

Fall 9-1-1994

## PSC 395.03: Media and the Conduct of International Relations

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# MEDIA

## AND THE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 395-3

FALL 1994

MWF 3:10-4:00 LA 337

**Professor:** Charles E. Courtney, Room 202, University Hall; tel: 243 5364.

**Office Hours:** 4:00-5:00 MWF or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The effect of media on the course of events in international relations is mysterious and unpredictable. Much has been written about the subject, and very little has been decided. Many students of foreign affairs believe that journalists and their output are key players in the international arena, that what gets covered and how it gets covered have a compelling influence on policy decisions in the major capitals of the world. Events are seen to be driven by the information people receive through the media, as in the widespread assumption that the collapse of the Soviet Union was at least partly a consequence of expectations and aspirations instilled in the people of the region by western media. On the other side of the argument are a few analysts who contend that the influence of the press, television and radio on global events is negligible. Meanwhile the institution of international journalism has come under increasing scrutiny by some who question its credibility as an agenda setter and source of information. This course will examine all sides of the debate. Students will be encouraged to draw their own conclusions and will be evaluated on the basis of their analytical insights. The mid-term and final exams will be in essay form and will count, respectively, 25% and 35% toward the course grade. Attendance and participation in classroom discussion will count 25%. Each student will be involved in a group presentation (a role-playing confrontation between journalists and government officials) worth 15%.

**TEXTS:** Who stole the News?, Mort Rosenblum  
Media and Public Policy, edited by Robert J. Spitzer  
Siege Mentality: ABC, the White House and the Iran Hostage Crisis,  
Kennedy School of Government Case Study  
Copies of additional materials will be distributed in class.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS:** Students will be expected to complete the following reading assignments before class on the dates listed. From time to time additional readings will be provided in class.

August 31 - "Behind the CNN Factor" and "The Video Vise" (will be provided)

September 7 - Rosenblum, Preface through page 38

September 12 - Rosenblum, pages 39-61

September 14 - Rosenblum, pages 61-94 (Sept. 15, last day to add classes)

September 19 - Rosenblum, pages 94-116

September 23 - Rosenblum, pages 116-142

September 28 - Rosenblum, pages 142-162 (Sept. 29, last day to drop classes)

October 3 - Rosenblum, pages 162-194

October 7 - Rosenblum, pages 194-223

October 12 - Rosenblum, pages 223-259

October 17 - Rosenblum, pages 259-291

October 21 - Siege Mentality: ABC, the White House and the Iran Hostage Crisis

October 28 - **Mid-Term Exam**

November 2 - Spitzer, pages 1-15

November 7 - Spitzer, pages 19-29

November 14 - Spitzer, pages 31-40

November 18 - Spitzer, pages 61-79

November 28 - Spitzer, pages 153-169

December 2 - Spitzer, 171-186

December 16 - **Final Exam** (1:10-3:10 PM)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following titles offer a broad view of the relationship between media and foreign affairs. Students who wish to expand their grasp of the subject beyond the minimum requirements of PS 393-3 will find them invaluable.

Adams, William C., ed. Television Coverage of International affairs. Ablex Publishing Co., 1982.

American Diplomacy in the Information Age. Herbert Wilson Griffin Seminar in International Affairs. University Press of America, 1991.

Arno, Andrew, and Wimal Dissanayake. The News Media in National and International Conflict. Westview Press, 1984.

Batscha, Robert M. Foreign Affairs News and the Broadcast journalist. Praeger, 1975.

Berry, Nicholas O. Foreign Policy and the Press: An Analysis of the New York Times' Coverage of U.S. Policy. Greenwood Press, 1990.

Braley, Russ. Bad News: The Foreign Policy of the New York Times. Regnery Gateway 1984.

Cohen, Bernard. The Press and Foreign Policy. Princeton, 1963.

Davison, W. Phillips, Donald R. Shanor and Frederick T. C. Yu. News from Abroad and the Foreign Policy Public. Foreign Policy Association, 1980.

Dennis, Everette E., George Gerbner and Yassen N. Zassoursky. Beyond the Cold War: Soviet and American Media Images. Sage, 1991.

Dorman, William A., Robert Karl Manoff and Jennifer Weeks. American Press Coverage of U.S.-Soviet Relations: The Soviet Union, Nuclear Arms Control and National Security: A Bibliography. The Center for War, Peace and the News Media, New York University, 1988.

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Fialka, John J. Hotel Warriors: Covering the Gulf War. The Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 1991.

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Lederman, Jim. Battle Lines: The American Media and the Intifada. Henry Holt and Co., 1992.

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Reston, James. The Artillery of the Press: Its Influence on American Foreign Policy. Harper and Row, 1966.

Serfaty, Simon, ed. The Media and Foreign Policy. St. Martin's Press, 1990.

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Van Dijk, Teun A. News Analysis: Case Studies of International and National News in the Press. Lawrence Erlbaum, 1988.

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