

POL 386/586
Politics and the Media*

Donald R. Burkholder, Ph.D.
Day and Time: Mon. & Wed., 5-7:30 p.m.
Summer Term 2

Classroom: Briggs
Office Hours: One-half hour after end of class on
Monday, and by appointment
Phone: 313-993-1089

Texts: Richard Davis, *THE PRESS AND AMERICAN POLITICS: THE NEW MEDIATOR* (3rd),
Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 2001.

Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky, *MANUFACTURING CONSENT: THE POLITICAL
ECONOMICS OF THE MASS MEDIA*, New York; Pantheon, 2002.

The Wall Street Journal. (Subscribe through class, at student rate.)

Other readings: Assigned and distributed from time to time.

NOTE: Reading assignments and any assigned homework, study guides, etc. are to be completed PRIOR to the beginning of the class for which they are listed. They must be on the podium before the professor begins class. No make-up assignments, exams, quizzes, or work of any kind.

M, June 21 -Discussion of class content, requirements, distribution of course description, course objectives, class outline, initial assignments. Inversion of political and geographic distance. **Political Process Model**. Single member district system, proportional representation, classical liberalism, centralization v. decentralization, history of development of media technology, significance of four freedoms, differences between systems with separation of power (e.g., U.S.) and parliamentary structures (e.g., Britain), and their resultant bureaucratic structures, with particular reference to Canada, and subsequent consequences for government-media relations. Short term paper/annotated bibliography assignment, discussion. Distribution of sample topics for term paper/annotated bibliography.

W, June 23 -Further discussion of introductory comments, concepts, requirements.

-Distribution of Roscho article on development of newspapers in the United States, and Lippmann article regarding the ways in which news becomes news. Videotape on image-making.

M, June 28 -Davis, Introduction [pp. 1- 24]; Ch. 1 and Ch. 2, Communications Revolution, and The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Discussion of previous homework, including Roscho article.

-Distribution of Gatekeeper article.

W, June 30 -Bibliographic, annotated bibliography training, McNichols Library.
REQUIRED ATTENDANCE.

M, July 5 -Research period. No class meeting. **USE TO IDENTIFY, JUSTIFY, A PROPOSED TOPIC.**

W, July 7 -Justification of proposed topic due. Cite reasons for your choice, list sources you have identified as helpful.

-Davis, Ch. 8, Ch. 9, Ch. 10, Ch. 11 - News Gathering, News Making, Media Effects on the Interactive Audience, Media Electoral Roles.

-Discussion of Gatekeeper article.

- M, July 12 -Davis, Ch. 16, Ch. 17, Ch. 18, Ch. 19 - The Bureaucracy, Interest Groups, Public Policy, Foreign and Defense Policy.
-Guest Speaker, U.S. Dep't. of Housing & Urban Development
- W, July 14 -**Mid-Term Exam.**
-Distribution of article on news coverage of child abuse.
- M, July 19 -Ch. 13, Ch. 14, and Ch. 15, The Presidency, The Congress, The Supreme Court
- W, July 21 -Davis, Ch. 3 and Ch. 4, The Twentieth Century: The Rise of Broadcasting, Media Conglomerates, and the New Journalism, and The Global Perspective.
-Discussion of Gatekeeper article, child abuse article..
-JUSTIFICATION of TOPIC for Annotated Bibliography/Paper due at beginning of class. Must include at least six scholarly sources, clearly and specifically identified. Three of them must be from 1992 or a year prior to 1992.
- M, July 26 -Davis, Ch. 5, Ch. 6 and Ch. 7, Regulating the Press, Who Are the News Media?, and The New Media
-Guest speaker, Jack Kresnak. prize-winning Detroit Free Press reporter who covers child abuse, the court system's treatment of children, etc.
- W, July 28 - Davis, Ch. 10, Ch. 11, and Ch. 12, Media Effects on the Interactive Audience, Media Electoral Roles, Media-Based Campaigns,
-Guest speaker, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- M, Aug. 2 -Individual [student] reports, discussions with class on their research, why it was chosen, what the primary findings were, and the primary, and most useful, research sources. **ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION MANDATORY.**
- W, Aug. 4 - FINAL EXAM.

*Subject to change.

