



CM/PO 335 MEDIA AND POLITICS IN EUROPE
IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION:

The main purpose of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of the main dimensions and contemporary topics of the complex and evolving relationship between media and politics in Europe.

Media and politics are commonly analyzed in scholarly literature from two different perspectives: first, the consideration of mass media as a crucial site for political activity; that is, from its historical origins (as a public service) to contemporary societies (the so-called globalization or the Information Society). Second, the contents of media play a key role in the creation of political consciousness and the political identity of citizenship.

Media contents with a political impact involve not only the more traditional formats of TV newscasts, propaganda messages and political advertising, but also more creative and entertaining shows and, specially, new media, which will be analyzed in the course.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

INSTRUCTOR:

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Case studies: classes will be heavily based on case studies. Case studies will enable students to identify some of the main actors in the media business, compare some of the media policies applied in different European countries, or assess the differences between news programs.
- Course-related trips and Guest Speakers: the course will have guest-speakers on some of the issues discussed in the classroom as well as a workshop on fake news & verification.
- Lectures: to gain an overview of course content, but also as an opportunity to discuss and clarify issues.
- Reader: a selection of key readings in the field of 'Media and Politics in Europe' that will help students to develop a general understanding of the subject matter.
- Study questions: these will be delivered to help students focus on the main points.
- Student Presentations: they provide students with the opportunity for oral delivery and experience at group work. Students will be asked to present analyses of readings or case studies.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Midterm Exam - 25%
- Final Exam - 25%
- Oral Presentation - 20%
- Class Participation - #10%
- Essay - 20%

Midterm and Final Exam

Consist of written essays that test three main competencies: information acquired; understanding of the information; interrelating the facts and concepts.



Oral Presentation

Individual or group presentation on one of the texts from the readings. This presentation should synthesize the main ideas of the text and put them into the context of the questions and debates which surround the session at hand. Both content and form will be taken into account.

Essay

This 2000-word paper (Times New Roman 12, double space) must be related to the course contents. Following academic practice, **all sources should be cited and a full bibliography should be included.**

Class Participation

Participation in class is absolutely necessary to achieve the learning objectives of this course. Participation will be measured by amount, fulfillment of reading assignments, active participation in discussions and in class activities and further-going observations and ideas.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Knowledge

- Identify the main actors and interests on current media and politics in Europe.
- Outline existing trends in media consumption and estimate the impact of globalization on individual choices.

Skills

- Describe and analyze the different and contradictory dynamics of European policies around Media.
- Analyze the role of media in constructing modern nationalisms.
- Sketch the main consequences of considering media products and audiences as commodities.
- Formulate contemporary trends in the relationship between media and politics.
- Analyze political implications of entertainment programs.

Values

- Compare media policies applied in different European countries.
- Assess the differences between news programs.
- Compare different types of ownership structures in the media.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, attendance is required for all IES Abroad Barcelona classes, including course-related excursions. If a student misses more than three classes in any course without justification, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven unjustified absences in any course will result in a failing grade. Absences will only be justified, and assessed work, including exams, tests and presentations rescheduled, in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 1.	GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE Introduction	• Read syllabus

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Session	Content	Assignments
Session 2.	DEFINITION, FUNCTION AND IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING (PSB) - What is PSB and why is it different from other broadcasters? - Is there an equivalent in the USA? - Which are the main PSBs in Europe?	UNESCO - WORLD RADIO AND TELEVISION COUNCIL — Public Broadcasting — Why? How?
Session 3.	THE BBC: THE WORLD'S LEADING PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER GUEST SPEAKER	- How did it all begin? A short history of the BBC https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrzmsYWt_rE - Abbott, S. (2016). Rethinking public service broadcasting's place in international media development.
Session 4.	REGULATION AND AUTONOMY OF PSB ACROSS EUROPE PSB in Europe.	Krewel, M. (2015). Autonomy and regulatory frameworks of public service media: Diverging scenarios in a Europe of different levels. In K. Arriaza Ibarra et al. (Eds.), <i>Public service media in Europe: A comparative approach</i>: 126-146. London: Routledge.
Session 5.	GLOBALIZATION — ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN MEDIA POLICY - From the Television Without Frontiers Directive and the policy of "Cultural Exception" to the European Media Freedom Act and the Digital Services Act. - The paradox between the promotion of the European market and European Culture.	- Katsirea, I. (2014). The Television Without Frontiers Directive. In K. Donders et al (Eds.). <i>The Palgrave handbook of European media policy</i>: 297-311. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. European Media Freedom Act (2024) Digital Services Act (2024)
Session 6.	MEDIA OWNERSHIP - Commercial broadcasting. - Vertical and horizontal integration.	- Devereux, E (2014). Media ownership: concentration, conglomeration and regulation. In E. Devereux, <i>Understanding the Media</i>: 89-122. London: Sage. - Sherman, Gabriel (2023) Inside Rupert Murdoch's Succession Drama. <i>Vanity Fair</i>.
Session 7.	CHOMSKY AND THE MASS MEDIA Critical watchdog or at the service of the establishment?	Chomsky, N. (1989). Democracy and the media. In N. Chomsky, <i>Necessary Illusions: Thought Control in Democratic Societies</i>: 1-20. Boston: South End Press.

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 8.	MEDIA PLURALISM European media concentration — Implications for diversity and pluralism.	Jakubowicz, K. (2015). New media ecology: Reconceptualizing media pluralism. In P. Valcke et al. (Eds.). <i>Media pluralism and diversity: Concepts, risks and global trends</i>: 23-53. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
Session 9.	NEW MEDIA 1 Social media: from a “freedom tool” to a threat to Democracy.	- Devereux, E (2014). New media, social media. In E. Devereux, <i>Understanding the Media</i>: 257-272. London: Sage. - Schaake, M. (2024). <i>The Tech Coup: How to Save Democracy from Silicon Valley</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
Session 10.	NEW MEDIA 2 How is the EU tackling hate speech and misinformation online. Is that censorship?	Tourkochorit, I. (2023). The Digital Services Act and the EU as the Global Regulator of the Internet. <i>Chicago Journal of International Law</i>: 24 (1), Article 7.
Session 11.	MID TERM EXAM Mid term exam	Prepare Midterm
Session 12.	CASE STUDY GERMANY From Nazi propaganda to an exemplary PSB.	Muller, S. (2018). Democracy in Germany. In M. Mertes et al (Eds.), <i>In search of Germany</i>: 35-58. London: Routledge.
Session 13.	CASE STUDY SPAIN Spanish media landscape and structure of the Spanish State.	Chislett, W. (2015). <i>Spain 40 years after General Franco: change of a nation</i>. Madrid: Elcano Royal Institute.
Session 14.	CASE STUDY CATALONIA Media bias and political parties.	Micó, J. L., & Carbonell, J. M. (2017). The Catalan Political Process for Independence: An Example of the Partisan Media System. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>: 61(4), 428-440.
Session 15.	COURSE-RELATED TRIP Visit to the Catalan Parliament.	Research Catalan Parliament

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 16.	CASE STUDY UK - A rich media landscape. - The power of tabloids.	- Griffiths, S., & Leach, R. (2018). The media. In S. Griffiths & R. Leach (Eds.), <i>British Politics</i>: 354-373. Macmillan International Higher Education. - Allsop, J. (2019). Boris Johnson and the limits of journalism. <i>Columbia Journalism Review</i>.
Session 17.	CASE STUDY FRANCE Culture (and media): national treasures.	Brouard, S., Vasilopoulos, P., & Foucault, M. (2018). How terrorism affects political attitudes: France in the aftermath of the 2015–2016 attacks. <i>West European Politics</i>: 1-27.
Session 18.	CASE STUDY ITALY The power of monopoly.	Silvio Berlusconi, a Showman Who Upended Italian Politics and Culture, Dies at 86 (2023). <i>The New York Times</i>: June 12, 2023.
Session 19.	CASE STUDY POLAND State-run Media or Public Service Media?	Allsop, J. (2024). The post-election battle for Poland's state-run media. <i>Columbia Journalism Review</i>.
Session 20.	CASE STUDY RUSSIA The annihilation of free-speech.	Remington, T. F. (2016). Political culture and public opinion. In T. F. Remington, <i>Politics in Russia</i>: 117-149. London: Routledge.
Session 21.	DISINFORMATION Its effects on Democracy. How to verify it.	Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (2024) — <i>The impact of disinformation, misinformation, fake news and foreign interference on democratic systems</i>.
Session 22.	WORKSHOP ON FACT-CHECKING Good fact-checking.	Col.legi oficial periodistes de Catalunya
Session 23.	THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM What will change? What will remain?	- Malone, C. (2010). Is the Media Prepared for an Extinction- Level Event? <i>The New Yorker</i>: February, 2010. - DOCUMENTARY: THE CLICK TRAP
Session 24.	COURSE SUM-UP	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Visit to the Parliament of Catalunya

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Abbott, S. (2016). Rethinking public service broadcasting's place in international media development.

- Allsop, J. (2019). Boris Johnson and the limits of journalism — *Columbia Journalism Review*.
- Allsop, J. (2024). The post-election battle for Poland's state-run media — *Columbia Journalism Review*.
- Brouard, S., Vasilopoulos, P., & Foucault, M. (2018). How terrorism affects political attitudes: France in the aftermath of the 2015–2016 attacks. *West European Politics*, 1-27.
- Chislett, W. (2015). *Spain 40 years after General Franco: change of a nation*. Madrid: Elcano Royal Institute
- Chomsky, N. (1989). Democracy and the media. In N. Chomsky, *Necessary Illusions: Thought Control in Democratic Societies*: 1-20. Boston: South End Press.
- Devereux, E. (2014). Media ownership: concentration, conglomeration and regulation. In E. Devereux, *Understanding the Media*: 89-122. London: Sage.
- Devereux, E. (2014). New media, social media. In E. Devereux, *Understanding the Media*: 257-272. London: Sage.
- European Commission — <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-services-act>
- European Commission — https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/protecting-democracy/european-media-freedom-act_en
- Griffiths, S., & Leach, R. (2018). The media. In S. Griffiths & R. Leach (Eds.), *British Politics*: 354-373. Macmillan International Higher Education.
- Katsirea, I. (2014). The Television Without Frontiers Directive. In K. Donders et al (Eds.). *The Palgrave handbook of European media policy*: 297-311. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Jakubowicz, K. (2015). New media ecology: Reconceptualizing media pluralism. In P. Valcke et al. (Eds.), *Media pluralism and diversity: Concepts, risks and global trends*: 23-53. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Krewel, M. (2015). Autonomy and regulatory frameworks of public service media: Diverging scenarios in a Europe of different levels. In K. Arriaza Ibarra et al. (Eds.), *Public service media in Europe: A comparative approach*: 126-146. London: Routledge.
- Malone, C. (2010). Is the Media Prepared for an Extinction- Level Event? *The New Yorker*, February, 2010.
- Micó, J. L., & Carbonell, J. M. (2017). The Catalan Political Process for Independence: An Example of the Partisan Media System. *American Behavioral Scientist*: 61(4), 428-440.
- Muller, S. (2018). Democracy in Germany. In M. Mertes et al (Eds.), *In search of Germany*: 25-39. London: Routledge.
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (2024) — *The impact of disinformation, misinformation, fake news and foreign interference on democratic systems*.
- Remington, T. F. (2016). Political culture and public opinion. In T.F. Remington, *Politics in Russia*: 117-149. London: Routledge.
- Schaaake, M. (2024). *The Tech Coup: How to Save Democracy from Silicon Valley*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Sherman, G. (2023). Inside Rupert Murdoch's Succession Drama. *Vanity Fair*, April, 2023.
- Silvio Berlusconi, a Showman Who Upended Italian Politics and Culture, Dies at 86 (2023). *The New York Times*, June 12, 2023.
- Tourkochoriti, I. (2023). The Digital Services Act and the EU as the Global Regulator of the Internet, *Chicago Journal of International Law*: 24 (1), Article 7.
- UNESCO — *Public Broadcasting: Why ? How?* Sector of Communication and Information Development. WORLD RADIO AND TELEVISION COUNCIL — 2001.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Aalberg, T., & Curran, J. (Eds.). (2012). *How media inform democracy: A comparative approach*. New York/London: Routledge.
- Arriaza Ibarra, K. et al. (2015) (Eds.). *Public service media in Europe: A comparative approach*. London: Routledge
- Boguslawski, E. et al. (2010). *Comparative media systems: European and global perspectives*. Budapest, Hungary: Central European University Press.
- Brants, K., & Voltmer, K. (2011). *Political communication in postmodern democracy: Challenging the primacy of politics*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Herbert, J. (2016). *Journalism in the Digital Age: Theory and practice for broadcast, print and online media*. London: Routledge.
- Lowe, G. F. & Martin, F. (2014) (Eds.). *The Value of Public Service Media*. Göteborg: Nordicom.

- Ouellette, L. (Ed.) (2013). *The Media Studies Reader*. New York/London: Routledge.
- Papathanassopoulos, S., & Negrine, R. M. (2013). *European Media*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Perloff, R. M. (2014). *The dynamics of political communication: Media and politics in a digital age*. New York/London: Routledge.
- Valcke, P. et al. (Eds.). (2015). *Media pluralism and diversity: Concepts, risks and global trends*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: