

POS Politics & Media: 3931

(CRN 85998)

Fall Semester, 2017

Class: T 6:00pm to 8:45pm

Location: DAV 217

Instructor: Dr. Chase B. Meyer
Email: cmeyer@mail.usf.edu
Office: DAV 258
Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 11am – 1pm
Course Website: www.chasebmeyer.com
Department: Department of History and Politics
Department Contact: www.usfsp.edu/hp/ (727) 873-4156

Course Description: This course examines the role of the mass media for democratic politics in the United States. The mass media are a diverse group of news sources that include the elite media (e.g., ABC, CBS, NBC, the New York Times, and the Washington Post) as well as cable outlets, chat-rooms, bloggers, talk radio, Internet sites, and tabloid shows. The goal of this course is to understand the forces that shape the information that these sources provide as well as to understand the impact of this information on citizens, politicians, and public policy.

Required Texts:

Graber, Doris Appel, ed. *Media power in politics*. CQ Press, 2000.

Boydston, Amber E. *Making the news: Politics, the media, and agenda setting*. University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Readings: At the end of every class period I will assign the readings for the next week. These readings should be completed before the beginning of the next class period. The readings will include chapters from the required text books as well as other reading materials that I will put on the course website. For the additional readings they will be posted on the day they are assigned, giving students a full week to read them.

Class Format: This course is 2 hours and 45 minutes long, we will take two short breaks during the class period on non-exam days. During these breaks students are free to talk to classmates, be on their phone, or read on their laptops. However, outside of these two breaks students should not be on their cell-phones and while laptops are allowed for note taking purposes, students will not be permitted to use their laptops for any other purpose during the class instruction time.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Class Attendance/Participation: Attendance is mandatory, as is participation. I will give each student one unexcused absence. After the first unexcused absence I

will begin taking off points for any unexcused absence afterwards. Participation is also mandatory. I expect students to participate in class discussions, to answer questions when asked, and to contribute whenever asked in class.

Writing Assignments: Throughout the semester students are required to complete TWO writing assignments. These writing assignments will be short 1-2 page response papers to that week's assigned readings. These are NOT to be summaries, but rather your response to the reading. What did you think about the reading? Do you agree or disagree? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the readings? These response papers will be due at the beginning of class.

Exams: There will be two exams given this semester; a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will cover the topics and readings for that half of class. There will be no make-up exams unless the student has a legitimate excuse or talks to me before the exam is given.

Miscellaneous: Extra credit opportunities will be assigned throughout the semester, if you want extra points or to do extra work, these will be your opportunities to do so. Do not come to me at the end of the semester and ask for more extra credit chances, by that time you will have missed your chance.

Participation	20%
Response Paper #1	15%
Response Paper #2	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total:	100%

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69
A: 93-96	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62
			F: 0-59

Instructor Availability: I will hold office hours every week on Tuesday and Wednesday from 11am to 1pm in my office located in Davis XXX. These office hours are subject to change and if any changes are made to my scheduled office hours I will inform the class. If you would like to meet with me outside of my normal office hours please email me at cmeyer@mail.usf.edu.

Special Needs and Academic Honesty: Students in need of academic accommodations for a disability may consult with the office of Student Disability Services to arrange appropriate accommodations. Students are required to give reasonable notice prior to requesting an accommodation.

Academic honesty is of the utmost important in an academic setting like USFSP. You are welcome to study together but make sure the work you hand in is your own. I will not

tolerate plagiarism or deception in any form.

Title IX Language: Gender-Based Crimes - Educators must report incidents of gender-based crimes including sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence and domestic violence. If a student discloses in class, in papers, or to an instructor, the instructor is required by law to report the disclosure. The Wellness Center (727-873-422) and the USFSP Victim Advocate (727-698-2079) are confidential resources where you can talk about such situations and receive assistance in confidence.