

Department of Communication: University of Illinois at Chicago Fall 2014
“Mass Media & Politics”: COMM 207 (34701) POLS 207 (34700)
Sessions Monday Tue/Thr 3:30-4:45 p.m. (BSB 285); Instructor: Walter J. Podrazik;
Office Hours: Tue/Thur 3pm or by appointment BSB 1160C podrazik@uic.edu

SUMMARY SHEET of Course Schedule through September 11:

REMINDER: DROP/ADD Date is September 5

Tuesday August 26: In classroom BSB 285. Introduction and CAN-TV past video
Thursday August 28: In classroom BSB 285. CNN’s CHICAGOLAND TV episode 1

Tuesday September 2 and Tuesday September 9: No session at BSB

Use this time to consider and to research (by phone, online, in person):

Your proposed Pundit Watch person (submit via Blackboard)**

Your proposed out-of-classroom project (submit via Blackboard)**

**submit via Blackboard by the end of the day September 9

Read: The Selling of the President

SEE FOOTNOTE BELOW re Cook County Voter Registration Project***

*****RE: COOK COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT*****

Walter,

I wanted to pass along information about National Voter Registration. If you check out their site <http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/> there are a lot of great resources not only to help you promote events but to also promote the event through social media. Just quick and easy ways to post information on Twitter and Facebook. Could be a good opportunity to send out the online voter registration link <https://ova.elections.il.gov/> that is now available to use by any citizen who has an IL state ID or Drivers License.
(From Mark Mesle, Cook County Clerk’s Office, mark.mesle@cookcountyil.gov)

Thursday September 4: Special tour of CAN TV Facilities with Tiffany Bosley

This is being held during the regular course session period **at CAN TV (NOT BSB 285)**

Please arrive by 3:30 p.m.. The tour will be completed by 4:15 p.m. at the latest

This is your opportunity to see the facilities that will be used for your CAN TV group projects.

ADDRESS of CAN TV for September 4 at 3:30-4:15 pm

Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV)

322 S Green St, Chicago, IL 60607 Phone:(312) 738-1400 x142

Contact: Tiffany Bosley, Nonprofit Services Manager

cantv.org

Thursday September 11: Back at BSB 285

Be prepared to discuss your proposed choices (pending approval) for Pundit Watch and your individual out-of-classroom project. You will be permitted to revise your proposals then.

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Details are subject to change and refinement by the Instructor throughout the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The mass media shapes and reflects the images, issues, and personalities involved in elections and governance. This course will follow the intertwining of media and politics in election campaigns and ongoing policy making. To help inform the discussion, there will be hands-on experience with the process today as well as historical perspective. There will be selected video viewing, supplementary articles, online analysis, guest speakers, discussions, required texts, and out-of-classroom projects.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS: Detailed instructions for each will be found on Blackboard

Assignments will require using your research and observations in different presentation forums:

- Read the assigned texts (both at the UIC bookstore; used, e-book/Kindle acceptable)
 - *The Selling of the President 1968* by Joe McGinniss (any edition)
 - *Dollarocracy: How the Money and Media Election Complex is Destroying America* by John Nichols and Robert McChesney (2013)
- Participate in out-of-the-classroom projects, accompanied by short reports
 - Stage a *live* cable access channel call-in program. Class divided into two groups: one for October 23; the second for November 20. (Between 3:30 and 4:30 pm at CAN TV)
 - Participate in an election/campaign related activity, including voter registration, support for a candidate or issue, or serving as an Election Day judge.
- Produce three papers: “Pundit Watch”; “Move It Forward”; and “How It’s Done.”
- Examine media coverage of politics today through selected contemporary publication articles.
- Participate in presentations by guest speakers. Currently scheduled guests include: a journalist/media critic, a strategic communications consultant, and an issues lobbyist.
- Participate in class session discussions on all of the above.

ESSENTIALS:

It is your responsibility to check your UIC email inbox regularly. Course information will be sent to that address. In addition, most ongoing course information will be posted at Blackboard.

GRADES:

For reference here is the *general guide* used for grades, including the numerical ranges.

90-99 = A/ Excellent; 80-89 = B/ Very Good; 70-79 = C/ Average; Below 70 = F/ Failure

Elements include: reading assignments, attendance, out-of-the-classroom projects; in-class discussions, papers and reports; in-class discussions; engagement with guest speakers. Writing assignments account for no less than 50% of the final grade. *Grades reflect the evaluation by the Instructor, whose judgment is final.*

ATTENDANCE:

A roll call sheet will be the final arbiter of your presence in class. If you are absent due to approved individual out-of-classroom activity, you must provide confirmation of that by the next session.

Sessions and assignments guide. All dates/guests subject to change and refinement as necessary.

Task	Date Due	Item		Action
	Aug 26	Opening Video. Guest lecturer: Prof. Steve Jones	Tue	
Choice Due	Aug 26	Sub Groups designated; select CAN TV dates		Choose
	Aug 28	Video: Chicagoland	Thr	
	Sep 02	Research out-of-classroom activities/Pundit topics	Tue	
	Sep 04	Field Trip: CAN TV	Thr	
Reading Due	Sep 09	<i>The Selling of the President</i> Chapters 1-15; appendix (will be discussed in class Sept 11, 16)	Tue	
Choice Due	Sep 09	Submit out-of-classroom project via Blackboard		Post 11:59pm
Choice Due	Sep 09	Submit "Pundit Watch" topic via Blackboard		Post 11:59pm
	Sep 11	In class, approval of projects & pundit topics	Thr	
Link 01 of 10	Sep 16	1st of 10 Weekly Article Links <i>through 11/18</i>	Tue	Post Noon
Guest	Sep 18	Rick Jasculca (JT Consulting)	Thr	
	Sep 23	National Voter Registration Day	Tue	
Reading Due	Sep 23	<i>Dollarocracy</i> ; Front matter, Chapters 9, 1-2		
Paper 01	Sep 23	"Pundit Watch"		Turn In
Link 02 of 10	Sep 23	2nd of 10 Weekly Article Links		Post Noon
Guest	Sep 25	Steve Rhodes (Beachwood Reporter)	Thr	
Reading Due	Sep 30	<i>Dollarocracy</i> ; Chapters 3-5	Tue	
Link 03 of 10	Sep 30	3rd of 10 Weekly Article Links		Post Noon
	Oct 02		Thr	
Reading Due	Oct 07	<i>Dollarocracy</i> ; Chapters 6-8	Tue	
Guest	Oct 07	Michael E. Pollak (Issues Lobbyist)		
Choice Due	Oct 07	Submit "Move It Forward" Topic via Blackboard		Choose
Link 04 of 10	Oct 07	4th of 10 Weekly Article Links		Post Noon
	Oct 09		Thr	
Link 05 of 10	Oct 14	5th of 10 Weekly Article Links	Tue	Post Noon
	Oct 16		Thr	
Paper 02	Oct 21	"Move It Forward"	Tue	Turn In
Choice Due	Oct 21	"How It's Done" Topic		Choose
Link 06 of 10	Oct 21	6th of 10 Weekly Article Links		Post Noon
Guest	Oct 21			
<i>Off-Campus</i>	Oct 23	CAN-TV 1 (3:30-4:30 on site)	Thr	
Link 07 of 10	Oct 28	7th of 10 Weekly Article Links	Tue	Post Noon
Report A1	Oct 30	CAN-TV 1 Analysis (report)	Thr	Turn In
	Nov 04	Election Day	Tue	
Link 08 of 10	Nov 04	8th of 10 Weekly Article Links		Post Noon
	Nov 06		Thr	
Report B	Nov 11	Off-Campus Activity (report)	Tue	Turn In
Link 09 of 10	Nov 11	9th of 10 Weekly Article Links		Post Noon
	Nov 13		Thr	
Guest	Nov 18	Michael E. Pollak (return visit, pre-Veto sessions)	Tue	
Link 10 of 10	Nov 18	Final (of 10) Weekly Article Links		Post Noon
	Nov 19-21	<i>Illinois Veto Session I</i>		FYI
<i>Off-Campus</i>	Nov 20	CAN-TV 2 (3:30-4:30 on site)	Thr	
Paper 03	Nov 25	"How It's Done"	Tue	Turn In
	Nov 27	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY No Class Session	Thr	
Report A2	Dec 02	CAN-TV 2 Analysis (report)	Tue	Turn In
	Dec 02-04	<i>Illinois Veto Session II</i>		FYI
	Dec 04	How to Fix "It"	Thr	

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

This class follows the department and university policies on cheating and plagiarism as outlined: <http://www.uic.edu/ucatalog/catalog/GR.shtml#o> See *excerpts* below:

Guidelines Regarding Academic Integrity

As an academic community, the University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to providing an environment in which research, learning, and scholarship can flourish and in which all endeavors are guided by academic and professional integrity. All members of the campus community—students, staff, faculty, administrators—share the responsibility of insuring that these standards are upheld so that such an environment exists. Instances of academic misconduct by students, and as defined herein, shall be handled pursuant to the *Student Disciplinary Policy*.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

Cheating: Either intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, people, or study aids in any academic exercise, or extending to or receiving any kind of unauthorized assistance on any examination or assignment to or from another person.

Fabrication: Knowing or unauthorized falsification, reproduction, lack of attribution, or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Bribes, Favors, Threats: Bribing or attempting to bribe, promising favors to or making threats against, any person, with the intention of affecting a record of a grade, grade, or evaluation of academic performance. Any conspiracy with another person who then takes or attempts to take action on behalf or at the direction of the student.

Examination by Proxy: Taking or attempting to take an exam for someone else other than the student is a violation by both the student enrolled in the course and the proxy or substitute.

Grade Tampering: Any unauthorized attempt to change, actual change of, or alteration of grades or any tampering with grades.

Nonoriginal Works: Submission or attempt to submit any written work authored, in whole or part, by someone other than the student.

POLICY ON DECLARINIG AND MAINTAINING COMMUNICATION MAJOR STATUS:

Students may declare the major in Communication at any time. To remain in the major, students must earn a grade of B or higher in at least two of three introductory communication core courses (COMM 101, COMM 102, COMM 103) and subsequently maintain a minimum major GPA of 2.5 throughout the course of the major. Students who fail to earn a grade of B or higher in at least two of the three introductory communication core courses will be dropped from the major. Students who make this requirement but subsequently fail to maintain a minimum major GPA of 2.5 will be placed on probation. If, after one probationary semester, the student has not increased the major GPA to a minimum of 2.5, the student will be dropped from the major. All notifications will be made through UIC email.