

PS 118
New Media, New Politics
Professor Berry
Fall 2011

“New Media, New Politics” is an examination of the changing face of the media landscape. We look at three media sectors—cable TV, talk radio, and the political blogosphere—to try to understand how they may be changing politics in America. A central question we’ll address is how these new media differ from traditional mass media. More broadly the course focuses on technological change, public policies (including deregulation), political processes and behavior, and interest groups.

This course is a seminar and each class session will revolve around brief student reports and extensive debate on the readings. Thus, we will explore ideas, concepts, and current events as a group and learn through discussion and argumentation.

My office hours this semester are Mondays 3:00 to 4:30 and Wednesdays 11:00-12:00. I’m also happy to see you by appointment. You can contact me by phone at ext. 7-3465 or by e-mail at jeffrey.berry@tufts.edu. I enjoy talking to students in my office and I hope that each of you will come by frequently.

Course requirements include two take home essays (each 25 percent of your grade) and a group research project (40 percent). Class participation will count for the final 10 percent of your grade. The research project is described in a separate document.

The following books are required and should be available for purchase at the Tufts Bookstore:

Natalie Jomini Stroud, *Niche News*
Matthew Hindman, *The Myth of Digital Democracy*
Dana Milbank, *The Tears of a Clown*
Markus Prior, *Post-Broadcast Democracy*
James Hamilton, *All the News That’s Fit to Sell*
Alex Jones, *Losing the News*
Richard Davis, *Typing Politics*

Below is the class schedule. In this syllabus only the major readings are listed. There will also be smaller assignments many weeks and they’ll be handed out in class. Articles below can be downloaded from the course web site on Trunk.

SCHEDULE:

SEPT. 12: Introduction

SEPT 19: Hamilton, *All the News That's Fit to Sell*, Chaps. 1-4, 6
Berry and Sobieraj, "It's a Business"

SEPT 26: Hamilton, *All the News That's Fit to Sell*, Chaps. 8-9
Sobieraj and Berry, "From Incivility to Outrage"

OCT 3: Prior, *Post-Broadcast Democracy*, Chaps. 1-3
Milbank, *Tears of a Clown*
Research teams assigned

OCT 10: (No class, Columbus Day)
Research proposal due on Oct 12

OCT 17: Prior, *Post-Broadcast Democracy*, Chaps. 4, 5, 7, and 8

OCT 24: Stroud, *Niche News*
First essay question handed out
Essay due, hard copy, by noon on Oct. 28

OCT 31: Davis, *Typing Politics*

NOV 7: Research teams meet with Professor Berry

NOV 14: Hindman, *The Myth of Digital Democracy*

NOV 21: Jones, *Losing the News*

NOV 28: Sobieraj, Berry, and Connors, "The Culture of Right"
Second essay question handed out
Essay due, hard copy, by noon on Dec. 2

DEC 5: TBA

DEC 12: Oral reports on research projects. Papers due in class.