

Global Media and Politics

Fall 2018

Mon/Wed 2.50 pm – 4.15 Adams 208

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4, Fridays 2-3 (May vary, check for weekly announcements)

hlaurenc@bowdoin.edu

Office: Asian Studies 208 (38 College Street)

Tel: 725-3528

Course Description

Examines the interconnections between media, politics and society in cross-national perspective. Explores national differences in issues such as free speech policy; privacy rights; censorship and self-censorship; news production and consumption; and the role of public broadcasters such as the BBC and NHK. Also considers the role of pop culture in shaping national identities and creating diplomatic "soft power." Cases drawn primarily but not exclusively from the UK, Japan and the USA.

Questions include:

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

Should hate speech be restricted?

How are media-government relationships different in Japan?

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

How should the media tech giants (Facebook, Twitter, Google, etc) be regulated?

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

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*.

Readings

There are no assigned texts. 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.

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).

Short writing assignments. Assigned throughout the semester according to the demands of the syllabus and schedule. Some will be in-class, others take-home assignments to be completed by the next class.

Three 4-5 page Papers: Choose 3 from 5 questions which will be spaced across the curriculum. You may write more than 3. (Top 3 grades will count towards your final grade).

Final take-home exam or research paper. Exam will be approx 5-6 pages, responding to a variety of questions based on assigned readings. These questions will be distributed at the final class session. Or you can write a research paper (5-6 pages) on a topic of your own choosing with my written permission, which must be obtained by before the final class session. Permission will be granted conditional on satisfactory progress in the class and a workable paper topic.

Deadlines: Papers 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 5 page papers (20% each)	60%
Final take-home exam/paper	20%
Short writing assignments	10%
Class participation	10%

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

Papers must be submitted in HARD COPY and STAPLED

Going over page limits is fine.

Include PAGE-NUMBERS and DATE.

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

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

PROOF-READ. Do NOT just run spell-checker, which often misses basic errors, eg it’s vs. its. Handwritten corrections are welcomed.

Double-space. Use regular margins (Word default is 1 ¼ inch) and a normal font. (Times 12 point preferred).

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. You can use whatever recognized style you are most comfortable with. Two common formats are:

(1) MLA format

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 8/29	Introduction	
M 9/3	Truth, language and testimony	<p>* Akutagawa Ryūnosuke <i>In a Grove</i> (藪の中) (1922)</p> <p>* George Orwell <i>Politics and the English Language</i> (1946)</p>
W 9/5	Analyzing arguments	<p>Malcolm Gladwell “Food Fights” <i>Revisionist History</i> (Podcast) Season 1 Episode 5</p> <p>* Michael Baranowski <i>Navigating the News</i> (Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2013) Ch 6 (Bad Arguments)</p>
M 9/10	The Role of the Press. <i>What is journalism for?</i>	<p>* Jan Leighley <i>Mass Media and Politics</i> (Houghton-Mifflin, 2004) pp 8-15 and 50-67</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)</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>
W 9/12	<i>How well do the media inform democratic deliberation?</i>	<p>* Patterson <i>Informing the News</i> Intro, Ch 1.</p> <p>* Aaron Barlow “The Pride and Reward of Falsification” in St. John and Johnston (eds) <i>News with a View</i> (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2012)</p> <p>Skim: * “What you know depends on what you watch” PublicMind survey May 3 2012 http://publicmind.fdu.edu/2012/confirmed/final.pdf</p>

		[Michael Kelly “Watching Only Fox News Makes you less Informed” <i>Business Insider</i> 5/22/2012]
M 9/17	<i>Is journalistic objectivity possible or desirable?</i>	<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> <p>*Gadi Wolsfeld Ch. 3 “No Such Thing as Objective News” in <i>Making Sense of Media and Politics</i> (NY: Routledge, 2011)</p>
W 9/19	Journalism and the Truth	* Bill Kovach and Tom Rosentiel <i>The Elements of Journalism</i> Ch 2 “Truth” pp 35-49
M 9/24	Free Speech	<p>“Freedom of Speech” <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> (online) https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/freedom-speech/</p>
W 9/26	Hate Speech	<p>*Eric Bleich <i>The Freedom to be Racist?</i> (Oxford University Press 2011) Chapters 1 (3-13)</p> <p>*Eric Bleich <i>The Freedom to be Racist?</i> (Oxford University Press 2011) Chapter 2 (pp 17-43)</p>
M 10/1	<i>Should Hate Speech be a Crime?</i>	<p>Joyce Arthur and Peter Tatchell “Should Hate Speech be a Crime?” <i>New Internationalist</i> Dec 2012</p> <p>Bhiku Parekh <i>Hate Speech</i> Public Policy Research (ippr 2006)</p> <p>*<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> 8/2/06 “Free Speech in Europe”</p> <p>[Jonathan Rauch “The Case for Hate Speech” <i>The Atlantic</i> November 2013]</p>
W 10/3	Hate Speech in Japan	<p>Justin McCurry “Rising Hate Speech in Japan” <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> 7/12/2013</p> <p>“Spin and Substance: Hate Speech in Japan” <i>The Economist</i></p>

		<p>27/9/2014</p> <p>Tomomi Tamaguchi “Xenophobia in Action: Ultrationalism and the Internet” <i>Radical History Review</i> Fall 2013</p> <p>[Koji Higashikawa “Japan’s Hate Speech Laws “<i>Asia-Pacific Law and Policy Journal</i> 12/1/2017, skim]</p>
M 10/8 Fall Break	NO CLASS	
W 10/10	Review and catch-up session	No reading
M 10/15	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>*Cucek “Abe and Press Opposition” Ch 6 in Kingson (ed) <i>Press Freedom in Contemporary Japan</i> (London: Routledge, 2017)</p>
W 10/17	NHK	<p>Ellis Krauss “NHK: the changing and unchanged politics of semi-independence” Ch 5 in Kingson (ed) <i>Press Freedom in Contemporary Japan</i> (London: Routledge, 2017)</p> <p>H 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>[Skim: Christian Collett and Gento Kato “Does NHK Make you Smarter?” <i>Japanese Journal of Political Science</i> 15 (1) March 2014]</p>
M 10/22	#activism vs #slacktivism? <i>Will the revolution be tweeted?</i>	<p>Clay Shirky “The Political Power of Social Media” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Jan/Feb 2011</p> <p>Malcolm Gladwell “Small Change: Why the Revolution will not be tweeted” <i>New Yorker</i> Oct 4th 2010</p>
W 10/24	<i>Do social</i>	* Evgeny Morozov <i>The Net Delusion</i> Intro (9pp)

	<i>media help tyrants?</i>	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 19th 2016
M 10/29	Social Media and the Arab Spring	P. Howard and M. Hussain “The Role of Digital Media [in the Arab Spring]” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 22.3 July 2011 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 10/31	New Media in China	* 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 *Shirk “Echo Chamber of Nationalism” pp 80-104 [Evan Osnos “Angry Youth” <i>The New Yorker</i> 7/28/2008]
M 11/5	Online privacy: <i>What are the appropriate limits of online privacy?</i>	Jeff Toobin “The Solace of Oblivion” <i>The New Yorker</i> 9/29/14 Christopher Wolf and Maxwell Winston “So Close Yet so Far Apart: EU and US visions of a New Privacy Framework” <i>Antitrust Magazine</i> 2012 http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/03/technology/consumer-data-protection-laws-an-ocean-apart.html?ref=todayspaper
W 11/7	Data Protection	How the US and Europe differ on data protection/respecting privacy"? https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/01/opinion/europe-privacy-protections.html?smprod=nytcore-ipad&smid=nytcore-ipad-share Alison Cool “Europe’s Data Protection Law is a Big Confusing Mess” <i>NYT</i> 5/15/2018 Natasha Singer and Prasant Rao “US v Britain: How much of your data can you get?” <i>NYT</i> 5/21/2018

M 11/12	Surveillance Capitalism. <i>Does Facebook threaten democracy?</i>	<p>“Talking Politics” podcast about Facebook, Cambridge Analytica and Surveillance Capitalism https://www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com/blog/2018/87-facebook-vs-the-world</p> <p>(Anti-trust regulation for digital giants) https://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21721656-data-economy-demands-new-approach-antitrust-rules-worlds-most-valuable-resource</p> <p>http://www.aei.org/publication/protecting-privacy-in-a-data-driven-world/</p>
W 11/14	<i>Should Tech giants be more heavily regulated?</i>	<p>“Should the Tech Giants be More heavily regulated” <i>The Economist</i> Open Future Debate 4/30/2018 https://debates.economist.com/debate/should-regulators-break-tech-giants</p> <p>Jennifer Cobbe’s piece on Surveillance Capitalism: https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk/jennifer-cobbe/problem-isn-t-just-cambridge-analytica-or-even-facebook-it-s-surveillance-capitali</p>
M 11/19	Open Session	No assigned reading
W 11/21 Thanksgiving	No Class	
M 11/26	Open Session	No assigned reading
W 11/28	Cool Japan	<p>* Douglas McCray “Japan’s Gross National Cool” <i>Foreign Policy</i> May 2002</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>
M 12/3	<i>Does Japan’s pop culture give soft power?</i>	<p>*David Leheny “A Narrow Place to Cross Swords” in Katzenstein and Shiraishi (eds) <i>Beyond Japan</i> (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006)</p> <p>H. Laurence “NHK and Abe’s Agenda” <i>The Diplomat</i> Feb 8 2014 http://thediplomat.com/2014/02/nhk-and-abes-agenda/</p>

		[*Nancy Snow “Japan’s Global Information War” Ch 20 in Kingson (ed) <i>Press Freedom in Contemporary Japan</i> (London: Routledge, 2017)]
W 12/5 Last Class	Open Session	
December 17 th	Final Exam/paper due 5.00 pm	
Recommended	Readings on Writing	<p>Graff/Birkenstein <i>They Say/I Say</i> Intro and Part 1 (chs 1-3) pp 1-51 and Ch 12 (pp 163-166)</p> <p>Graff & Birkenstein <i>TS/IS</i> chs 4-6 pp 55-91 Graff & Birkenstein chs 8-10 pp 105-138</p> <p>[Barnet et al. <i>Short Guide to College Writing</i> Ch 9 “Persuading Readers” pp. 162-189]</p> <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 *Roy Clarke <i>Writing Tools</i> , 3, 5, 6,10</p>
	Writing a Research Paper	Barnet et. al. Chs 1, 3, 7 10

Paper Topics for Global Media and Politics

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE

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

Paper One: 4-5 pages due in class Monday 9/24 (Mandatory)

What distinguishes good from bad journalism?

Paper Two: 4-5 pages due in class Monday Oct 17th

Should 'Hate Speech' be a crime?

Paper Three: 4-5 pages due in class Monday Oct 22

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

Paper Four: 4-5 pages due in class Monday November 12th

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/or the Middle East. (You may discuss other countries if you wish). Consider the relative impact of new media versus "old" media (newspapers, television, etc) if possible.

Paper Five 4-5 pages due in class Wednesday November 28th.

How should the tech and social media giants (Facebook, Google, Amazon, Twitter, etc) be regulated? (You should focus on one or at most two aspects or companies).

Paper Six due in in my mailbox at 5.00 pm on the day the final exam is due to be held.
(TBA)

Does globally successful pop culture confer "soft power"?

Final Takehome Exam or Paper (5-6 pages)

Due in my mailbox at 5.00 pm on the day the final exam is due to be held. (TBA)

Either answer a variety of questions to be assigned on the final day of classes OR 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 3 of the assigned readings. Needs my written permission before the final day of classes.

The final paper or exam will be

