ADJO3349.01 Politics and the Media: Power and Influence
Woods College of Advancing Studies
Summer 1, 2018
May 16 - June 20, 2018
M/W 6 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
Instructor Name: Professor Marie D. Natoli
BC E-mail: natoli@bc.edu
Phone Number: 781 239-1065
Office: Woods College
Office Hours: before and after class meetings

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation’s finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
This is a hybrid course, which combines some in-person and some online class meetings. Please refer to the course syllabus on the course Canvas page and on the Summer Session website for more detailed information.

An analysis of mass media’s impact on the workings of the American system. The media’s interaction with and influence on political institutions, on the presidential selection process, on national and international events, on office holders, politicians, heads of state and the treatment of economic upheaval and violence are analyzed. Considers the media’s role in the coverage of war, especially in a terrorist world.
Textbooks & Readings (Required)

- Gary Strandberg. *Social Media Politics: Using the Internet to Get Elected*


Textbooks & Readings (Recommended)

Larry Sabato. *Feeding Frenzy*

Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click here.

In the case of any technical difficulties or concerns, please contact canvas@bc.edu or 617-552-HELP (4357) for immediate assistance.

NOTE: Canvas requires particular computer specifications and wifi access. It is important that you plan accordingly, particularly for courses that have online components.

Course Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge regarding the relationship between the collective media and their relationship to communications;
2. Students will analyze the impact of media on the full range of the U. S. political, socio-cultural and economic issues;
3. Students will be able to apply broad media concepts to contemporary and developing issues;
4. Students will be able to assess the role of a "free and open marketplace of ideas" in a democratic society.

Grading in ADJO3349.01: Each module of the course has several grading components: class participation, submissions of commentaries and critiques of readings and use of documentary materials, exams and a final paper. Since each module has different percentages of graded points, please see CANVAS.
The undergraduate grading system for Woods College is as follows:

A (4.00), A- (3.67), B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (0.67), F (0.0)

The graduate grading system for Woods College is as follows:

A (4.00), A- (3.67), B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), passing but does not count toward degree, C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit, F (0.0)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Students who complete course evaluations can access grades earlier, as they are posted.

**Deadlines and Late Work**

All course materials must be completed and submitted as scheduled. Late submissions will be penalized.

**Course Assignments**

The University requires a minimum of 2 hours per week for every hour of instruction time. These are listed below. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 8 hours per week over the semester.
## Course Schedule

- read
  - view
  - submit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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| 5/16; 5/21 | I Intro to Course: Criticisms of Mass Media; Functions of Communication | • West and Dunaway, Chs. 3, 4  
• James W. Cushing, "U.S. Weighs in on Threats Over Social Media," *The Legal Intelligencer*, August 2015  
• [VIEW](youtube.com): Spiro Agnew, "Media Speech," Des Moines, Iowa | 5/16; 5/21 |
| 5/23 | II Concepts of Mass Communication | • Nichols and McChesney, Introduction;  
• Nichols and McChesney, Ch.1  
• Gary Strandberg, begin (to be completed by Topic IV) | 5/23 |
| 5/28 | Memorial Day HOLIDAY | Get ahead of yourselves on readings and Documentaries! | |
| 5/30 | II Cont. | [VIEW](youtube.com)  
✓ "Children of the Secret State" (North Korea)  
✓ "Reporting from North Korea"  
➢ Submit critique online for both documentaries | 5/30 |
| 6/4 | MIDTERM EXAM (first hour) Followed by: III Democratic Government and Control of Media? | | 6/4 |
| 6/6 | IV Technological Media Developments and U. S. Politics | • West and Dunaway, Chs. 11, 12  
• Complete Strandberg  
✓ [View](youtube.com) "Top Ten Campaign Ads"  
"Frontline: The Choice 2016"  
"The Best of the Presidential Movies"  
Top5 Best and Worst Movie Presidents | 6/6 |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>In-Class/WEEKday</th>
<th>Reading/Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>6/11</td>
<td>In-Class</td>
<td>Submit critique for each reading</td>
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<td>Submit critique for each documentary</td>
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<td>West and Dunaway, Chs. 1, 2, 4</td>
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<td>6/13</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td>V (cont.)</td>
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<td>• West and Dunaway, Chs. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
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<td>• Submit critiques for each reading</td>
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<td>6/18</td>
<td>In-Class</td>
<td>VI Social-Economic-Political-Culture Effects of the Media</td>
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<td>• West and Dunaway, Chs. 4, 13</td>
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<td>• VIEW (youtube.com): &quot;Screenagers&quot;</td>
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<td>6/20</td>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>Individual Research</td>
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Written Work
Woods College students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor’s requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.

Attendance
Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. Many instructors grade for participation; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Makeup work may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class.
Consistent with BC’s commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

Accommodation and Accessibility
Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Woods College courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
● The Disabilities Services Office (DSO) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility.

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
Students in Woods College courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work. Please see the Boston College policy on academic integrity for more information.

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