mediated through various forms of communication and representation: be they newspapers, radio, television, films, web sites, blogs, facebook, etc.: In order to access political knowledge and to gain knowledge over politics, these media need to be consulted, consciously or subconsciously.

This course analyses various forms of cultural representations of politics in different media. First, we will discuss some theories of media and representation, and then apply these theories to different media examples. Students are provided with a selection of such examples, but are required to find some source materials of their own.

## 2. Course Philosophy

The **main objective** of this course is to foster critical thinking on the basis of increased domain knowledge and advanced theoretical reflections on the topic of the class. The readings offered are academic articles or political documents. Students are required to conduct own research and participate actively in the discussion in order to create a peer learning community.

**Assignments** in this class are meant to develop student research and discussion on the topic. These are the assignments:

1. Ongoing assignment: active participation in the discussion. Graded will be the extent of activity, but not its content.
2. Presentation of an assigned text (due depending on when the text is scheduled).
3. Midterm response paper that collects preliminary ideas for student research.
4. Presentation of preliminary research ideas to class towards the end of term, in order to gather peer and instructor feedback for final research paper.
5. Final research paper, based on research presentation.

Typically, **following all instructions** will lead to successful participation in class. For more detail, see below for the schedule, as well as on p. 11 for descriptions of assignments, and p. 15 for student learning outcomes.

Over the years, I have seen that whenever there is a strong instructor presence in a discussion board, **student participation in the discussions** goes down. Therefore I will limit my contributions in the discussion forum. I will read student entries and respond whenever I feel there is a need to correct something or add a perspective that has not been addressed so far, or when discussion participation is low. But the main point of the discussion board is student peer discussion, and not overwhelming instructor input.

For every assignment posted in the discussion board (text presentation, research presentation), there is also a mandatory **Q&A** component. I will wait a while till I grade such assignment to incorporate how the presenter handles peer responses.

Please send all other assignments (response paper, final) to the instructor via **e-mail** directly, to preempt technical issues with the online class system.

If you feel you need **additional feedback** about how you are doing in class, do not hesitate to talk to me or write me an e-mail. Usually, if you are participating regularly, and turn in all the required assignments on time and are following instructions, you will be successful in this class.

You are required to **read this syllabus in full**. Please direct any questions directly to the instructor in person or via e-mail.

### 3. Schedule

#### UNIT 1: MEDIA AND ITS COMPLICATIONS

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Politics is usually perceived indirectly, mediated through cultural representations that can take many forms. We will begin our journey with an overview of theories that embed political ideas in culture, and that see culture as eminently political.

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##### ***Week 1: Theories of Culture***

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###### ***Session 1.1: Monday, Jan 5, 2015***

Introduction to the Seminar, Identification of Key Issues, Initial Discussion

Introduction of Texts; Class Policies

You select which texts to present till Wednesday

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###### ***Session 1.2: Wednesday, Jan 7, 2015***

Introduction: What is Culture? What are Media? What are Representations?

###### ***Guiding Discussion Questions:***

What is Culture? What is a Representation?

How is politics represented in culture?

Why is it relevant to analyze this?

Write your first introductory discussion points

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##### ***Week 2: Representations as Ideology***

###### ***Guiding Discussion Questions:***

How are representations ideological?

Which representations and media are ideological, which are not?

What does ideology mean – what does it do?

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###### ***Session 2.1: Monday, Jan 12, 2015***

2.01 Assmann, Jan. "Collective Memory and Cultural Identity." *New German Critique* 65 (Spring/Summer 1995): 125-133.

2.02 Nye, Joseph. "Soft Power." *Foreign Policy* 80 (Autumn 1990): 153-171.

### **Session 2.2: Wednesday, Jan 14, 2015**

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- 2.03 Adorno, Theodor W., Anson G. Rabinbach. "Culture Industry Reconsidered." *New German Critique* 6 (Autumn, 1975): 12-19.
- 2.04 White, Hayden. "The Value of Narrativity in the Representation of Reality." *Critical Inquiry* 7:1 (Autumn, 1980): 5-27.

### **Week 3: Theories of Media**

#### **Guiding Discussion Questions:**

What are Media?

How can we read them?

Develop thoughts on your response paper on "Reading Culture as Politics" due Week 5

### **Session 3.1: Monday, Jan 19, 2015**

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no session - MLK Day

### **Session 3.2: Wednesday, Jan 21, 2015**

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- 3.01 Plato's Theories of Politics, Media and Representation. Excerpts from the *Republic* and *Phaedrus*.
- 3.02 Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London, New York: Verso, 1983. 1-46.
- 3.03 Bellah, Robert N. "Civil Religion in America." *Dædalus* 96:1 (Winter 1967): 1-21. Retrieved from: [http://www.robertbellah.com/articles\\_5.htm](http://www.robertbellah.com/articles_5.htm) (05/10/2013).  
and Bill Moyers interview:  
[http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/archives/bellahwoi\\_flash.html](http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/archives/bellahwoi_flash.html)

### **Week 4: Theories of Media and Technology**

#### **Guiding Discussion Questions:**

Media discussion will be continued.

How does technology influence media, ideas, and society?

### **Session 4.1: Monday, Jan 26, 2015**

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- 4.01 Kellner, Douglas M., Meenakshi Gigi Durham. "Adventures in Media and Cultural Studies: Introducing the KeyWorks." In: Kellner, Douglas M., Meenakshi Gigi Durham, eds. *Media and Cultural Studies. KeyWorks*. London: Blackwell, 2006. ix- xxxviii.
- 4.02 McLuhan, Marshall. "The Playboy Interview." *Playboy Magazine* (March 1969). Retrieved from <http://www.digitallantern.net/mcluhan/mcluhanplayboy.htm> (05/10/2013).

- 4.03 Federman, M. "What is the Meaning of the Medium is the Message?" (2004). Retrieved from <http://individual.utoronto.ca/markfederman/MeaningTheMediumistheMessage.pdf>. (05/10/2013).

#### ***Session 4.2: Wednesday, Jan 28, 2015***

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- 4.04 Postman, Neil. "Amusing Ourselves to Death." Address at 1984 Frankfurt Book Fair. Retrieved from <http://www.suu.edu/honors/Amusing%20Ourselves.pdf>. (05/10/2013).
- \_\_\_ . "The Information Age: A Blessing or a Curse?" *The Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics* 9:2 (2004): 3-10.
- \_\_\_ . "Five Things We Need to Know About Technological Change." Talk delivered in Denver Colorado , March 28, 1998.
- 4.05 Poster, Mark. "Global Media and Culture." *New Literary History* 39 (2008): 685-703.

## **UNIT 2: STUDENT RESEARCH**

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Now that the theoretical background has become clearer, we will investigate how to read representations as political, and how to read how politics is represented in media. While we will talk about some specific representations, students will identify own examples to analyze.

### ***Week 5: How to "Read" a Representation / Student Research & Discussion***

#### ***Guiding Discussion Questions:***

How do we read representations as political?

How do we read how politics is represented in the media?

Identify examples to discuss and analyze, and share that process online

**[Response Paper "Analyzing Media" due Monday, Feb 2, till 8PM PT via e-mail to philipp.kneis@oregonstate.edu](mailto:philipp.kneis@oregonstate.edu)**

Continue with the discussion

#### ***Session 5.1: Monday, Feb 2, 2015***

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- 5.01 Murfin, Ross C., Johanna M. Smith. "What Is Cultural Criticism?" In: Murfin, Ross C., ed. *Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism: Heart of Darkness*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1996. Retrieved from <http://www.usask.ca/english/frank/cultint.htm>. (05/10/2013).
- 5.02 Barthes, Roland. "The Death of the Author." In: *Image – Music – Text*. Trans. Stephen Heath. New York: Hill and Wang, 1977. 142-148.

### **Session 5.2: Wednesday, Feb 4, 2015**

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- 5.03 Habermas, J., Sara Lennox, and Frank Lennox. "The Public Sphere: An Encyclopedia Article." *New German Critique* 3 (Autumn, 1974): 49-55.
- 5.04 Papacharissi, Zizi. "The Virtual Sphere: The Internet as a Public Sphere." *New Media Society* 4:9 (2002): 9-27.

### **Week 6: News Media**

#### **Guiding Discussion Questions:**

How objective can news be?

How has the understanding of news changed in the last decade?

### **Session 6.1: Monday, Feb 9, 2015**

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- 6.01 Baum, Matthew A., Yuri M. Zhukov. "What Determines the News About Foreign Policy? Newspaper Ownership, Crisis Dynamics and the 2011 Libyan Uprising." Paper prepared for 2012 *International Studies Association* Annual Meeting San Diego, CA, April 4, 2012.
- 6.02 Colletta, Lisa. "Political Satire and Postmodern Irony in the Age of Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart." *The Journal of Popular Culture* 42:5 (2009): 856-874.

### **Session 6.2: Wednesday, Feb 11, 2015**

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- 6.03 Baumgartner, Jody C., Jonathan S. Morris. "MyFaceTube Politics: Social Networking Web Sites and Political Engagement of Young Adults." *Social Science Computer Review* 28:24 (2010): 24-44.
- 6.04 Bennett, W. Lance. "The Personalization of Politics: Political Identity, Social Media, and Changing Patterns of Participation." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 644: 20 (2012): 20-39.

### **Week 7: Case Studies**

#### **Activities:**

Read at least 4 out of the suggested texts, and share your thoughts on them online, and in class

Identify examples you have found on your own (news, film, television, online) to discuss and analyze, and share that process online and in class

Develop ideas for your own research

**Session 7.1 and 7.2: Monday, Feb 16, 2015 and Wednesday, Feb 18, 2015**

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Gender Politics in the Media

- 7.01 Hatfield, Elizabeth Fish. "What it Means to Be a Man': Examining Hegemonic Masculinity in Two and a Half Men." *Communication, Culture & Critique* 3 (2010): 526–548.
- 7.02 Beyer, Sandra. "A Utopia for Conservatives and Real Men: Sexual Politics and Gendered Relations in *Star Trek*." In: Antje Dallmann, Reinhard Isensee, Philipp Kneis (Eds.) *Envisioning American Utopias. Fictions of Science and Politics in Literature and Visual Culture*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2011. 143–162.
- 7.03 Mizejewski, Linda. "Feminism, Postfeminism, Liz Lemonism. Comedy and Gender Politics on *30 Rock*." *Genders OnLine Journal* 55 (2012). [www.genders.org/g55/g55\\_mizejewski.html](http://www.genders.org/g55/g55_mizejewski.html) (Retrieved 2013/11/24).

Political Utopias:

- 7.04 Eco, Umberto. "The Myth of Superman: The Amazing Adventures of Superman." *Diacritics* 2.1 (Spring, 1972): 14–22.
- 7.05 Kneis, Philipp. "Finding Atlantis Instead of Utopia: From Plato to Starfleet and Stargate Command." In: Antje Dallmann, Reinhard Isensee, Philipp Kneis (Eds.) *Envisioning American Utopias. Fictions of Science and Politics in Literature and Visual Culture*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2011. 79–102.
- 7.06 Kneis, Philipp. "Barbarians at the Gate: (Ig)Noble Savages and Manifest Destiny at the Final Frontier." In: Antje Dallmann, Reinhard Isensee, Philipp Kneis (Eds.) *Envisioning American Utopias. Fictions of Science and Politics in Literature and Visual Culture*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2011. 103–128.
- 7.07 Kneis, Philipp. "Communicating Democracy: Entering the American Republic through *The West Wing* or the *Commander in Chief*." In: Antje Dallmann, Reinhard Isensee, Philipp Kneis (Eds.) *Picturing America. Trauma, Realism, Politics and Identity in American Visual Culture*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2007. 131–149.
- 7.08 Campbell, Joseph. *The Hero With a Thousand Faces* (1949) – see overviews at <http://web.archive.org/web/20090219134358/http://skepticfiles.org/atheist2/hero.htm>; <http://www.moongadget.com/origins/myth.html>  
see also: Interviews with Bill Moyers: <http://billmoyers.com/spotlight/download-joseph-campbell-and-the-power-of-myth-audio/>

Social Commentary

- 7.09 Penfold-Mounce, Ruth, David Beer, Roger Burrows. "The Wire as Social Science-Fiction?" *Sociology* 45:152 (2011): 152-167.
- 7.10 Chaddha, Anmol, William Julius Wilson. "'Way Down in the Hole': Systemic Urban Inequality and The Wire." *Critical Inquiry* 38:1 (2011): 1–23.

- 7.11 Žižek, Slavoj. "Jack Bauer and the Ethics of Urgency." *In These Times* 01/27/2006.  
[http://inthesetimes.com/article/2481/jack\\_bauer\\_and\\_the\\_ethics\\_of\\_urgency](http://inthesetimes.com/article/2481/jack_bauer_and_the_ethics_of_urgency) (Retrieved 11/24/2013).
- 7.12 Žižek, Slavoj. "The depraved heroes of 24 are the Himmlers of Hollywood." *Guardian* 01/10/2006.

***Week 8: Student Research & Discussion; Research Presentations***

***Session 8.1: Monday, Feb 23, 2015***

Continue to identify examples of your own to discuss and analyze, and share that process online and in class

Class Discussion

***Session 8.2: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2015***

Present your own research

Continue with the discussion

**UNIT 3: PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH**

***Week 9: Research Presentations, Mar 3-8***

***Session 9.1 and 9.2: Monday, Mar 2, 2015 and Wednesday, Mar 4, 2015***

Present your own research

Continue with the discussion

***Week 10: Own Research, Mar 10-15 (Dead Week)***

***Session 10.1 and 10.2: Monday, Mar 9, 2015 and Wednesday, Mar 11, 2015***

Conduct your own research, write the final research paper

***Week 11: Paper Done (Finals Week)***

**[Send in Final Research Paper by Monday, Mar 16, 8 PM PT via e-mail to philipp.kneis@oregonstate.edu](#)**

## 4. Bibliography of Required Texts

See Blackboard for further reading assignments.

<u>Week.Text#</u>	<u>Texts in alphabetical order</u>
2.03	Adorno, Theodor W., Anson G. Rabinbach. "Culture Industry Reconsidered." <i>New German Critique</i> 6 (Autumn, 1975): 12-19.
3.02	Anderson, Benedict. <i>Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism</i> . London, New York: Verso, 1983. 1-46.
2.01	Assmann, Jan. "Collective Memory and Cultural Identity." <i>New German Critique</i> 65 (Spring/Summer 1995): 125-133.
5.02	Barthes, Roland. "The Death of the Author." In: <i>Image – Music – Text</i> . Trans. Stephen Heath. New York: Hill and Wang, 1977. 142-148.
6.01	Baum, Matthew A., Yuri M. Zhukov. "What Determines the News About Foreign Policy? Newspaper Ownership, Crisis Dynamics and the 2011 Libyan Uprising." Paper prepared for 2012 <i>International Studies Association Annual Meeting</i> San Diego, CA, April 4, 2012.
6.03	Baumgartner, Jody C., Jonathan S. Morris. "MyFaceTube Politics: Social Networking Web Sites and Political Engagement of Young Adults." <i>Social Science Computer Review</i> 28:24 (2010): 24-44.
3.03	Bellah, Robert N. "Civil Religion in America." <i>Dædalus</i> 96:1 (Winter 1967): 1-21. Retrieved from: <a href="http://www.robertbellah.com/articles_5.htm">http://www.robertbellah.com/articles_5.htm</a> (05/10/2013). and Bill Moyers interview: <a href="http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/archives/bellahwoi_flash.html">http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/archives/bellahwoi_flash.html</a>
6.04	Bennett, W. Lance. "The Personalization of Politics: Political Identity, Social Media, and Changing Patterns of Participation." <i>The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 644: 20 (2012): 20-39.
7.02	Beyer, Sandra. "A Utopia for Conservatives and Real Men: Sexual Politics and Gendered Relations in <i>Star Trek</i> ." In: Antje Dallmann, Reinhard Isensee, Philipp Kneis (Eds.) <i>Envisioning American Utopias. Fictions of Science and Politics in Literature and Visual Culture</i> . Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2011. 143-162.
7.08	Campbell, Joseph. <i>The Hero With a Thousand Faces</i> (1949) – see overviews at <a href="http://web.archive.org/web/20090219134358/http://skepticalfiles.org/atheist2/hero.htm">http://web.archive.org/web/20090219134358/http://skepticalfiles.org/atheist2/hero.htm</a> ; <a href="http://www.moongadget.com/origins/myth.html">http://www.moongadget.com/origins/myth.html</a> see also: Interviews with Bill Moyers: <a href="http://billmoyers.com/spotlight/download-joseph-campbell-and-the-power-of-myth-audio/">http://billmoyers.com/spotlight/download-joseph-campbell-and-the-power-of-myth-audio/</a>
7.10	Chaddha, Anmol, William Julius Wilson. "'Way Down in the Hole': Systemic Urban Inequality and The Wire." <i>Critical Inquiry</i> 38:1 (2011): 1-23.
6.02	Colletta, Lisa. "Political Satire and Postmodern Irony in the Age of Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart." <i>The Journal of Popular Culture</i> 42:5 (2009): 856-874.
7.04	Eco, Umberto. "The Myth of Superman: The Amazing Adventures of Superman." <i>Diacritics</i> 2.1 (Spring, 1972): 14-22.
4.03	Federman, M. "What is the Meaning of the Medium is the Message?" (2004). Retrieved from <a href="http://individual.utoronto.ca/markfederman/MeaningTheMediumistheMessage.pdf">http://individual.utoronto.ca/markfederman/MeaningTheMediumistheMessage.pdf</a> . (05/10/2013).
5.03	Habermas, J., Sara Lennox, and Frank Lennox. "The Public Sphere: An Encyclopedia Article." <i>New German Critique</i> 3 (Autumn, 1974): 49-55.
7.01	Hatfield, Elizabeth Fish. "'What it Means to Be a Man': Examining Hegemonic Masculinity in Two and a Half Men." <i>Communication, Culture &amp; Critique</i> 3 (2010): 526-548.
4.01	Kellner, Douglas M., Meenakshi Gigi Durham. "Adventures in Media and Cultural Studies: Introducing the KeyWorks." In: Kellner, Douglas M., Meenakshi Gigi Durham, eds. <i>Media and Cultural Studies. KeyWorks</i> . London: Blackwell, 2006. ix- xxxviii.

- 7.06 Kneis, Philipp. "Barbarians at the Gate: (Ig)Noble Savages and Manifest Destiny at the Final Frontier." In: Antje Dallmann, Reinhard Isensee, Philipp Kneis (Eds.) *Envisioning American Utopias. Fictions of Science and Politics in Literature and Visual Culture*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2011. 103–128.
- 7.05 Kneis, Philipp. "Finding Atlantis Instead of Utopia: From Plato to Starfleet and Stargate Command." In: Antje Dallmann, Reinhard Isensee, Philipp Kneis (Eds.) *Envisioning American Utopias. Fictions of Science and Politics in Literature and Visual Culture*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2011. 79–102.
- 7.07 Kneis, Philipp. "Communicating Democracy: Entering the American Republic through *The West Wing* or the *Commander in Chief*." In: Antje Dallmann, Reinhard Isensee, Philipp Kneis (Eds.) *Picturing America. Trauma, Realism, Politics and Identity in American Visual Culture*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2007. 131–149.
- 4.02 McLuhan, Marshall. "The Playboy Interview." *Playboy Magazine* (March 1969). Retrieved from <http://www.digitallantern.net/mcluhan/mcluhanplayboy.htm> (05/10/2013).
- 7.03 Mizejewski, Linda. "Feminism, Postfeminism, Liz Lemonism. Comedy and Gender Politics on *30 Rock*." *Genders OnLine Journal* 55 (2012). [www.genders.org/g55/g55\\_mizejewski.html](http://www.genders.org/g55/g55_mizejewski.html) (Retrieved 2013/11/24).
- 5.01 Murfin, Ross C., Johanna M. Smith. "What Is Cultural Criticism?" In: Murfin, Ross C., ed. *Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism: Heart of Darkness*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1996. Retrieved from <http://www.usask.ca/english/frank/cultint.htm>. (05/10/2013).
- 2.02 Nye, Joseph. "Soft Power." *Foreign Policy* 80 (Autumn 1990): 153-171.
- 5.04 Papacharissi, Zizi. "The Virtual Sphere: The Internet as a Public Sphere." *New Media Society* 4:9 (2002): 9-27.
- 7.09 Penfold-Mounce, Ruth, David Beer, Roger Burrows. "The Wire as Social Science-Fiction?" *Sociology* 45:152 (2011): 152-167.
- 3.01 Plato's Theories of Politics, Media and Representation. Excerpts from the *Republic* and *Phaedrus*.
- 4.05 Poster, Mark. "Global Media and Culture." *New Literary History* 39 (2008): 685-703.
- 4.04 Postman, Neil. "Amusing Ourselves to Death." Address at 1984 Frankfurt Book Fair. Retrieved from <http://www.suu.edu/honors/Amusing%20Ourselves.pdf>. (05/10/2013).
- \_\_\_ "The Information Age: A Blessing or a Curse?" *The Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics* 9:2 (2004): 3-10.
- \_\_\_ "Five Things We Need to Know About Technological Change." Talk delivered in Denver Colorado, March 28, 1998.
- 2.04 White, Hayden. "The Value of Narrativity in the Representation of Reality." *Critical Inquiry* 7:1 (Autumn, 1980): 5-27.
- 7.11 Žižek, Slavoj. "Jack Bauer and the Ethics of Urgency." *In These Times* 01/27/2006. [http://inthesetimes.com/article/2481/jack\\_bauer\\_and\\_the\\_ethics\\_of\\_urgency](http://inthesetimes.com/article/2481/jack_bauer_and_the_ethics_of_urgency) (Retrieved 11/24/2013).
- 7.12 Žižek, Slavoj. "The depraved heroes of 24 are the Himmlers of Hollywood." *Guardian* 01/10/2006.

## 5. Course Assignments and Grading

### General Remarks:

- All these assignments are **submitted in writing**. The two presentations have to be submitted to the entire class via the discussion forum (upload as PDF), the response and research paper are only sent to the instructor via e-mail (if you do not receive a confirmation that I have received it within 2 business days, please tell me).
- You are expected to use correct English. If there too many mistakes, text understanding may suffer, and you may also be downgraded for complexity. Perform a spell-check (not just via the computer!).
- Pages have to be numbered.
- Text formatting for **all** assignments except discussion posts: 12 point Times, 1.5-spaced, 1 in. margins. Include your name, assignment type, and date in the first line, second line title in bold, one free line, then the text, then works cited, such as:

Name, First Name: Text Presentation, MM/DD/YYYY

**Title of Your Presentation (either a topical title, or “Presentation on the Text by N.N.”)**

Text (of the length specified)

#### **Works Cited**

List the works you cited, either APA or MLA style

### Researching Articles and Books:

- Any materials you find for use in your own research should be coming from **academic journals or books**. You may also use original sources (media examples), but need to find 2 research articles minimum.
- Research articles or books are basically distinguished from other materials in that they do not primarily focus on exposition but on **analysis**, and on commenting on other research. **The articles chosen for this class are supposed to serve as examples.**
- You can find such materials, for instance, through the use of Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>). Library catalogs will be available to you as well.
- News sources and statistics can be used – but only to supplement research articles, not to replace them.
- Internet sources are good if they are of a scholarly nature.
- Wikipedia can be a good starting point for research – it is never its ultimate end!

### Explanation of individual assignments:

<p># 1. <b><u>Discussion Board (10 points / 20%).</u></b> <b><u>Due Regularly</u></b></p>
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Students will have to participate regularly in the Blackboard discussion board.

#### ***Additional Guidelines:***

- **Introduce yourself initially** to Blackboard by saying who you are, what your study interests are, and whatever else you would like people to know about yourself.
- Discussions will be graded in terms of frequency of participation and quality of your contributions. Students need to participate on at least 2-3 days per week.
- You then need to write **at least 10 posts for blackboard of substantial length and quality**. Quality posts are those that are substantial in content and indicate that the student is engaged with the course readings and content (i.e. posts are not “off the top of your head,” but rather demonstrate that you have completed and understood the course readings). Such post cannot just be brief responses of twitter length, or a mere link, but have to be contributions for discussion of at least 2 paragraphs of length which open up a possible discussion topic and/or discuss or introduce a topic and/or provide a thoughtful response to a post opened by someone else earlier.
- You are **also expected to respond in other ways**, by briefly commenting on other people’s comments. These will not be graded, as they are part of the class conversation.

#### ***Grading: 10 points total***

- 1 point per post, but only a maximum of 10 points.

<p># 2. <b><u>Presentation of one assigned text (5 points / 10%).</u></b> <b><u>Due depending on when the text is assigned</u></b></p>
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In the beginning of the quarter, the texts will be distributed amongst all participants. The presentation should introduce the main arguments of the text and briefly explain the historical background. The length of the presentation should be **approx. 1 page of text**. Presenters will then also be responsible for facilitating the class discourse by being the experts on the text. Whether you are presenting or not, **everybody is required to read all the texts**, unless they are marked as additional. You may upload texts as separate documents, or post in the forum. Mark it as “Text Presentation”.

#### ***Additional Guidelines:***

- You are the expert on the text. You can assume everyone else has read the text as well (they should). Nevertheless, recap the major arguments of the text.
- None of the texts holds absolute truth. All of them are written from a specific point of view, with which you may agree or disagree. If you voice any such judgment, you need to provide reasons.
- Prepare up to 2 questions for class discussion.
- For general remarks, see the presentation guidelines in Appendix I, page 17.

**Grading: 5 points total**

- complexity of the argument (3 points)
- correct rendition of the text's argument (½ point)
- correct citations (½ point)
- clarity and correctness of writing (½ point)
- handling your responses to questions in the discussion (½ point)

**# 3. Midterm Response Paper (10 points / 20%).**

**Due Monday of Week 5, 8 PM Pacific Time**

This is an opinion piece which is based upon the seminar readings and discussions, and can already prepare ideas for your research. You are supposed to develop a thesis in the beginning, and then develop arguments in support of the thesis, but also hint at possible counterarguments. You do not need to find additional research articles or books. Standard citation methods apply. The paper should be **approx. 2 pages** of text (12 point Times, 1.5-spaced, 1 in. margins) plus bibliography.

**Grading: 10 points total**

- 5 points for complexity of the argument
- 2 points for correct bibliography and correct citation (choose either MLA or APA, see Appendices II and III, page 20, and stick to one method throughout your paper).
- 1 point for spelling and language
- 1 point for structure
- 1 point for fulfilling formal criteria (formatting, length, etc.)
- Penalties for turning it in later: Same day but late: -½ a point; then -1 point per day

**# 4. Research Presentation (10 points / 20%).**

**Due Anytime During Week 9**

Students will present a topic of their own choice to the entire class. The presentation should be **2 pages of text and a PowerPoint (up to 10 slides)**. The presentation should ideally be a preparation for the final research paper. You are expected to find 3 scholarly sources for your research that are not part of the assigned reading in class.

**Additional Guidelines:**

- Find your own topic, and discuss it with the instructor in beforehand via e-mail.
- Find a minimum of 3 new scholarly articles for your research.
- Justify why you think your topic is of relevance.
- Put your own topic into its proper historical and/or political context.
- Structure your argument clearly.
- Prepare up to 3 questions for class discussion.
- For general remarks, see the presentation guidelines in Appendix I, page 17.

**Grading: 10 points total**

- complexity of the argument (5 points)
- correct rendition of the your argument (1 point)
- additional scholarly sources (3 points)

- clarity and correctness of writing (½ point)
- handling your responses to questions in the discussion (½ point)

**# 5. Final Research Paper on a topic of your own choice (15 points / 30%).**  
**Due Monday of Week 11, 8 PM Pacific Time**

This research paper can be based on the preceding research presentation. Unlike the response paper, your focus has to be on analysis rather than on opinion. You are supposed to develop a thesis in the beginning, and then develop arguments in support of the thesis, but also hint at possible counterarguments. You need to use at least 2 of the texts discussed throughout the seminar, and to find at least 3 additional scholarly research articles or books. Standard citation methods apply. The paper should be a minimum of **5 pages of text**, no more than 6 (12 point Times, 1.5-spaced, 1 in. margins) plus bibliography in addition to the allotted pages.

**Grading: 15 points total**

- 5 points for complexity of the argument
- 2 points for correct bibliography and correct citation (choose either MLA or APA, see Appendices II and III, page 20, and stick to one method throughout your paper).
- 1 point for spelling and language
- 1 point for structure
- 1 point for fulfilling formal criteria (formatting, length, etc.)
- 1 point per cited article or book that was assigned for class (up to 2 points)
- 1 point per cited article or book that you individually researched (up to 3 points)
- Penalties for turning it in later: Same day but late: -½ a point; then -1 point per day

**6. Final Grade Distribution**

Maximum possible points: 50 points

1. Discussion Board: 10 points
2. Text Presentation: 5 points
3. Response Paper: 10 points
4. Research Presentation: 10 points
5. Research Paper: 15 points

<b>A</b>	95%	to under or equal	100%	47.5	to under or equal	50	points
<b>A-</b>	90%	to under	95%	45	to under	47.5	points
<b>B+</b>	87%	to under	90%	43.5	to under	45	points
<b>B</b>	83%	to under	87%	41.5	to under	43.5	points
<b>B-</b>	80%	to under	83%	40	to under	41.5	points
<b>C+</b>	77%	to under	80%	38.5	to under	40	points
<b>C</b>	73%	to under	77%	36.5	to under	38.5	points
<b>C-</b>	70%	to under	73%	35	to under	36.5	points
<b>D+</b>	67%	to under	70%	33.5	to under	35	points
<b>D</b>	63%	to under	67%	31.5	to under	33.5	points
<b>D-</b>	60%	to under	63%	30	to under	31.5	points
<b>F</b>	0%	to under	60%	0	to under	30	points

## 7. Student Learning Outcomes

The course seeks to develop in students...

- an understanding of the central issues relevant to representations of politics in various forms, which includes knowledge in media theory, political science theory and cultural studies, and is measured through coursework (PS Learning Outcomes 2+3; MPP Learning Outcome 2)
- an interdisciplinary outlook, combining methods of political science, media theory and cultural studies, which is measured through coursework (PS Learning Outcomes 1+3; MPP Learning Outcome 4)
- an understanding of the necessity to theorize culture and politics, and to apply different theoretical models to different circumstances, which is measured through coursework
- the ability to present the basic argument of a scholarly text and use it as a resource, which is measured through coursework (PS Learning Outcomes 1+3; MPP Learning Outcome 1)
- the ability to work collaboratively and collegially, which is measured through coursework (PS Learning Outcome 4; MPP Learning Outcomes 5, 7)
- the ability to develop own scholarly approaches to a topic, and to conduct own research and write a response paper based upon what was discussed in class, and the student's own research interest, which is measured through coursework and the public presentation (PS Learning Outcome 4; MPP Learning Outcome 1)
- the ability to hold a presentation in a seminar (PS Learning Outcome 4; MPP Learning Outcome 5)
- the ability conduct serious and original research following ethical guidelines, which is measured through coursework (PS Learning Outcome 4; MPP Learning Outcome 6)

(PS Learning Outcomes: <http://oregonstate.edu/cla/polisci/political-science-learning-outcomes>;  
MPP Learning Outcomes: <http://oregonstate.edu/cla/mpp/mpp-learning-outcomes>)

## 8. Course Policy

- **Regular participation** in the online discussions and class activities is mandatory. Students should be prepared to log in to participate in the online course on at least two days per week, starting no later than Wednesday each week. They are required to read all course materials, and to also conduct further research on their own.
- If for whatever reason you cannot complete assignments on time, please **let me know in advance if problems arise**, and we will work together to find a solution.
- A seminar thrives on the regular participation of every single member of the group. You are expected to participate actively in the discussions, and you should feel free to do so. **This is a place to learn, not a place to be perfect.** You do not need to be intimidated. Everyone is in the same boat.
- **Respect your fellow students.**
- If somebody makes a mistake, be patient and understanding. Focus any **critique** on the argument and the issue, not about the person.
- People are indeed able to **see things differently**, even though they have the same facts.
- During the course there may be some unforeseen circumstances which arise that alter the schedule below. In this case it will be YOUR responsibility to **monitor announcements** to find out what those adjustments might be.
- This is a **living syllabus**, it may be subject to change.
- If you are experiencing problems with this course, its content, the readings, my teaching style, I strongly encourage you to **raise your concerns at the earliest possible moment via e-mail, or by appointment** also via phone, Skype, or in person if possible.
- To fully understand **student conduct expectations** (definitions and consequences of plagiarism, cheating, etc.), see [oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses](http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses).
- Language skills should not distract from your message. I do not grade language and style per se, but if writing mistakes distract too much from your argument, so that any reasonable reader would have difficulties understanding it, your grade may be affected. Writing is difficult for everyone, and takes years of practice and skill. Feel free to ask for help if you feel that your writing needs improvement. The **Writing Center** provides students with a free consulting service for their writing assignments, see <http://cwl.oregonstate.edu/owl.php>.
- In the case that I feel **attendance and reading progress** are below reasonable expectations, I reserve the right to do a quiz in order to check on reading progress. These would have 2 questions. If every question is answered correctly, your total point balance will be unaffected. Any question answered wrongly (or not at all) will downgrade your total points by -0.25 points. You can avoid such tests if everybody attends regularly, participates actively, and does their reading.

## 9. General Argumentation Rules (for Presentations and Papers)

- If you refer to somebody or a text, always provide a detailed source. Never say “As Aristotle has said, ...” but provide a concrete source. You will find that many quotes are continually misattributed. Do the research.
- Be respectful of others’ opinions and arguments, no matter how harshly you may disagree. Any criticism must be aimed at the argument or subject matter (“*argumentum ad rem*”), not at the person (“*argumentum ad hominem*”).
- If you disagree with a certain position, make sure you represent it accurately in all its scope, and not as a distorted caricature (“straw man argument”).
- Base your argument on a solid database, not just on your own experiences or things you have heard (“anecdotal evidence”).
- Just because a famous or influential person made a certain argument, does not automatically provide it with legitimacy (“argument from authority”).
- Just because something occurs in nature, does not make it good (“naturalistic fallacy”).
- See also: [www.fallacyfiles.org](http://www.fallacyfiles.org)

## 10. Students with Disabilities

Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our [Getting Started with DAS](http://ds.oregonstate.edu/getting-started-das) page at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu/getting-started-das>).

## 11. Student Conduct

Please review and adhere to the Expectations for Student Conduct, as posted on [oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses](http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses).

## 12. Appendix I: Presentation Guidelines

### 12.1. When Introducing a Text

*These questions need not be answered verbatim or in that order– but address them or be kept in mind.*

- What is it about?
- Who is the author? (relevant if important person of history -- but no extended biographies)
- What is the context?
- What is the line of argument?
- What are the theoretical assumptions? Does the text speak to a specific school of thought?
- How is it written? What can you derive from the structure of the text?
- How was it perceived? What has it achieved? (relevant if this text is a historical source or has had a deep impact on a field of research)
- Provide own evaluations and analysis, briefly.

### 12.2. When Presenting Your Own Analysis or Argument

*These questions need not be answered verbatim or in that order– but address them or be kept in mind.*

- Be transparent: name your sources, provide a handout with a bibliography and a structure of your presentation.
- Provide a clear line of argument
- Prefer analysis over opinion, personal experiences and anecdotal knowledge
- Be clear to differentiate between your own analysis and someone else's.

### 12.3. Q&A Rules

- Welcome critique as an opportunity to better yourself.
- When critiquing others, aim the argument at the issue, not the person, and remain respectful.
- When you don't know what to answer, offer to follow up with them later -- don't improvise.

### 12.4. General Presentation Rules

- Everybody is nervous. EVERYBODY.
- Everybody makes mistakes.
- Preparation always helps.
- Practice.
- A class presentation is supposed to help you to learn, you are not expected to be perfect.

#### 12.4.1. Content

- The presentation is not about you. It is about the content.

#### 12.4.2. Structure

- You are *communicating*, not talking *at* somebody.
- Make sure you do everything to get your message across in the short time you have.
- Tell them what you're about to tell them. -- Tell them. -- Tell them what you've just told them.
- Intelligent redundancy is good.
- Patronizing is bad.

#### 12.4.3. Modes of Presenting

- Do what you feel is most comfortable to you.
- Talk loudly and clearly.
- Make eye contact as much as possible.
- Provide a handout with your most important points, central quotes or data (brief!), works cited, and your contact information.

#### *Reading out a written text:*

- pro: safety, you tend to forget less, you can formulate better
- contra: inflexible, less communicative

#### *Speaking freely (without notes):*

- pro: flexible, can adapt to audience quickly, communicative
- contra: needs experience, you may forget things, imperfect formulations
- you may compensate with a handout

#### *Speaking freely with notes*

- possibly best of both worlds
- you may even write an introduction & a closing to read out

#### **12.4.4. Time**

- Time yourself. You have limited time allotted. Test out your presentation beforehand; then add 2-3 minutes. You will always take longer than planned.
- Provide a handout collating your most important findings, central quotes, a bibliography, and your contact information. If you forget to say something important in the presentation, it'll be there.

#### **12.4.5. Technology**

- Use technology only if necessary.
- Only use technology that you know how to handle.
- Be sure to have reliable equipment. If possible, bring your own computer. Apple computer owners: bring an adapter cable for VGA. Assume no HDMI compatibility.
- Make backups of your presentation. Make a backup of the backup.
- Be only as fancy as absolutely necessary. Anything flashy that distracts from your message can go.
- Sometimes, a blackboard is enough.
- A paper handout may substitute or supplement a visual presentation. It gives people something to take away.
- Be prepared for tech to break down.

#### **12.4.6. Attire**

- Appear professional. This is work, it should look like that. Respect your audience.
- There will always be a question from the audience you won't like. Be cordial. Admit if you don't know something; promise to get back with more information.
- Know how to react: "Never answer the question that is asked of you. Answer the question that you wish had been asked of you." (Robert S. McNamara, *The Fog of War*, 87:11-87:19)

#### **12.4.7. Remember Murphy's Law**

- Nothing is as easy as it seems. -- Everything takes longer than expected. -- And if something can go wrong it will, -- at the worst possible moment.
- Well, hopefully not. But be prepared anyway. Presentations are always a test of how to react to unforeseen circumstances, and the more you practice, the more experienced you'll be. Good luck!

#### **12.5. Netiquette: How to Present Yourself Online**

- Always remember you are still talking to human beings – it is very easy to lose sight of that online.
- Try to build community with your fellow students by being active in the discussion, by responding to their posts, and by taking part in the Q&A peer critique process after uploaded assignments.
- Check your spelling --- mistakes in writing are unnecessary distractions from what you want to say.
- Name your sources.
- Be concise but substantial. Remember that people tend to read in an F-pattern online: first paragraphs are read, then beginnings oftentimes just scanned (sadly). Make it interesting.

### 13. Appendix II: Citation Guide MLA

You can use MLA or APA style for citations, see: [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01).  
The major rules MLA style are summarized here, as follows:

#### Page/font format:

- Font Size 12 pt (use a normal system font like Times New Roman, Arial, Cambria, etc.)
- Line spacing 1.5
- Footnotes: 10 pt, Line spacing 1
- Indent quotations longer than 3 lines, with 10 pt size font
- Mark omitted parts of a quotation with squared brackets to distinguish them from possible (round) brackets within the quotation:

“*Falling Down* is a smart film, but it struggles [...] to convince viewers that [the hero] represents an ultimately (mythologically) redundant model of white masculinity.” (Kennedy 2000: 122)

#### Bibliographical reference in parentheses (Author Year: Page):

Blabla blabla (Soja 1989: 37).

When Works Cited holds more than one title of the same author and from the same year, specify text by adding letters to the publication date:

Blabla blabla (Soja 1989a: 37).

Blabla blabla (Soja 1989b: 1).

**Footnotes** should be used only for further comments, not as bibliographical reference.

The **Works Cited** appears at the end of your paper. The format is the following:

#### For articles in collective volumes:

Name, First Name. “Article”. In: Name, First Name, ed. *Larger Volume*. Publishing Place: Publishing House, Year. Pages.

e.g. Kennedy, Liam. “Paranoid Spatiality: Postmodern Urbanism and American Cinema.” In: Balshaw Maria, Liam Kennedy, eds. *Urban Space and Representation*. London: Pluto, 2000. 116-30.

(use ed. for one Editor, eds. for multiple Editors)

#### For articles in journals or magazines:

Name, First Name. “Article”. *Magazine Title*. Magazine Number (Year): Pages.

e.g. Foucault, Michel. “Of Other Spaces.” *Diacritics* 16.1 (1986): 22-27.

#### For monographs:

Name, First Name. *Larger Volume*. Publishing Place: Publishing House, Year. Pages.

e.g. Soja, Edward. *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory*. London: Verso, 1989.

**For internet articles:** Name, First Name. “Article.” *Main Web Site Title*. URL. Retrieved MM/DD/YYYY.

(or variations, such as organization name or alias in the first place, depending on nature of the web site)

e.g. Edmunds, R. David. “The US-Mexican War: A Major Watershed.” *PBS*.  
[pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/war/major\\_watershed.html](http://pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/war/major_watershed.html). Retrieved 09/01/2009.

e.g. World Health Organization (WHO). *Active Ageing: A Policy Framework*. Geneva: WHO, 2002.  
[who.int/ageing/publications/active/en](http://who.int/ageing/publications/active/en). Retrieved 08/25/2011.

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## 14. Appendix III: Citation Guide APA

You can use MLA or APA style for citations, see: [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01).  
The major rules for APA style are summarized here, as follows:

### Page/font format:

- Font Size 12 pt (use a normal system font like Times New Roman, Arial, Cambria, etc.)
- Line spacing 1.5
- Footnotes: 10 pt, Line spacing 1
- Indent quotations longer than 3 lines, with 10 pt size font
- Mark omitted parts of a quotation with [squared] brackets to distinguish them from possible (round) brackets within the quotation:

*"Falling Down* is a smart film, but it struggles [...] to convince viewers that [the hero] represents an ultimately (mythologically) redundant model of white masculinity." (Kennedy, 2000, p. 122)

### Bibliographical reference in parentheses (Author Year: Page):

Blabla blabla (Soja, 1989, p. 37).

When Works Cited holds more than one title of the same author and from the same year, specify text by adding letters to the publication date:

Blabla blabla (Soja, 1989a, p. 37).

Blabla blabla (Soja, 1989b, p.1).

**Footnotes** should be used only for further comments, not as bibliographical reference.

The **Works Cited** appears at the end of your paper. The format is the following:

### For articles in collective volumes:

Name, First Name. (Year). Article. In: Editor1FirstName Editor1LastName & Editor2FirstName Editor2LastName Editor (Eds.). *Larger Volume* (pages of chapter). Publishing Place: Publishing House.

e.g. Kennedy, Liam. (2000). Paranoid Spatiality: Postmodern Urbanism and American Cinema. In: Balshaw Maria & Liam Kennedy (Eds.). *Urban Space and Representation* (pp. 116-30). London: Pluto.

(use Ed. for one Editor, Eds. for multiple Editors)

### For articles in journals or magazines:

Name, First Name. (Year). Article. *Magazine Title*. Magazine Number, Pages.

e.g. Foucault, Michel. (1986). Of Other Spaces. *Diacritics* 16.1, 22-27.

### For monographs:

Name, First Name. (Year). *Larger Volume*. Publishing Place: Publishing House. Pages.

e.g. Soja, Edward. (1989). *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory*. London: Verso.

**For internet articles:** Name, First Name. (Date of Publication). Article. *Main Web Site Title*. Retrieved from URL on MM/DD/YYYY.

(or variations, such as organization name or alias in the first place, depending on nature of the web site)

e.g. Edmunds, R. David. (n.d.). "The US-Mexican War: A Major Watershed." *PBS*. Retrieved from [pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/war/major\\_watershed.html](http://pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/war/major_watershed.html) on 09/01/2009.

e.g. World Health Organization. (2002). *Active Ageing: A Policy Framework*. Geneva: WHO. Retrieved from [who.int/ageing/publications/active/en](http://who.int/ageing/publications/active/en) on 08/25/2011.

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