

POLS B251: Democracy, Politics, and the Media

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Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:40-4pm in Taylor Hall F

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-5pm, Dalton Hall 100D (or Zoom meeting by appointment)

Course Description

This course offers an overview of political communication in the context of the United States. Throughout the semester we will be learning about how the political and social worlds are represented in the mass media and perceived by the public, with an eye toward the power struggles behind these processes. Political communication is a truly interdisciplinary field of study whose subject matter cuts across traditional academic divisions. In this course, we will primarily be focused on the social science tradition, reading mostly in the literatures of political science, communication, and sociology.

The class will proceed through five units that are motivated by the following questions:

1. What is the meaning of “democracy” as it relates to the American political system? What forms of power are implicated in the ways that political issues are represented to and understood by the citizenry?
2. How have the news media evolved over the course of American history? What economic, social, and political forces currently shape the ways the media operate? And what are some of the competing understandings of the nature of media bias?
3. How are we to evaluate the performance of the news media? And how have major American news organizations covered some of the key issues in both foreign and domestic policy?
4. What exactly does “public opinion” mean, and how is it influenced by the media?
5. How have recent technological changes shaped the current media landscape? Should we understand the present moment as a total break from the past?

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will have:

- Developed some familiarity with political communication research and improved in their ability to read scholarship
- Honed their political thought and ability to critically engage with politics and current events
- Reflected on their own news consumption
- Engaged rigorously with political discourse in the news on a topic of their choosing
- Improved in their ability to write and defend their arguments

Class Structure

Class sessions will be a combination of lectures and group discussions. Every group of students is unique, so the exact structure will be flexible depending on what students want to get out of this experience. I may supplement the readings where necessary with important background information, and I expect the class to often be driven by students' interests and their engagement with the readings. *Please note that this syllabus may be subject to change during the semester as I see fit.*

I also encourage everyone to make use of my office hours after class! This is time I have allocated specifically to talking with students one-on-one about the course, resources for learning more about politics or political science, your education in general and future plans, or whatever else suits you.

Expectations and Class Policies

Discussions: Participation is expected and will be evaluated as part of the final grade. Further, I expect that students will be following contemporary politics in some form (the medium is of course up to you) for the duration of this class and come ready to discuss connections between what you see in the media and what you've read for the class. We will discuss contentious political issues in class; these discussions must be civil and respectful. You are welcome to disagree with a point made by myself or a fellow student, and all are encouraged to thoughtfully critique and debate the arguments presented in class. But you must do so without condescension or personal attacks toward your classmates.

Readings: I expect all students to have done the readings before each class session and come ready to ask questions and discuss the material. Any readings listed in the syllabus as optional or for "further reading" are not required or expected and are simply offered for anyone interested in a deeper understanding of the topic now or later.

Attendance policy: Attendance in class is expected and will count toward the final grade. Of course, I understand that extenuating circumstances come up. You may miss one class session without needing to notify me in advance. After that, please be in touch so that your grade is not affected.

Late assignments: If you are unable to submit an assignment by the deadline, you should email me before the deadline with an explanation. I will consider granting extensions on a case-by-case basis. Otherwise, there will be a late penalty of one letter grade per calendar day.

Course Materials and Resources

There is nothing required to purchase for this course. All readings will be made available as a PDF and posted to the course site on Moodle.

In addition, I strongly encourage all students to take advantage of the resources provided at this institution. Part of our class discussions and one of the major assignments requires you to engage with the news media themselves, not just the scholarship provided *about* the media. The libraries offer an excellent collection of hard-copy newsmagazines and daily newspapers, including the most prestigious establishment press as well as some high-quality alternative publications. See [this link](#) or visit the Canaday Library to explore.

Finally, consider making use of the writing center for help improving your written assignments in this course (more information available [here](#)).

Assignments and Grading

Attendance and participation (20%)

I will evaluate your overall contribution and effort in class discussions, not the quantity or duration of your participation.

News analysis project (30%)

The goal of this project is for you to pick a political issue of interest and analyze its treatment in the news media based on what we've learned in class. The structure of the assignment is flexible depending on your interests; you may choose to look at a contemporary issue and follow it during the course of the semester or pick an historical issue (e.g., the Gulf War or the AIDS epidemic) and read in news archives as if you were living in that era. You may choose to write about a single news organization or compare multiple publications. Early on in the semester you will propose to me the topic and media you want to follow and we can make adjustments as necessary. You will track what you're reading and thinking about in a news diary during the semester, which will culminate in an essay that brings together the news you read as well as some of the scholarship covered in class.

Proposal (5%) — Short writeup describing the project you'll undertake. Feel free to consult with me about picking a topic, finding news sources, etc. I may ask for revisions depending on the feasibility/appropriateness of the initial proposal. **Due Sept. 11 at 11:59pm**

"News diary" (10%) — Informal description of what you've read that week and how you are making sense of it, in the style of a personal journal. This will be turned in at the end along with the essay, but again feel free to consult with me as you are doing it if any uncertainties arise. **Mandatory check-in on your progress with me at some point in November** (this can be as brief or as long as you'd like it to be, at my office hours after class).

Essay (15%) — Paper that should be a culmination of some key takeaways from the ideas presented in class in relation to the news you've followed throughout. **Essay and diary due Dec. 8 at 11:59pm.**

Midterm paper (20%)

This assignment will ask you to take a position about the ideas presented in course texts thus far and defend your arguments with reference to the readings. A prompt will be provided about two weeks before the due date. **Due Oct. 10 at 11:59pm**

Final paper (30%)

This will be due during the final examination period and will ask you to demonstrate your understanding of the totality of class materials through an open-ended prompt. **Due Dec. 14-19 (exact date TBA).**

Calculation of final grades:

A+	≥97%	A	93-96%	A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%	B	83-86%	B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%	C	73-76%	C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%	D	63-66%	D-	60-62%
F	≤60%				

Accommodations for Disabilities

“Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Access Services. Students can email accessservices@brynmawr.edu to make an appointment with the Access Services office to begin this confidential process. Once registered, students should schedule an appointment with me, the instructor, as early in the semester as possible to share the verification form and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations for disabilities are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement. Any student who has a disability-related need to tape record this class must first speak with the Access Services office and to me, the instructor. More information can be obtained at the Access Services website.”

Honor Code

“Plagiarism consists of work taken partially or entirely from an uncited source (online or AI content, a peer, a published article, etc.) and assumed as your own. If I have reasons to suspect plagiarizing, I will ask that you report yourself to the Bryn Mawr Honor Board. See the Bryn Mawr Honor Code and Honor Board Hearing Process in the Student Handbook for more information.”

“Artificial intelligence”: I believe that the use of AI, in this course at least, is detrimental to your educational development, and I advise against using such tools. Contributions from AI sources must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used, just like any other source. Failure to properly quote, cite, and document your use of sources including AI would constitute an academic integrity violation, in accordance with the College’s Honor Code.

Course Schedule:

- **Sept. 2 — Introductions and course overview**

Review this syllabus before class, please! This first class session will be devoted to getting to know each other, introducing the course, and answering questions/concerns about the class structure and expectations as outlined in the syllabus.

UNIT 1 — Foundations of political communication and democratic politics

- **Sept. 4 — Theories of democracy**

“Every regime lives on a body of dogma, self-justification, glorification, and propaganda about itself. In the United States, this body of dogma and tradition centers about democracy.”

- E.E. Schattschneider (1960)

- Baker, C. Edwin. 2002. *Media, Markets, and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp. 125-53.

- **Sept. 9 — Political power and belief systems**

“Nothing appears more surprising to those, who consider human affairs with a philosophical eye, than the easiness with which the many are governed by the few; and the implicit submission, with which men resign their own sentiments and passions to those of their rulers.”

- David Hume (1777)

- Lasswell, Harold D. 1927. “The Theory of Political Propaganda.” *The American Political Science Review* 21(3): 627-631.

- Bachrach, Peter, and Morton S. Baratz. 1962. “Two Faces of Power.” *The American Political Science Review* 56(4): 947-952

- Schattschneider, E.E. 1960. *The Semisovereign People*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Ch. 4: The Displacement of Conflicts.

- **Sept. 11 — Political power and belief systems, cont.**

- Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Epilogue.

- Herbst, Susan. 2011. "Critical Perspectives on Public Opinion." In *The Oxford Handbook of American Public Opinion and the Media*, eds. George C. Edwards III, Lawrence R. Jacobs, and Robert Y. Shapiro. Oxford University Press. Pp. 1-6.

- Miliband, Ralph. 1969. *The State in Capitalist Society*. New York: Basic Books. Chapters 7-8: "The Process of Legitimation."

Further reading:

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1978 [1845-6]. *The German Ideology*, in ed. Robert C. Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, pp. 163-175.

Gramsci, Antonio. 1971. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks of Antonio Gramsci*, eds. Quintin Hoare and Geoffrey Nowell Smith. New York: International Publishers. "The Intellectuals": pp. 5-14.

Gitlin, Todd. 2003. *The Whole World is Watching: Mass Media in the Making and Unmaking of the New Left*. Second edition. Berkeley: University of California Press. Excerpts from Chapter 10.

Lukes, Steven. 2005. *Power: A Radical View*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Assignment: News analysis project proposal due Sept. 11 at 11:59pm

UNIT 2 — Institutional characteristics of the news media

- Sept. 16 — The American press in historical perspective

- Bennett, W. Lance. 2008. "Engineering Consent: The Persistence of a Problematic Communication Regime" in *Domestic Perspectives on Contemporary Democracy*, ed. Peter F. Nardulli. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Pp. 131-141.

- Lasch, Christopher. 1990. "Journalism, Publicity, and the Lost Art of Argument." *Gannett Center Journal* 4(2): 1-11.

- Lippmann, Walter. 1922. *Public Opinion*. New York: Free Press. Excerpts.

Further reading/resources on labor, ethnic, radical, "underground" presses:

Slater, Karla Kelling. "The Labor and Radical Press: 1820-the Present."

<https://depts.washington.edu/labhist/laborpress/Kelling.htm>

Anastas, Katie. "Underground newspapers: The social media networks of the 1960s and 1970s."

https://depts.washington.edu/moves/altnews_geography.shtml

- **Sept. 18 — Media economics**

- Bagdikian, Ben H. 2004. *The New Media Monopoly*. Second edition. Boston: Beacon Press. Chapter 1 and Chapter 11.

- Hindman, Matthew. 2018. *The Internet Trap: How the Digital Economy Builds Monopolies and Undermines Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Excerpts.

Further reading:

McChesney, Robert W. 2004. *The Problem of the Media: U.S. Communication Politics in the 21st Century*. Monthly Review Press. Chapter 5.

Gilens, Martin, and Craig Hertzman. 2000. "Corporate ownership and news bias: Newspaper coverage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act." *The Journal of Politics* 62(2): 369-386

Munger, Kevin. 2020. "All the News That's Fit to Click: The Economics of Clickbait Media." *Political Communication* 37(3): 376-397.

- **Sept. 23 — Sociology of news production**

- Tuchman, Gaye. 1972. "Objectivity as Strategic Ritual: An Examination of Newsmen's Notions of Objectivity." *American Journal of Sociology* 77: 660-679.

- Tuchman, Gaye. 1978. *Making news: A Study in the Construction of Reality*. New York: Free Press. Chapter 2, "Space and the News Net."

- Gans, Herbert. 1979. *Deciding What's News: A Study of CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, Newsweek, and Time*. New York: Pantheon. Excerpts.

- **Sept. 25 — Sociology of news production, cont.**

- Chadwick, Andrew. 2011. "The Political Information Cycle in a Hybrid News System: The British Prime Minister and the 'Bullygate' Affair."

→Note: skip or skim the empirical part about "bullygate." It is the concept of a "hybrid" media system that matters for our purposes.

- Boczkowski, Pablo. 2009. "Technology, Monitoring, and Imitation in Contemporary News Work." *Communication, Culture, and Critique* 2(1): 39-59.

- **Sept. 30 — Theories of media bias**

- Lichter, S. Robert. 2017. "Theories of Media Bias." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Communication*, eds. Kate Kenski and Kathleen Hall Jamieson. Oxford University Press.
- Bennett, W. Lance. 2016. *News: The Politics of Illusion*. Tenth edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 2: "News Stories: Four Information Biases That Matter."
- Hallin, Daniel C. 1986. *The "Uncensored War": The Media and Vietnam*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 116-18.

Further reading

- Bennett, W. Lance. 1996. "An introduction to journalism norms and representations of politics." *Political Communication* 13(4): 373-384.

- **Oct. 2 — CLASS CANCELED**

- **Oct. 7 — Media-state relations**

- Bennett, W. Lance. 1990. "Toward a Theory of Press-State Relations in the United States." *Journal of Communication* 40(2): 103-125.
- Herman, Edward S., and Noam Chomsky. 2002. *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*. Second edition. New York: Pantheon. Preface and Chapter 1.

Further reading on the "Propaganda Model" and its critics:

- [Documentary on YouTube](#) about Chomsky and his media criticism
- Debate in *Political Communication* between Herman and Chomsky and the Langs:
 - o Lang, Kurt, and Gladys Engel Lang. 2004. "Noam Chomsky and the Manufacture of Consent for American Foreign Policy." *Political Communication* 21(1): 93-101.
 - o Herman, Edward S., and Noam Chomsky. 2004. "Reply to Kurt and Gladys Engel Lang." *Political Communication* 21(1): 103-107.
- Herring, Eric, and Piers Robinson. 2003. "Too polemical or too critical? Chomsky on the study of the news media and US foreign policy." *Review of International Studies* 29(4): 553-568.

- **Oct. 9 — Media-state relations, cont.**

- Hallin, Daniel C. 1994. *We Keep America on top of the World: Television Journalism and the Public Sphere*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 2: "The American news media: A critical theory perspective."

- Blumler, Jay, and Michael Gurevitch. 1995. *The Crisis of Public Communication*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 3: "Politicians and the press: An essay on role relationships."

Assignment: Midterm paper due Oct. 10 at 11:59pm

- **Oct. 14, 16 — FALL BREAK, NO CLASS**

UNIT 3 — Media analysis and criticism

- **Oct. 21 — Analyzing media content and political discourse**

Orwell, George. 1946. "Politics and the English Language."

<https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-foundation/orwell/essays-and-other-works/politics-and-the-english-language/>

Rosen, Jay. 2010. "The View from Nowhere: Questions and Answers." *PressThink*.

<https://pressthink.org/2010/11/the-view-from-nowhere-questions-and-answers/>

Edelman, Murray. 1988. *Constructing the Political Spectacle*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 5: "The Ambiguities of Political News."

Further reading:

Edelman, Murray. 1993. "Contestable Categories and Public Opinion." *Political Communication* 10: 231-242.

Marcuse, Herbert. 1969. "Repressive Tolerance." In *A Critique of Pure Tolerance*, eds. Robert Paul Wolff, Barrington Moore, Jr., and Herbert Marcuse. Boston: Beacon Press.

Marcuse, Herbert. 1964. *One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society*. Chapters 1 and 4.

- **Oct. 23 — Analyzing media content and political discourse, cont.**

Althaus, Scott L. 2012. "What's Good and Bad in Political Communication Research? Normative Standards for Evaluating Media and Citizen Performance." In *The SAGE Handbook of Political Communication*, eds. Holli A. Semetko and Margaret Scammell. LA: Sage.

Further reading:

Bennett, W. Lance. 2003. "The Burglar Alarm that Just Keeps Ringing: A Response to Zaller." *Political Communication* 20: 131-138.

Zaller, John. 2003. "A New Standard of News Quality: Burglar Alarms for the Monitorial Citizen." *Political Communication* 20(2): 109-130.

- **Oct. 28— War and foreign affairs**

Pick two readings from the list below. You may either focus on one of the themes I've outlined or read one from each. In class, we'll split into small groups to discuss and then teach each other about the different subjects.

Vietnam War

Morgan, Edward P. 1996. "America's post-Vietnam stress disorder." *Peace Review* 8(2): 237-243.

Hallin, Daniel C. 1984. "The Media, the War in Vietnam, and Political Support: A Critique of the Thesis of an Oppositional Media." *The Journal of Politics* 46(1): 2-24.

Misc. Cold War

Zaller, John, and Dennis Chiu. 1996. "Government's little helper: U.S. press coverage of foreign policy crises, 1945-1991." *Political Communication* 13(4): 385-405.

Chomsky, Noam. 1989. *Necessary Illusions: Thought Control in Democratic Societies*. Boston: South End Press. Ch. 3: "The Bounds of the Expressible."

- **Oct. 30 — War and foreign affairs, cont.**

Pick two readings from the list below. You may either focus on one of the themes I've outlined or read one from each. In class, we'll split into small groups to discuss and then teach each other about the different subjects.

Iraq War and "Terrorism"

Krebs, Ronald R., and Jennifer K. Lobasz. 2007. "Fixing the Meaning of 9/11: Hegemony, Coercion, and the Road to War in Iraq." *Security Studies* 16(3): 409-451.

Hayes, Danny, and Matt Guardino. 2010. "Whose Views Made the News? Media Coverage and the March to War in Iraq." *Political Communication* 27: 59-87.

Said, Edward W. 1997. *Covering Islam: How the Media and the Experts Determine How We See the Rest of the World*. Revised edition. New York: Vintage Books. Both introductions.

In defense of the idea of press "independence"

Entman, Robert M. 2003. *Projections of Power: Framing News, Public Opinion, and U.S. Foreign Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Skim chapter 1, read chapter 3.

Livingston, Steven, and Todd Eachus. 1996. "Indexing news after the Cold War: Reporting U.S. ties to Latin American paramilitary organizations." *Political Communication* 13: 423-436.

Althaus, Scott L. 2003. "When News Norms Collide, Follow the Lead: New Evidence for Press Independence." *Political Communication* 20(4): 381-414.

- Nov. 4 — Domestic politics

Pick two readings from the list below. You may either focus on one of the themes I've outlined or read one from each. In class, we'll split into small groups to discuss and then teach each other about the different subjects.

Social movements

Gitlin, Todd. 2003. *The Whole World is Watching: Mass Media in the Making and Unmaking of the New Left*. Second edition. Berkeley: University of California Press. "Preliminaries" and Chapter 7.

Brown, Danielle K., and Summer Harlow. 2019. "Protests, Media Coverage, and a Hierarchy of Social Struggle." *The International Journal of Press/Politics* 24(4): 508-530.

Economic inequality and the welfare state

Gilens, Martin. 1999. *Why Americans Hate Welfare: Race, Media, and the Politics of Antipoverty Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 5.

Guardino, Matt. 2019. *Framing Inequality: News Media, Public Opinion, and the Neoliberal Turn in U.S. Public Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press. Excerpts from chapters 2-4.

- Nov. 6 — Domestic politics, cont.

Pick two readings from the list below. You may either focus on one of the themes I've outlined or read from a couple themes. In class, we'll split into small groups to discuss and then teach each other about the different subjects.

Campaigns and elections

Patterson, Thomas E. 2016. "News Coverage of the 2016 Presidential Primaries: Horse Race Reporting Has Consequences." <https://shorensteincenter.org/news-coverage-2016-presidential-primaries/>

Climate change

Boykoff, Maxwell T., and Jules M. Boykoff. 2007. "Climate change and journalistic norms: A case-study of US mass-media coverage." *Geoforum* 38(6): 1190-1204.

Brüggeman, Michael, and Sven Engesser. 2017. "Beyond false balance: How interpretive journalism shapes media coverage of climate change." *Global Environmental Change* 42: 58-67.

Feminism and gender

Vavrus, Mary Douglas. 2002. *Postfeminist News: Political Women in Media Culture*. Albany: State University of New York Press. Introduction and chapter 3.

Lind, Rebecca Ann, and Colleen Salo. 2002. "The Framing of Feminists and Feminism in News and Public Affairs Programs in U.S. Electronic Media." *Journal of Communication* 52(1): 211-228.

Billard, Thomas J. 2016. "Writing in the Margins: Mainstream News Media Representations of Transgenderism." *International Journal of Communication*.

Immigration

Harris, Casey T., and Jeff Gruenewald. 2020. "News Media Trends in the Framing of Immigration and Crime, 1990–2013." *Social Problems* 67(3): 452-470.

Quinsaas, Sharon. 2014. "Competing News Frames and Hegemonic Discourses in the Construction of Contemporary Immigration and Immigrants in the United States." *Mass Communication and Society* 17(4): 573-596.

UNIT 4 — Public opinion and mass political behavior

- Nov. 11 — Surveyed opinion as public opinion

- Converse, Philip E. 1987. "Changing Conceptions of Public Opinion in the Political Process." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 51: S12-S24.

- Zaller, John, and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36(3): 579-616.

- Nov. 13 — Critiques of the mass opinion poll

- Herbst, Susan. 2011. "Critical Perspectives on Public Opinion." In *The Oxford Handbook of American Public Opinion and the Media*, eds. George C. Edwards III, Lawrence R. Jacobs, and Robert Y. Shapiro. Oxford University Press. Pp. 6-14.

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1979. "Public Opinion Does Not Exist." In *Communication and Class Struggle*, eds. A. Mattlehart and S. Siegelau. New York: International General.

- Ginsberg, Benjamin. 1986. *The Captive Public: How Mass Opinion Promotes State Power*. New York: Basic Books. Chapters 2 and 3.

Further reading:

Blumer, Herbert. 1949. "Public Opinion and Public Opinion Polling." *American Sociological Review* 13: 542-554.

Assignment: Reminder to check in with me about the diary/journal component of your news analysis projects before the end of November.

- Nov. 18 — "Media effects"

- Iyengar, Shanto. 2017. "A Typology of Media Effects." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Communication*, eds. Kate Kenski and Kathleen Hall Jamieson. Oxford University Press.

- Lazarsfeld, Paul F., and Robert K. Merton. 1948. "Mass Communication, Popular Taste, and Organized Social Action." In *The Communication of Ideas*, ed. Lyman Bryson. New York: Harper.

Further reading:

Iyengar, Shanto, and Adam Simon. 1993. "News Coverage of the Gulf Crisis and Public Opinion: A Study of Agenda-Setting, Priming, and Framing." *Communication Research* 20(3): 365-383.

- Nov. 20 — "Media effects," cont.

- Chong, Dennis, and James N. Druckman. 2012. "Counterframing Effects." *The Journal of Politics* 75(1): 1-16.

- Entman, Robert M. 1993. "Framing: Toward Clarification of a Fractured Paradigm." *Journal of Communication* 43(4): 51-58.

Further reading:

Gitlin, Todd. 1978. "Media Sociology: The Dominant Paradigm." *Theory and Society* 6(2): 205-253. Excerpts.

Simpson, Christopher. 2015. *Science of Coercion: Communication Research & Psychological Warfare, 1945-1960*. Open Road Media.

- **Nov. 25 — Audiences, conspiracy belief and “misinformation”**

Toff, Benjamin, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen. 2018. “I Just Google It’: Folk Theories of Distributed Discovery.” *Journal of Communication* 68(3): 636-657.

Douglas, Karen M., Joseph E. Uscinski, Robbie M. Sutton, Aleksandra Cichocka, Turkey Nefes, Chee Siang Ang, and Farzin Deravi. 2019. “Understanding Conspiracy Theories.” *Political Psychology* 40(1): 3-35.

Further reading:

Stroud, Natalie Jomini. 2008. “Media Use and Political Predispositions: Revisiting the Concept of Selective Exposure.” *Political Behavior* 30(3): 341-366.

Gaines, Brian J. et al. 2007. “Same Facts, Different Interpretations: Partisan Motivation and Opinion on Iraq.” *The Journal of Politics* 69(4): 957-974.

Sobieraj, Sarah, and Jeffrey M. Berry. 2011. “From Incivility to Outrage: Political Discourse in Blogs, Talk Radio, and Cable News.” *Political Communication* 28(1): 19-41.

- **Nov. 27 — THANKSGIVING, NO CLASS**

UNIT 5 — Recent developments in political communication

- **Dec. 2 — A new media regime...**

Blumler, Jay G. 2016. “The fourth age of political communication.” *Politiques de Communication* 6(1): 19-30.

Young, Dannagal G., and Joanne M. Miller. 2023. “Political Communication.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. Leonie Huddy. Oxford University Press. Excerpts.

Van Aelst, Peter et al. 2017. “Political communication in a high-choice media environment: A challenge for democracy?” *Annals of the International Communication Association* 41(1): 3-27.

- **Dec. 4 — ... Or more of the same?**

Entman, Robert M., and Nikki Usher. 2018. “Framing in a Fractured Democracy: Impacts of Digital Technology on Ideology, Power, and Cascading Network Activation.” *Journal of Communication* 68: 298-308.

Hindman, Matthew. 2009. *The Myth of Digital Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.

Assignment: News analysis essay and diary due Dec. 8 at 11:59pm. We will discuss takeaways from your projects in class!

- Dec. 9 — Digital platforms, social media, and entertainment

- Freelon, Deen, Charlton McIlwain, and Meredith Clark. 2018. “Quantifying the power and consequences of social media protest.” *New Media & Society* 20(3): 990-1011.

- Fuchs, Christian. 2018. “Propaganda 2.0: Herman and Chomsky’s Propaganda Model in the Age of the Internet, Big Data, and Social Media.” In *The Propaganda Model Today: Filtering Perception and Awareness*, eds. J. Pedro-Carañana, D. Broudy, and J. Klaehn. London: University of Westminster Press.

- Dec. 11 — Digital platforms, social media, and entertainment, cont.

- Thorson, Kjerstin, and Chris Wells. 2016. “Curated Flows: A Framework for Mapping Media Exposure in the Digital Age.” *Communication Theory* 26(3): 309-328.

- Kim, Eunji. 2023. “Entertaining Beliefs in Economic Mobility.” *American Journal of Political Science* 67(1): 39-54.

Further reading:

Nielsen, Rasmus Kleis, and Sarah Anne Ganter. 2018. “Dealing with digital intermediaries: A case study of the relations between publishers and platforms.” *New Media & Society* 20(4): 1600-1617.

Boggs, Carl. 2017. *The Hollywood War Machine: U.S. Militarism and Popular Culture*. Second edition. New York: Routledge.

Assignment: Final paper due Dec. 14-19 (exact date TBA)