

## **Global Media and Politics**

Henry Laurence  
38 College St, rm 206 x 3528  
Sills Hall

email: laurence@bowdoin.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursday 2-4 or by appointment.

Mon/Wed/Fri 10.30-11.25  
Smith Auditorium,

---

### **Course Description and Goals**

Examines the impact of media, including the internet, newspapers, television, on politics and society in cross-national perspective. Examines how differences in the ownership and regulation of media affect how news is selected and presented, and examines various forms of government censorship and commercial self-censorship. Looks at the role of the media and “pop culture” in creating national identities, perpetuating ethnic stereotypes, and providing regime legitimation. Particular focus on Asia; the impact of satellite TV and the internet on rural societies and authoritarian governments; TV in Japan: and the portrayal of Asian-Americans.

### **Readings**

The following are available for purchase at the Bowdoin Textbook store. These texts are also available on reserve at the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library.

De-Westernizing Media Studies James Curran and Myung-Jin Park (eds) (Routledge, 2000)

Inside the BBC and CNN Lucy Kung-Shankleman (Routledge, 2000)

Democracy and the Media Richard Gunther and Anthony Mughan (eds) (Cambridge 2000)

Mass Media and Society James Curran (ed)

The Global Media Edward Herman and Robert McChesney (Cassel 1997)

In addition, there will be shorter readings placed on reserve at Hawthorne-Longfellow Library or distributed in class. These are marked \*.

### **“Economist” Subscription**

You will be expected to follow world news on a regular (ie at least weekly) basis in at least one non-American source, and in my opinion the single best English-language print news source is the “Economist” weekly magazine. Subscriptions are available at educational discount for the semester thru the bookstore.

**Requirements:**

1) Attend all class sessions, and participate in class discussions. Read all assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them either orally or on paper.

2) 5 1-page response papers

A response to at least one of the assigned readings. What you say and how you say it is up to you – you can agree or disagree completely with the reading, compare it to another reading from this or another class, or relate it to some current event or personal experience. Basically write about whatever interests you intellectually about the piece. The only rule is that the paper should demonstrate a good understanding of the reading in question.

These papers are due in class on or before the day for which the reading is assigned, and must follow this timetable: at least 2 are due by the end of week 4 (Feb 15<sup>th</sup>); at least 1 more (3 total) are due by spring break (March 15<sup>th</sup>) and all 5 are due the last day of class, May 8<sup>th</sup>. This schedule is flexible enough that I will NOT be granting extensions. If you miss the deadlines, you lose the points.

The only length requirement is that the work be submitted on one sheet of paper.

3) Take-home midterm: a 5-6 page paper on a question or questions to be set by Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> and due by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

4 a) Final research report: 10 page paper which applies the ideas and theories of the course to real media during the time period of this class (Jan-May 2002). What you research and how you do it is up to you - Eg you could compare coverage of the same event in several different news sources OR compare the international news coverage of two dissimilar news sources over time OR you could compare media systems in two or more different countries OR you could do a case study of a particular media organization. The only content rules are that (1) the research must be related somehow to assigned reading and (2) there must be an international component. (eg analyzing US media coverage of foreign events or foreign media coverage of US events or foreign media coverage of foreign events are all ok, but research solely on domestic US media is not.)

4 b) An interim report, of at least 3 pages, -- which will be graded -- is due by Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>. I will meet individually with all students to discuss these reports in the week of April 22-26 (Week 12)

The final report is due that last day of exams, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Rewrites, etc:** I will be happy to read and comment on any drafts of the longer papers, provided I am given enough time to do so – at least a week of turn-around time for the final paper.

You may rewrite either the midterm paper or the interim report, as long as you do so within 2 weeks of getting back the original.

There are no rewrites on response papers but if you write more than 5 I will only grade your highest 5 scores.

<b><u>Grading</u></b>	<b># of points</b>	
Response Papers (5 x 4 pts)	20	
Midterm Paper		25
Interim report	10	
Final Report	35	
Class participation	10	

#### Grade Scale

91-100 points	=	A
81-90		B
71-80		C
61-70		D
> 60		Fail

Note: a precondition for passing the class is that all the requirements be fulfilled. Therefore, failure in any one of these categories could result in failing the class not matter how well you did in other categories.

#### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

All work you submit is assumed to be your own unless you cite another source of assistance appropriately. Any breach of the Bowdoin Academic Honor Code will result in an "F" grade for the course, and referral to the Judicial Board. Please see the instructor if you are uncertain about the rules on appropriate citation and plagiarism.

**Lecture Timetable Spring 2000**

1 **Objectivity and the Quest for the Truth...**

Jan 21 (M) Introduction

Jan 23 (W) Objectivity and Truth

*Akutagawa "In a Grove"*

Jan 25 (F) Can Journalists be Objective/Neutral/Impartial?

*C&G 11 (Lichtenberg)*

*\* Collings (CHE 12/21/01) "How to be Impartial in Wartime"*

2 **Theories of Media and Democracy**

Jan 28 (M) The Free market for Ideas

*C&G 6 (Curran: Media and Democracy)*

Jan 30 (W) Problems with the market model

*\*Herman and Chomsky Manufacturing Consent 1-35*

*\*FAIR: NYT Buries story*

Feb 1 (F) How is the news made?

*C&G 8 (Schudson) Sociology of News Production*

*\* Auletta Battle Stations(New Yorker 12/10/01)*

*\*Small World (Harpers Jan 02)*

3 **Media and Politics in the US**

Feb 4 (M) Manufacturing Consent (video)

Feb 6 (W) Guest Lecturer: Sandy Polster

Feb 8 (F) Discussion: does the US media serve the public interest?

*C&G 10 (Hallin)*

*C&P 14 (Bennet)*

*G&M 7 (Patterson)*

4

**Media and Politics in Britain**

Feb 11 (M) The BBC: news as a public good

Feb 13 (W) The British Print Media

*G&M 10 (Semetko)*

*C&P 15 (Curran and Leys)*

Feb 15 (F) The BBC and CNN compared

*Kung-Shankleman – selected chapters TBA*

5

**News Media in Japan**

Feb 18 (M) What Makes News?

*\*Straubhaar et al What Makes News?*

Feb 20 (W) The Japanese Press

*C&P 13 (Sugimoto)*

*G&M 8 (Krauss)*

Feb 22 (F) NHK – the world's largest broadcaster

*\*Laurence "The BBC, NHK and PBS"*

6

**Media Globalization**

Feb 25 (M) Video: Windows on the World

Feb 27 (W) The Rise of Global Media MNCS

*H&McC 2,3,*

Mar 1 (F) Globalization

*H&McC 6*

7 **Broadcasting Policy in East Asia**

Mar 4 (M) China and Hong Kong

*C&G 14,  
C&P 21*

Mar 6 (W) Korea and Taiwan

*C&P 8 (Park et al), 9 (Lee)*

Mar 8 (F) Malaysia

*C&P 10 (Nain)*

**Spring Break March 8<sup>th</sup> – March 24th**

8 **Political media in transition and illiberal states**

Mar 25 (M) The Middle East

*C&P 5 (Sreberny), 12 (Amin)*

Mar 27 (W) Zimbabwe

*C&P 11 (Ronning & Kuppe)*

Mar 29 (F) Russia

*C&P 6 (McNair)*

9 **Satellite TV in India: the economics**

Apr 1 (M) STAR TV A

Apr 3 (W) STAR TV B-F

Apr 5 (F) STAR TV B-F (Cont)

10 **Satellite TV in India: the cultural impact**

- Apr 8 (M) Video: Serial for Breakfast
- Apr 10 (W) TV and National Identity  
*\*Maneker: TV and Nationhood in India  
 C&P 20 (Rajagopal)*
- Apr 12 (F) Debate: does Globalization mean Cultural Imperialism?  
*\*Reserve: S Chaffee Search for Change*
- 11 **Mass Media and Identity Politics**
- Apr 15 (M) Interlude: How to write a research paper
- Apr 17 (W) The US media looks at Asia  
*\* Zipangu: Why is US coverage of Japan so biased?*
- Apr 19 (F) The US media looks at Asian-Americans  
*\*TBA*
- 12 **Mass Media (cont)**
- Apr 22 (M) Mass Media and National Mythology OR should films be truthful?
- Apr 24 (W) Individual Meetings
- Apr 26 (F) Individual Meetings
- 13 **Governing the Internet**
- April 29 (M) Political Implications of the world wide web  
*H&McC ch 4  
 C&G 13 (Sparks)*
- May 1 (W) Property protection on the new frontier  
*\*Economist "The end of geography?"*
- May 3 (F) Who should control the web?

*\*Ben Barber The new technology: endless frontier of end of democracy?*

14

**Global Media and Democracy**

May 6 (M) Global media and democracy

*H&McC ch 7*

May 8 (W) Wrapping Up

May 9-11 Reading Period

May 13-18 Exams

May 25<sup>th</sup> Commencement