

**JOUR 2011
MEDIA & PUBLIC CULTURE
FALL 2003**

[LAST UPDATE: 9/11/03]

Lectures: MW, 3.00 - 3.50
HUMN (Eaton Humanities) 150
Ucsu.colorado.edu/~demonthe/2011

Prof. Michael Tracey

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday 4-5 p.m. or by appointment

Recitations

Recitation instructors:

Christof Demont-Heinrich christof.demont-heinrich@colorado.edu

Office hours (Armory 102): Monday, Wednesday 2-2.50

Yuri Obata yuri.obata@colorado.edu

Office hours(Armory 102): Monday, Wednesday 2-2.50

Ildiko Rezmuves rezmuves@colorado.edu

Office hours(Armory 102): Monday 2-2.50, Friday 9-9.50

| Section | Time | Location | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 110 | 8.00AM-8.50AM | CLRE (Clare Small Arts and Sciences) | 211 |
| 120 | 3.00PM-3.50PM | KTCH (Ketchum Arts and Sciences) | 119 |
| 130 | 2.00PM-2.50PM | EDUC (Education) | 138 |
| 140 | 3.00PM-3.50PM | HLMS (Hellems Arts and Sciences) | 191 |
| 150 | 8.00AM-8.50AM | FA (Sibell Wolle Fine Arts) | N185 |
| 160 | 3.00PM-3.50PM | HLMS (Hellems Arts and Sciences) | 185 |

Course description

At a broad level the course examines the relationship between the media, the culture, particularly though not exclusively, of the United States, and the public. A particular theme of many of the readings and of guest lectures will be the question of whether the American media serve the public-as-citizens and this society as a democracy in a proper and meaningful manner. In the first classes we will examine something of what such terms of public, public culture, democracy, citizenship, rights actually mean. We will be looking at the relationship between these notions as the bedrock beliefs of this society and what the realities are of how the media actually function within this and other societies. We will do this by considering specific issues such as how the structure of ownership affects what the media do; the role of market forces; questions of the coverage of the war and 9-11; extent of freedom of speech; the coverage of politics; and cultural critiques of how this society, including the media, have evolved in the past two decades.

Course structure, requirements and policies

This is one of four 'core courses' required of all journalism majors and is intended to give students a conceptual background for understanding media within society. It is essentially concerned with getting you to think about media in society, to get to grips with the important but often difficult issues which are raised by, and about, all media. The class is divided into three sessions weekly: two lecture sessions with Professor Tracey (Monday and Wednesday) and one session with a teaching assistant (Friday). The recitation is intended to provide time, in smaller groups, to discuss the issues raised in the lecture. The grade for the class will be based on four different elements: a mid-term exam, consisting of short written essays - 25%; a final-exam, again based on essay answers - 25%; group research projects - 30%; a grade for participation within the Friday classes - 20%. Because of the importance of the research projects, you will be given time in lieu, which means that not every Friday will have a recitation class. All written assignments are due on the assigned date; late papers will be accepted only in the case of genuine emergencies, with written proof of such an emergency presented to Professor Tracey or a TA. No early exams will be given, and make-up exams after the scheduled dates will be given only in cases of serious medical or other problems, with written proof required from an appropriate authority. Any particular problem you may be having with the class that is affecting your ability to complete assignments should be discussed with Professor Tracey or, if he is unavailable with the appropriate TA. Any student with special needs will be gladly accommodated. Please see Professor Tracey. It should be clearly understood that there is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism and cheating, both of which will result in an F for the course. If you are unclear as to what defines plagiarism and cheating, please consult with the appropriate TA.

Course schedule

Week 1

| | | |
|------|------|---------------|
| Mon. | 8/25 | Introduction. |
| Wed. | 8/27 | Overview. |
| Fri. | 8/29 | Recitation. |

Week 2

| | | |
|------|-----|---|
| Mon. | 9/1 | Labor Day. No class. |
| Wed. | 9/3 | Carter, Franklin, Wright: <i>The Law of Mass Media: ch. II. Introduction to Freedom of Expression</i> Ev Dennis and John Merrill: <i>Media Debates: Issues in Mass Communication ch. I. Freedom of the Press</i> |
| Fri | 9/5 | Recitation. |

Week 3

- Mon. 9/8 Immanuel Kant: “*What is Enlightenment?*”
<http://eserver.org/philosophy/kant/what-is-enlightenment.txt>
Alexis de Tocqueville: “*The unlimited power of the majority in the United States, and its consequences.*”
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/1_ch15.htm
- Wed. 9/10 J. D. Peters: “*Historical Tensions in the Concept of the Public.*”
- Fri 9/12 Recitation.

Week 4

- Mon. 9/15 Denis McQuail: *Mass Communication Theory, ch. 5. Mass Communication and Culture*
- Wed. 9/17 Denis McQuail: *Mass Communication Theory, ch. 3. Concepts and Models*
- Fri 9/19 Recitation. **Form Groups by this Date!**

Week 5

- Mon. 9/22 Guest speaker.
- Wed. 9/24 Guest speaker.
- Fri 9/26 [Note Change:] **No Recitation.**

Week 6

- Mon. 9/29 Jurgen Habermas: *Mass Culture and the Public Sphere.*
Group Project Topics Due!
- Wed. 10/1 Fall break. No class.
- Fri 10/3 Fall break. No class.

Week 7

- Mon. 10/6 Jurgen Habermas: *Further Reflections on the Public Sphere.*
- Wed. 10/8 Midterm exam.
- Fri 10/10 [Note Change]: **Recitation will be held.**

Week 8

- Mon. 10/13 Mark S. Fowler and Daniel L. Brenner: *A Marketplace Approach to Broadcast Regulation.*
- Wed. 10/15 Michael Tracey: *Americana.*
Britannia.
- Fri 10/17 Recitation.

Week 9

- Mon. 10/20 Media Studies Journal (Fall 2000) *The First Amendment*.
- Wed. 10/22 Frank H. Easterbrook and James C. Dobson: *Should Pornography Be Protected as Free Speech?*
Dennis Howitt: *Pornography: The Recent Debate*.
- Fri 10/24 Recitation.

Week 10

- Mon. 10/27 Neil Postman: "Amusing Ourselves to Death."
Alison Alexander and Jarice Hanson: *Taking sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Mass Media and Society*
Are American Values Shaped by the Mass Media?
- Wed. 10/29 Pete Hamill: *End Game*.
Crack and the Box.
- Fri 10/31 Recitation

Week 11

- Mon. 11/3 Ev Dennis and John Merrill: *Media Debates: Issues in Mass Communication*
ch. 2. Media – Government Relationship
ch. 3. Media and the Public Trust
- Wed. 11/5 John Street: *Mass Media, Politics and Democracy, ch. 3: It's Just for Fun: Politics and Entertainment*
- Fri 11/7 **No Recitation.** Use time to Work on Group Project -- Possibly Meet with your TA

Week 12

- Mon. 11/10 C. Wright Mills: *The Cultural Apparatus*
An Introduction to C. Wright Mills
- Wed. 11/12 C. Wright Mills: *The Mass Society*
- Fri 11/14 Recitation. **Group Presentations.**

Week 13

- Mon. 11/17 9/11
- Wed. 11/19 Iraq War.
- Fri 11/21 Recitation. **Group Presentations.**

Week 14

- Mon. 11/24 Subject TBA.
- Wed. 11/26 Thanksgiving. No class.
- Fri 11/28 Thanksgiving. No class.

Week 15

Mon. 12/1 Subject TBA.

Wed. 12/3 Subject TBA.

Fri 12/5 Recitation. **Group Presentations. Final Written Product Due!**

Week 16

Mon. 12/8

Wed. 12/10 Last class.

Fri 12/12 Final exam.