

Global Media and Politics

1st Year Seminar Fall 2017

Mon/Wed 2.30 pm – 4.00

Office Hours: Weds 4-5.30 and Fridays 2-4 or by appointment.

Henry Laurence

hlaurenc@bowdoin.edu

Office: Asian Studies 208 (38 College Street)

Tel: 725-3528

Course Description

Discussion-based seminar covering many different aspects of the relationships between media and politics. Case studies include the USA, UK, Japan, China and the Middle East.

We will focus on developing: (1) *writing skills*, including clarity and conciseness; (2) *critical thinking skills*, including arguing persuasively and analyzing good and bad arguments; and (3) *good academic habits*, such as locating one's argument in a broader intellectual context; *research skills*.

Questions include:

What are the relationships between mass media and democracy?

What constitutes good journalism? What do concepts such as objectivity, bias, fairness, and neutrality mean?

Should hate speech be restricted?

What impact have the internet and social media had on political life, both in democracies and authoritarian countries?

How are media-government relationships different in Japan?

Does Japan's globally successful pop culture confer national "soft power"?

Readings

There are two recommended reference works available to buy or rent through the Bowdoin Chegg website. They are also on 2-hour reserve at Hawthorne-Longfellow Library.

Sylvan Barnet, Pat Bellanca and Marcia Stubbs *A Short Guide to College Writing* (New York: Penguin Books, 5th Edition 2013)

Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein *They Say, I say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* (New York: WW Norton) 3rd Edition 2017

All other readings are available online through the library website or posted on Blackboard (denoted by an asterix * in the reading schedule).

Requirements:

- **Participation:** Attend all class sessions, and participate actively in discussions. Read all assigned readings by the session for which they are set. I will occasionally add short assignments to be completed before class.

Attendance policy. Attendance is mandatory. If you must miss a class, please seek permission ahead of time. If this is impossible, then please let me know as soon as you can afterwards why you were absent.

If you are sick, please stay at home, look after yourself, and get well.

(If ill health causes you to miss more than two class sessions please ask your dean or advisor to contact me).

Three 4-5-page Papers: 3 essays written according to the attached schedule. There will be 4 assignments given. The first paper is mandatory. You can choose which two of the remaining three to answer. You can write on all four if you wish. (I will take your top 3 grades).

Rewrite option: you may rewrite any or all of these essays. Rewrites must usually be completed within 7 days of receiving back the original. You will receive the average of the two grades.

Final Research paper 6-8 pages on a topic of your choosing, referencing concepts or material we have already studied

Presentation. Each student will make a short (15-20 minute) presentation on their chosen research topic. These should inform classmates of the question being studied, the background to the material, and what preliminary conclusions can be drawn from the research so far. Include time for questions and discussion.

Deadlines: Papers (and rewrites) will be accepted up to three days late, with a 1/3 grade deduction per day (e.g. B goes to B- if it arrives within 24 hours, and to C+ if between 24 and 48 hours late). Thereafter, the paper will receive an F (you may still be required to turn in a paper to fulfill the course requirements). Requests for other extensions (including for the final paper) will usually require a letter from your dean.

Grade weighting - an approximate guide

Three short essays (combined)	45%
Final Paper	20%
Presentation:	5%
Class participation	30%

Note that this is an approximate guideline only. Your final grade will be given according to my assessment of your overall performance according the criteria to be found in the College Catalog. Note also that I expect satisfactory performance for ALL elements: failure in any one element could result in failing the entire course.

PAPER POLICIES: Mechanics

Double-space. Print on one side of the page only. Use regular 1 ¼ inch margins (The default option for Word) and Times (or Times New Roman) 12 point font.

Papers must be submitted in HARD COPY and STAPLED. No cover page necessary.

Include PAGE-NUMBERS (use 10-point font) and DATE

Quotations longer than 3 lines should be indented and single-spaced. (“Normal Indent” in Word’s Format/Style menu)

PROOF-READ thoroughly before you turn in the final copy. Do NOT just run spell-checker, which often misses basic errors, e.g. it’s vs. its. Handwritten corrections to final copy are welcome.

Include a BIBLIOGRAPHY of all and only the sources you have cited. (Start on a new page. Alphabetize by Author’s last name)

Going over (or slightly under) page limits is fine.

CITATIONS

Citations have two main purposes. (1) To acknowledge and give appropriate credit for other people’s work or ideas. (2) To allow your reader to locate (and if necessary consult) your sources.

Political scientists use a variety of different citation formats. For this class you may use either:

(1) MLA format (described in Ch. 13 of Barnet, Bellanca and Stubbs)

or:

(2) the Chicago Manual of Style ‘Notes and Bibliography’ format. This is the form I usually use. Quick guides to this format online and in pdf format, are available on the library website (Citing Sources/Chicago Quick Guide).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

We follow the Bowdoin Honor Code, so please make sure you are familiar with it. Unless otherwise stated, all work you submit is assumed to be your own. When you use specific information or ideas that came from someone or somewhere else, you must acknowledge the source appropriately. Feel free to check with me during office hours or after class if you are in doubt about appropriate citation form, or just include a note on the paper. I don’t mind the exact form of the citation as long as you have made an honest attempt. Deliberate attempts to pass off someone else’s work as your own will result in automatic failure of the course and referral to the Judicial Board. (Please note also the rules about double-submission of your own work)

A ROUGH GUIDE TO YOUR PAPER GRADE:

What I expect from a B range paper:

Makes a clear and compelling argument that directly answers the assigned question. Weighs all the available evidence in coming to the conclusion, and uses the best evidence in support of that conclusion. Carefully considers the strongest objections or alternative arguments, and demonstrates why the author's argument is superior. Defines key terms appropriately. Avoids logical errors in argumentation or errors of fact. Writing style is clear, concise, and error-free.

A range: Typically demonstrates innovative or fresh thinking rather than a straight recapitulation of the arguments of others. Usually draws on evidence, material or ideas beyond the assigned readings if appropriate. Alternatively, the paper may do a particularly good job of drawing fresh connections across assigned material, class discussions and lectures.

C range: falls short of some of the standards for a B paper, but it must:

- (1) make a clear argument;
- (2) demonstrate familiarity with the readings;
- (3) be grammatically correct
- (4) be free from factual errors
- (5) follow ALL the rules listed in "Paper Policies" and citation guidelines.

Papers which fail on one or more of these basic standards will be in the D or F range.

A ROUGH GUIDE TO YOUR CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADE:

A Does all the reading and typically comes to class armed with thorough understanding, lively responses and further questions. Contributes intelligently; listens attentively and responds appropriately to others. Proactive in initiating and sustaining illuminating discussion. Demonstrates excellent knowledge of current politics.

B Does all the reading, contributes frequently.

C Does most of the reading, comes regularly to class, and says something, but usually only if called upon.

D Comes to class but doesn't usually have much to say about the reading or the discussion.

F Misses classes; and fails to do the reading, as evidenced by inability to comment on it. Almost never says anything unless asked directly.

Provisional Reading Assignments

Please note that this is subject to change on a class-by-class basis, depending on our progress through the material. Amendments may be made in class or via email, so please make sure you follow such announcements.

* Asterix indicates the reading is listed on Blackboard.

All other readings are available online (try googling the title and author) or through the library website search engines (use the “Search Journal Title” button – most are on the databases Academic Search Complete or JSTOR).

[...] Square brackets indicates the reading is recommended, and likely to be very useful for the papers, etc., but is not required for class discussion.

W 8/30	Introduction	
M 9/4	Writing about politics	<p>* George Orwell <i>Politics and the English Language</i> (1946)</p> <p>Graff/Birkstein <i>They Say/I Say</i> Intro and Part 1 (chs 1-3) pp 1-51 and Ch 12 (pp 163-166)</p>
W 9/6	Analyzing arguments	<p>Malcolm Gladwell “Food Fights” <i>Revisionist History</i> (Podcast) Season 1 Episode 5</p> <p>Barnet et al. <i>Short Guide to College Writing</i> Ch 9 “Persuading Readers” pp. 162-189</p> <p>* Michael Baranowski <i>Navigating the News</i> (Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2013) Ch 6 (Bad Arguments)</p>
M 9/11	Models of press and politics	<p>* Jan Leighley <i>Mass Media and Politics</i> (Houghton-Mifflin, 2004) pp 8-15 and 50-67</p> <p>* Bill Kovach and Tom Rosentiel <i>The Elements of Journalism</i> (Three Rivers Press, 2nd ed. 2007) Intro and Ch 1 “What is Journalism For?” pp 1-32</p> <p>* Thomas Patterson “Political Roles of the Journalist” Ch 1 in Graber, McQuail and Norris (eds) <i>The Politics of News</i> (CQ Press 1998) [Skim for the main points]</p>

W 9/13	Do the media inform?	<p>* Patterson <i>Informing the News</i> Intro, Chs 1-2 pp 1-59</p> <p>Regina Marchi “With Facebook, Blogs, and Fake News, Teens Reject Journalistic ‘Objectivity’” <i>Journal of Communication Inquiry</i> 36(3) 2012 pp 246-262</p>
M 9/18	Objectivity, balance and bias	<p>* Bill Kovach and Tom Rosentiel <i>The Elements of Journalism</i> Ch 2 “Truth” pp 35-49</p> <p>Bruce Cunningham “Objectivity Revisited” <i>Columbia Journalism Review</i> July/Aug 2003 http://www.cjr.org/issues/2003/4/objective-cunningham.asp</p> <p>John McManus “Objectivity: Time to say Goodbye” <i>Nieman Reports</i> June 11th 2009</p>
W 9/20	Writing Workshop	<p>Graff & Birkenstein <i>TS/IS</i> chs 4-6 pp 55-91</p> <p>Graff & Birkenstein chs 8-10 pp 105-138</p>
M 9/25 Paper 1 due	Revising	<p>Barnet et al. Chs 4 (“Revising for Conciseness”) and Ch 5 (“Revising for Clarity”) pp 57-86</p> <p>* Zinsser “On Writing Well” Chs 2, 3</p> <p>*Roy Clarke <i>Writing Tools</i> , 3, 5, 6,10</p> <p>[Movie: <i>Spotlight</i>]</p>
W 9/27	Should Hate Speech be a Crime?	<p>Bhiku Parekh <i>Hate Speech</i> Public Policy Research (ippr 2006)</p> <p>Jonathan Rauch “The Case for Hate Speech” <i>The Atlantic</i> November 2013</p> <p>Joyce Arthur and Peter Tatchell “Should Hate Speech be a Crime?” <i>New Internationalist</i> Dec 2012</p> <p>[Movie: <i>Denial</i>]</p>
M 10/2	How is Hate Speech Regulated?	<p>*<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> 8/2/06 ‘Free Speech in Europe’</p> <p>Eric Bleich “The Rise of Hate Speech and Hate Crime Laws in Liberal Democracies” <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> 37.6 July 2011</p>

W 10/4	Free Speech on Campus	Niall Ferguson “The Biggest Threat to Free Speech? The Left” <i>Boston Globe</i> August 7 th 2017 Thomas Healy “Who’s Afraid of Free Speech” <i>The Atlantic</i> June 18 th 2017
M 10/9 Fall Break	NO CLASS	
W 10/11 Paper 2 Due		* Akutagawa Ryūnosuke <i>In a Grove</i> (藪の中) (1922)
M 10/6	#activism vs #slacktivism? OR Will the revolution be tweeted?	Clay Shirky “The Political Power of Social Media” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Jan/Feb 2011 Malcolm Gladwell “Small Change: Why the Revolution will not be tweeted” <i>New Yorker</i> Oct 4 th 2010 Noah Belatsky “Hashtag Activism isn’t a Copout” (Interview with DeRay McKessen) <i>The Atlantic</i> Jan 7 2015 http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/01/not-just-hashtag-activism-why-social-media-matters-to-protestors/384215/
W 10/18	Do social media help tyrants?	* Evgeny Morozov <i>The Net Delusion</i> Intro (9pp) and Ch 3 “Orwell’s Favorite Lolcat” (p. 75, ‘the Orwell-Huxley Sandwich’ to end, p. 84) Viola Rothschild (’14) “I Broadcast Myself on the Chinese Web” <i>Foreign Policy</i> October 19 th 2016
M 10/23	Middle East	* Hachten and Scotton <i>The World News Prism</i> (Wiley, 8 th ed. 2012). Ch 8 “Middle East: Media Storms” * Iosifidis and Wheeler <i>Social Media and the Middle East in Public Spheres and Mediated Social Networks</i> (Palgrave 2016) Ch 11 pp 257-280 David Wolman “Cairo Activists Use Facebook to Rattle Regime” <i>Wired Magazine</i> 16: 11 10.20.08 Evgeny Morozov “Facebook and Twitter are Just Places Revolutionaries Go” <i>The Guardian online</i> 7 March 2013

W 10/25	China	<p>* Willnat, Lu Wei and Jason Martin “Politics and social media in China’ Ch 11 in G. Rawnsley and M Rawnsley (eds) <i>Routledge Handbook of Social Media in China</i> (2015) pp 181-197</p> <p>*Shirk “Echo Chamber of Nationalism” pp 80-104</p> <p>[Evan Osnos “Angry Youth” <i>The New Yorker</i> 7/28/2008]</p>
M 10/30 <i>Paper 3 Due</i>	Media and Politics in Japan	<p>* David McNeill “Japan’s Contemporary Media” (2014)</p> <p>Martin Fackler “The Silencing of Japan’s Free Press” <i>Foreign Policy</i> May 27th 2016 http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/05/27/the-silencing-of-japans-free-press-shinzo-abe-media/</p> <p>[Martin Fackler “Sinking a Bold Foray into Watchdog Journalism in Japan” <i>Columbia Journalism Review</i> October 25th 2016]</p> <p>[Christian Collett and Gento Kato “Does NHK Make you Smarter?” <i>Japanese Journal of Political Science</i> 15 (1) March 2014]</p>
W 11/1	Political influence and self-censorship	<p>Laurence “Censorship at NHK and PBS” JPRI Critique Vol. XII, No. 3 (April 2005) http://www.jpri.org/publications/critiques/critique_XII_3.html</p> <p>[Alessia Cerantola “Investigative journalism fight back in face of new Japanese secrecy laws” Jan 19th 2015 BBCblogs] http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/collegeofjournalism/entries/547ef9ed-d69b-4a72-aaa9-9f6311a2e4c6</p> <p>[Kaori Hayashi and Gerd Kopper “Multi-layer research design for analyses of journalism and media systems in the global age: test case Japan” <i>Media, Culture and Society</i> August 2014]</p>
M 11/6	Cool Japan and “Soft power”	<p>* Douglas McCray “Japan’s Gross National Cool” <i>Foreign Policy</i> May 2002</p> <p>H Laurence “Will Pokémon Go Power Up Japan’s Cool Economy?” <i>The Diplomat</i> July 29 2016</p> <p>* [Koichi Iwabuchi “Cultural Flows: Japan and East Asia” Ch 21 in Bestor, Bestor and Yamagata (eds) <i>Routledge Handbook of Japanese Culture and Society</i> (2011) pp 263-272]</p>

W 11/8		*David Leheny "A Narrow Place to Cross Swords" in Katzenstein and Shiraishi (eds) <i>Beyond Japan</i> (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006) [Laurence "NHK and Abe's Agenda" <i>The Diplomat</i> Feb 8 2014 http://thediplomat.com/2014/02/nhk-and-abes-agenda/]
M 11/13 <i>Paper 4 due</i>	Writing a Research Paper	Barnet Chs 1, 3, 7 10
W 11/15	Research methods	TBA
M 11/20	Workshop on Presentations/ Papers	TBA
W 11/22 Thanksgiving	No Class	
M 11/25	Presentations	No reading
W 11/27	Presentations	No reading
M 12/4	Presentations	No reading
W 12/6 Last Class	Presentations	No reading
Tuesday Dec 16 th	<i>Final Paper Deadline</i>	<i>Deliver hard copy to my mailbox/office by 4.00 pm</i>

Paper Topics for Global Media First Year Seminar

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE

(Due dates may be varied according to class progress, etc)

Paper One: 4-5 pages due in class Monday 9/25 (Mandatory)

What distinguishes good from bad journalism? Is objectivity desirable or possible?

Paper Two: 4-5 pages due in class Monday Oct 11th

Should 'Hate Speech' be a crime?

Paper Three: 4-5 pages due in class Monday Oct 30th

To what extent have new media (the internet, social media, etc) changed any or all aspects of politics or political life in authoritarian countries? Consider China and the Middle East. (You may discuss other countries if you wish). Consider the impact of new media relative to "old" media (newspapers, television, etc) if possible.

Paper Four 4-5 pages due in class Monday November 13th

Does globally successful pop culture confer "soft power"?

OR To what extent are media-government relationships different in Japan than in the US or elsewhere?

Final Research Paper (6-8 pages)

Write on any topic related to the themes of the course. You can explore a new topic or go more deeply into something we have already studied. In either case, you must include reference to at least 2 of the assigned readings.

A 2-page prospectus is due in class on Monday November 20th (or sooner). This should outline a topic, the broader debate to which your research will contribute, a provisional question or questions, and a provisional hypothesis – i.e. a hunch about what you expect, which might be based on what you have already discovered. It should NOT state an argument, a thesis, or a conclusion. List at least 4 specific sources.

The finished paper is due in my mailbox by 5 pm Tuesday Dec 16th