

PT347 POLITICS, POPULISM AND MEDIA

Seminar Leaders: Aysuda Kölemen, Yasemin Özgün

Email: a.kolemen@berlin.bard.edu, yasemin400@gmail.com

Class Hours: WF 10:45-12:15

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with analytical tools to conceptualise the relationship between the media, populism and politics. It focuses on the cultural, social and economic consequences of the formation and implementation of policies that shape the media. Special attention will be paid to the question of what kind of economic environment the media operates in and by whom it is controlled. Among the themes to be explored are the links between the transformation of the media and the rise of neoliberal policies and right wing populism around the world; the relationship between populist discourses and the media (e.g. the process of mediatization of politics and the threat of media populism to democratic values); the link between the new media (in particular, social media) and populism; the construction of identities (e.g. ethnicity, minorities as well as gender and masculinity) in the media.

This course will be online. It will be offered in collaboration with Off-University and with the funding of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative. Students from outside BCB will also be able to enroll and participate in the course.

Requirements

Academic Integrity

We expect you to maintain a high regard for academic integrity and engage in good academic practices. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Human knowledge is enriched when we borrow other people's ideas, findings and writing and expand on them, develop them and disseminate them. However, you should always give credit where it is due.

When you make use of the work of someone, either directly cite the source, or rephrase and reference the original work. Plagiarism is theft of intellectual labor. If you are not certain whether something constitutes plagiarism, please consult us before you turn in the assignment.

Readings

Course reader (will be available online).

Attendance

Attendance at ALL classes is expected. You will lose 10% of your participation grade for each of your absences after the first two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes).

Please consult the Student Handbook Section 2.8 for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2021

Some students might need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

Assignments

Students are expected to turn in 5 response papers and a final paper assignment in this course. You will be provided detailed guidelines on these assignments.

There will also be a short take-home midterm exam and short take-home final exam. You will be provided guidance on the format of these exams in advance.

You are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback as well as all your questions and concerns regarding the course.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Response papers are supposed to be turned in before the class starts. Late response papers will not be accepted. You can choose any five readings to write responses to, but you can choose a maximum of three readings in the first or second part of the semester.

Final paper assignment will be downgraded 10 percent. After the first 24 hours, your paper will lose five percent of the grade for each late day.

Grade Breakdown

Response papers (5) 20%
Short midterm exam 10%
Short final exam 10%
Final essay 30%
Participation 30%

Course Schedule

WEEK	Wednesday 10:45	Friday 10:45
<u>WEEK 1 Functions of the media in democratic polities</u>		
Feb 3-5	Lasswell, H. D. (1948)	Cunnigham (2003)
<u>WEEK 2 Historical transformation of the media</u>		
Feb 10-12	C. Edwin Baker	Jin, D. (2018).
<u>WEEK 3 Rise of the right wing media ecosystem</u>		
Feb 17-19	Arsenault, A., & Castells, M. (2008)	Case study: the right wing media
<u>WEEK 4 Right-wing populism</u>		
Feb 24-26	Dahlberg, L., Palgrave Connect (Online service), & Phelan, S. (2011).	Media Populism, edt by Guiseppe Fidotta, Joshua Neves and Joaquin Serpe
<u>WEEK 5 Media and the government</u>		
March 3-5	Giannakopoulos, Angelos (2019) (editor).	Cohen, Julie (2016).
<u>WEEK 6 New Media: Theoretical and Political Approaches</u>		
March 10-12	Miller, D., et al (2016) chp 1-2.	Case Study: QAnon, K-Pop and Insurrection
<u>WEEK 7 Social media and the democratic discourse</u>		
March 17-19	Bright, J. (2018)	Milan, S. (2015)

<u>WEEK 8 Social media: ethical dilemmas on free speech</u>		
March 24-26	Balkin, J. M. (2017)	Short midterm exam
<u>WEEK 9 Representation of minority identities and issues in the media</u>		
April 7-9	James, M. (2020).	Datts, M (2020)
<u>WEEK 10 Postcolonial media critiques</u>		
April 14-16	Kumar, S, & Parameswaran, R. (2018).	Shome, R. (2016).
<u>WEEK 11 Media, war, nationalism</u>		
April 21-23	Kellner, Douglas (2016)	Anthony R. DiMaggio. (2015).
<u>WEEK 12 The feminist perspective: Gendered media</u>		
April 28-30	Karen Ross. (2010).	Dines, G., & Humez, J. M. (2014).
<u>WEEK 13 The Pandemic and the Media</u>		
May 5-7	Levina, M. (2012).	Huanyu Bao, Bolin Cao, Yuan Xiong, Weiming Tang JMIR Mhealth Uhealth. (2020)
<u>WEEK 14 Taking stock of the semester</u>		
May 12-14	Short final exam	Taking stock
COMPLETION WEEK May 21		Final Assignment

We reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. You will be immediately notified of all changes.