Course Description: Readings and class discussions explore the domestic and global traditional and new media landscape at the beginning of the 21st century and their impact on mass-mediated domestic and international politics. The focus is on conditions and changes in media/communication in terms of ownership, technologies, organizational and individual imperatives as well as their impact on political power. Given the partisan/ideological polarization in the United States and elsewhere, we will pay attention to neo-populism in different countries and explore the importance of traditional and social media in contentious politics and social movements. We will discuss the role of Communication in the Arab uprising and the emergence of Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street.

Requirements: Regular attendance of class sessions, reading of required texts before the class sessions they are assigned for, participation in class discussions, and a research paper on a topic directly or indirectly related to media/communication and politics/policies. Each student will select one case study in Gianpietro Mazzoleni et al., The Media and Neo-Populism (or pick another case) and provide a summary of the chapter’s most important points, when we discuss populism and demagoguery.

Topics and Readings:

**Session 1:** The Age of Global Communication:
(Dec. 17)
Problems and Opportunities
Introduction and Discussion of Course Topic and Requirements

**Session 2:** News: Commodity or Public Good? (Jan. 24)
Readings:
James Hamilton, All the News That’s Fit to Print (Princeton, 2004), chap.1;
Dean Sparkman, “Confidence Game: The limited vision of the news gurus.” Columbia Journalism Review, November/December 2011
Leonard Downie Jr. and Michael Schudson, “The Reconstruction of American Journalism, Columbia Journalism Review:

Brenda Sandberg, “For a Newsman and his Town, the End of an Era.” New York Times, Oct. 3, 2010,
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/03/nyregion/03editor.html?scp=1&sq=for%20a%20newsman%20and%20his%20town,%20the%20end%20of%20an%20era&st=cse

Session 3: Press Freedom, Ethic Codes, Democracy: Stated Ideals and Reality (Jan. 31)
Readings:
The American Society of News Editors’ “Statement of Principles”


Session 4: Traditional Media, Free Newspapers, Online News (Feb. 7)
Rolando Pujol, Daily News, formerly Managing Editor of AM New York lectures/leads discussion

Readings:

Session 5: Social Media: Will the Revolution Be Tweeted—or Not? (Feb. 14)

Readings:


Session 6: Mass Media and Contentious Politics/Social Movements (Feb. 21)

Readings:


Charles Tilly and Lesley J. Wood. *Social Movements 1786-2008* (Paradigm Publisher, 2009), chap. 1 and “Movements and Media,” pp. 84-89.


Session 7: Communication and Protests: From Protests against Iraq Invasion to the Tea Party Mobilization and Occupy Wall Street Protests (Feb. 28)

Street, Paul and Anthony DiMaggio. *Crashing the Tea Party: Mass Media and the Campaign to Remake American Politics.* (Paradigm Publisher 2011), chaps.1, 2, 6.


Session 8: **Populism and Demagoguery**

(Mar. 6)

Readings:


*(No Class March 13th—Spring Break)*

Session 9: **Are All of Today’s Political Leaders Neo-Populist Communicators?**

(Mar. 20)

Readings:
Gianpietro Mazzoleni et al., *The Media and Neo-Populism* (chapter you selected).

Students report on one chapter (Austria, France, Italy, Australia, Canada, etc., you can also select a case not covered in the book) and we will discuss cases.
Session 10: Liberal, Conservative, Racial, Gender, and other Real and Alleged Biases (March 27)

Readings:


Scheuer, *The Sound Bite Society*, chapters 1 and 2


Session 11: Propaganda, Public Diplomacy, Strategic Communication and the Limits (April 3)

Readings:


Zaller, John. 1998. “Monica Lewinsky’s Contribution to Political Science.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 31(2), 182-189 (I will provide the file)

Session 12: News Media and Entertainment Media: Similarities and Differences (Apr. 10)

Readings:


Session 13: Media and Violence: Crime, War, Terrorism, and Counterterrorism (Apr. 17)

Readings:

Sissela Bok, Mayhem: Violence as Entertainment, pp. 13-39

Bennett, W. Lance, Regina G. Lawrence and Steven Livingston. When the Press Fails: Political Power and the News Media from Iraq to Katrina (University of Chicago Press, 2007), Introduction, chapters 1-3.

Brigitte L. Nacos, Yaeli Bloch-Elkon, and Robert Y. Shapiro. Selling Fear: Counterterrorism, the Media and Public Opinion (University of Chicago Press 2011), chapters 1, 2, 4, 7 and Postscript

Session 14: Last Class: Discussion of Students’ Research Findings (Apr. 24)

Term Papers are due!
All books and articles listed on the syllabus are required readings and available on reserve at Lehman Library (3rd floor of the International Affairs Building). The assigned articles are available electronically via the library reserve or Courseworks and via the Library Web. I will e-mail articles that are not available via reserve.

I did not order books in the Columbia Bookstore. If you decide to buy some of the books, you can order them at a book store or from Internet bookseller.

The following books are on reserve at Lehman Library:

Bennett, W. Lance, Regina G. Lawrence and Steven Livingston. When the Press Fails: Political Power and the News Media from Iraq to Katrina (University of Chicago Press, 2007).


Mazzoletti, Gianpietro et al., eds. The Media and Neo-Populism (Praeger, 2003).


Street, Paul and Anthony DiMaggio. *Crashing the Tea Party: Mass Media and the Campaign to Remake American Politics* (Paradigm Publisher 2011)


**Articles electronically accessible via Library Reserves/ or CourseWorks:**


Downie, Leonard Jr. and Michael Schudson, “The Reconstruction of American Journalism, *Columbia Journalism Review* (see link under Session 2)


Feldman, Lauren and Dannagal Goldthwaite Young, “Late-Night Comedy as a Gateway to Traditional News.” *Political Communication* 25 (4) (Oct./Dec. 2008).


Jackson, David J. and Thomas I.A. Darrow, “The Influence of Celebrity Endorsements on Young Adults’ Political Opinions.” *Press/Politics* 10(3): 80-98.


