SYLLABUS

Mass Media & Politics - Honors
University of Central Florida
FALL 2017

Professor Mark Logas
Phone: 407-582-2028
E-Mail: Mark.Logas@ucf.edu
Office Location: Outside Hall-BA1-O115

Class Meets: Tuesday/Thursday 4:30pm-5:45pm
Room: BA1-O115
Course: POS 3235H

POS 3235H COURSE DESCRIPTION

Influence of media on campaigns, public officials, public opinion, definition of political news, select public policies.
Course Credit Hours: 3 ~ Pre-requisites: POS 2041or CI

MAJOR TOPICS/CONCEPTS/SKILLS/ISSUES

- Evolution of the Media in Politics: Print, Broadcast, Cable, Satellite, and Internet/Social Media
- News: Journalism, Entertainment, Conflict, Investigative, Agenda Setting, Fake News or Lies
- Media Coverage of Campaigns and Elections
- The Media: Foreign Policy Initiatives and Coverage of War
- Constitutional Protection of a Free Press, Government in the Sunshine, Federal Communications Commission
- Government's Use of the Media, Censorship: Prior Restraint and Free Speech Protection

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & REGULARLY RESEARCHED WEBSITES

Darrell M. West. 2017. Air Wars 1952-2016. 7th Edition. CQ Press ISBN: 978-1-5063-2983-3
Attkisson, Sharyl. 2014. Stonewalled. Harper New York ISBN: 978-0-06-232284-5
Mason, J. Cheney. 2014. Justice In America. TitleTown Green Bay, Wisconsin ISBN: 0-9911938-8-1
Allen, Gary. 1971. None Dare Call It Conspiracy GSG&Associates ISBN: 978-094500129-4

ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, Fox News, CNN, Washington Post, Washington Times, New York Times, New York Post, Drudge Report, Orlando Sentinel, WESH, WKMG, WFTV, FOX35, Huffington Post, Rush Limbaugh

STUDENT PREPARATION & EVALUATION

Students who enroll in this course are expected to demonstrate maturity, responsibility, professionalism, respect for differing viewpoints, and a general understanding of the relationship between government and media in a free society.

Class meetings will follow a combination lecture/discussion format. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss assigned reading from the text reading and to meet other course requirements outlined in your syllabus. Lectures, discussions, video presentations, and guest speakers will not always parallel text material. Exam material will include subjects covered in class as well as text reading assignments which may not be covered in class.

Class attendance and participation will impact your final grade. The evaluation method: ***Meaningful Participation in each class***=Excellent/Above Average; ***Occasional Participation***=Average; ***Little or No Participation***=Below Average/Failing. Participation grades will be assigned based on the student's contributions throughout the semester.

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide notification from the **Student Accessibility Services Office** and discuss specific needs with the instructor, ***during the first two weeks of class***.

Audio/Video recording of any portion of the class and/or posting of comments made by students and the instructor is strictly prohibited and will be considered a violation of privacy rights. This includes social media websites, including but not limited to: YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Skype, MySpace, Blogs, and news media.

UCF *KNIGHTS E-MAIL* COMMUNICATION, CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCF uses e-mail as the official means of notifying students of important university business. Every student must register for, and maintain a Knights E-mail account at *http://www.knightsemail.ucf.edu* and check it regularly. Throughout the semester, I will send important information to your assigned Knights E-mail account.

I will not discuss or share any class or grade information through the Internet unless you send a specific written request to me through your UCF account. I will only discuss course content and performance through your assigned UCF student account. Non-UCF based e-mails are automatically deleted without being read.

UCF does not accept responsibility if official communication fails to reach a student who has not registered for, or maintained and checked on a regular basis, their Knights E-Mail account.

ATTENDANCE-*CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION*

Students are required to do outside of class research and to bring their research into each scheduled class for discussion. In addition, I will bring several news articles that examine various sides of the topics that are listed throughout the semester. Students will be required to demonstrate their college-level critical thinking skills by offering their input on the topics that we will analyze, contributing to class discussions with fact-based analysis.

Higher education challenges students to think beyond their safety zone of learning. I expect students to respectfully analyze and discuss the various viewpoints related to the controversial topics that we will be learning about. I am not politically correct and believe that political correctness has destroyed the ability to talk about issues that directly impact people and policy. I'll challenge emotional responses but respect fact-based supported responses.

With that stated, please know that no one can tell you that your researched, fact-based conclusion is wrong. That is why there is a requirement for each student to use multiple diverse resources in order to research a minimum of four pros and cons for each unit study position paper. I don't care where my students stand politically. What I do care about is that they know why they support a position or candidate and can articulate their fact-based reasoning with others.

You will be visited by some very high-profile professionals from the legal field, media, and government throughout the semester. The individuals that I have invited are personal friends or professional acquaintances. The reason they have agreed to speak with you and answer your questions is because they want to share their knowledge while enhancing yours. In order for them to speak freely and for you to gain the ultimate learning experience, **NO CELLULAR PHONES OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED TO BE ON, RECORDING, OR LIVE STREAMING DURING THEIR VISIT.**

There will be no exceptions to this rule. Students who record/live stream any element will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Students will have to rely on old-fashioned handwritten notes during class visitations.

ATTENDANCE-*GUEST SPEAKER SERIES*

Students will have an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the relationship between the mass media and government by listening to professionals who will share their experiences and by asking questions of our guest speakers. Students are expected to show respect to guest speakers. ***Class etiquette when Guest Speakers are present will play a major role in your Attendance/Participation grade***.

ATTENDANCE POLICY-*UNEXCUSED ABSENCES*

Attendance is expected and will contribute to course grades. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Five (5) points will be deducted from the attendance grade for ***each*** scheduled class that is missed throughout the semester. Students who arrive late to class or leave before class is dismissed will be counted as absent.

Students who arrive late or are absent on the day a guest speaker is in class will lose ten (10) points.

ATTENDANCE-*RESEARCH/POSITION PAPER ASSIGNMENTS*

There will be three research/position papers this semester. Students will choose to write about ***three of the four*** unit studies that we will analyze. Students are required to research and share their analysis for each unit study, even if they do not write a paper for that unit. No grades will be dropped or substituted and students cannot write a fourth paper.

If you believe that you might miss a deadline, it is your responsibility to turn your paper in prior to the deadline.

Papers turned in after I've collected them but before the end of class will receive a maximum score of 50/F. No papers will be accepted after class has been dismissed. Any student who does not turn in a paper by the end of class will receive a "0" grade for that assignment. In fairness to each student, there will be no exceptions to this policy.

If you believe that you might be sick the day your paper is due, experience printer problems, or encounter traffic problems, it is your responsibility to turn your paper in early, prior to the deadline.

Electronic submissions are not accepted and will be deleted. Papers may not be turned in by other students.

ATTENDANCE-*CELLULAR PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY*

All iPods, iPads, iPhones, cellular phones, pagers, and electronic recording devices must be turned off or placed on a silent mode and out of sight during class. **If you leave during class to answer a silent call or text please do not return as these interruptions are rude and disruptive to the learning process.** Students who fail to comply with this rule will be asked to leave the classroom, receiving a grade of "0" toward their participation grade. If there is an emergency situation warranting the silent mode use of a cell phone during class, notify me in writing prior to class.

VIDEO SERIES

Students will view actual news events highlighting historical moments in politics between 1960 and 2009 and how the media covered those events, including: Presidential campaigns/elections, the Civil Rights Movement, 9/11, Foreign Policy, Scandals, Political assassinations, the Iraq War, and NASA. Social media: Videos and instant journalists.

STUDENT CONDUCT & ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR STANDARDS

Students are subject to federal and state laws and local ordinances as well as regulations prescribed by the University of Central Florida and the Florida Board of Governors. The breach or violation of any of these laws or regulations may result in disciplinary action. Detailed conduct regulations and procedures are presented in *The Golden Rule*.

The University of Central Florida is committed to a policy of honesty in academic affairs. Conduct that comprises a breach of this policy may result in academic action and/or disciplinary action. Academic action affects student assignments, examinations or grades. Disciplinary action affects student enrollment status. Examples of conduct for which students may be subject to academic and/or disciplinary penalties including expulsion are:

~Cheating, whereby non-permissible written, visual, electronic or oral assistance including that obtained from another student is utilized on examinations, course assignments, or projects. The unauthorized possession or use of examination or course related material shall also constitute cheating.

~Plagiarism, whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. Any student failing to properly credit ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

~Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling notes, handouts, etc. without authorization or using them for any commercial purpose without the express written permission of the University and the Instructor is a violation of this rule.

Note: A student who has assisted another in any of the aforementioned breach of standards shall be considered equally culpable. In cases of cheating or plagiarism, the instructor may take appropriate academic action ranging from loss of credit for a specific assignment, examination, or project to removal from the course with a grade of "F."

Note: The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the professor.

Students who display disruptive behavior that detracts from the learning experience of other students will be asked to leave the classroom.

EXAMS

There will be no exams in your Mass Media & Politics Honor class.

COURSE GRADES

Final Course grades will be determined by:

-Attendance and Participation/Guest Speakers (25%)
-Three (3) Research/Position Paper Assignments (75%)

The average will be evaluated on the following scale:

92 - 100 = A
83 - 91 = B
74 - 82 = C
65 - 73 = D
0 - 64 = F

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students may withdraw from a class and receive the notation of "W" until the date noted in the "Academic Calendar" online at *http://www.registrar.ucf.edu/calendar/academic*. A student may withdraw from courses using myUCF at *https://my.ucf.edu*, or by visiting the Registrar's Office (MH 161), certain college advising offices, or a Regional Campus records office. Students seeking to withdraw in person must sign the request and must provide photo identification. The official date of withdrawal is the date the University receives the withdrawal request. Withdrawing from classes may have financial aid, NCAA eligibility or international visa consequences. Students should seek appropriate advisement prior to withdrawing from a class. The **Withdrawal Deadline** is: **OCTOBER 30, 2017.**

A student is not automatically withdrawn from a class for not attending, nor can an instructor withdraw a student from a class. No withdrawal is permitted after the deadline except in extraordinary circumstances. Unsatisfactory academic performance is not an acceptable reason for withdrawal after the deadline.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday/Thursday: 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Student area outside CB1-122
Tuesday/Thursday: 5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Student area outside BA1-O115

Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at anytime during the term by announcement of the professor. It is your responsibility to stay informed of any changes.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

CLASS	**TOPIC**	**RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED**
8/22-9/14	Unit 1 – Race Rights of Accused	This unit will focus on race issues in the United States, media coverage of those issues, political influence, jury trials, and knowledge by the people living in the United States of existing laws and the rights of the criminally accused.

***No Class on 8/31/17*-Football Game**

Assignments:

Using diverse resources and college-level research skills…

Research and be prepared to analyze/discuss: Casey Anthony, George Zimmerman, Tyler Clementi, & Dylann Roof cases

Read *Justice In America*

Research and be prepared to analyze and discuss Kirkwood, Michael Brown, shootings of minorities and police officers

Research and be prepared to identify race related stories reported by the media and your analysis of their coverage

Video versus No Video…Does it matter?

Position Paper: Type an 800 word position paper sharing your research on this unit study. Students are required to include: information from multiple diverse resources that is properly cited throughout the paper, information that is directly related to the topic from the assigned books for this class, a minimum of four specific cases, information from guest speakers, and a fact-based conclusion using specific examples from your research. ***Paper Due → 9/14/17 at 4:30pm***

CLASS	**TOPIC**	**RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED**
9/19-10/10	Unit 2 – Terrorism/Foreign Policy	This unit will focus on the terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001, terrorist attacks on U.S. soil during the Obama administration, foreign policy under the Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations, and the role of the military under each president.

Assignments:

Using diverse resources and college-level research skills…

Research and be prepared to analyze and discuss terrorism, Syria, Benghazi attacks, and the Pulse Nightclub attack

Read *Stonewalled* (Chapter 4)

Research and be prepared to analyze and discuss foreign policy initiatives under the past six U.S. Presidents

Research and be prepared to identify related stories reported by the media and your analysis of their coverage

Video versus No Video…Does it matter?

Position Paper: Type an 800 word position paper sharing your research on this unit study. Students are required to include: information from multiple diverse resources that is properly cited throughout the paper, information that is directly related to the topic from the assigned books for this class, provide a *minimum* of four pros and four cons, information from guest speakers, and a fact-based conclusion using specific examples from your research.***Due → 10/10/17***

CLASS	**TOPIC**	**RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED**
10/12-11/7	Unit 3 – Constitutional Rights	This unit will focus on Constitutional Rights, including but not limited to: the 2nd Amendment, Free Speech, Investigative News Journalism, Religion, Terri Schiavo, Voting, 2016 Presidential Election Cycle

No Mass Media&Politics Honors Class-10/12/17

Assignments:

Using diverse resources and college-level research skills, research and be prepared to analyze and discuss the above topics

Read *Stonewalled* (Chapters 1, 6, and Conclusion) and ***Air Wars***.

Research and be prepared to identify related stories reported by the media and your analysis of their coverage

Position Paper: Type an 800 word position paper sharing your research on this unit study. Students are required to include: information from multiple diverse resources that is properly cited throughout the paper, information that is directly related to the topic from the assigned books for this class, provide a *minimum* of four pros and four cons, information from guest speakers, and a fact-based conclusion using specific examples from your research. ***Due → 11/9/17***

CLASS	**TOPIC**	**RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED**
11/9-12/7	Unit 4 – Social Issues/Scandals	This unit will focus on ObamaCare, Global Warming, Gay Rights, IRS NSA, Fast & Furious, Justice Department investigations/scandals, Michael Hastings, Watergate, Iran/Contra, and Illegal Immigration

Assignments:

Using diverse resources and college-level research skills…

Research and be prepared to analyze and discuss the above topics

Read *Stonewalled* (Chapters 2, 3, and 5) and ***None Dare Call It Conspiracy***

Research and be prepared to identify related stories reported by the media and your analysis of their coverage

Video versus No Video…Does it matter?

Position Paper: Type an 800 word position paper sharing your research on this unit study. Students are required to include: information from multiple diverse resources that is properly cited throughout the paper, information that is directly related to the topic from the assigned books for this class, provide a *minimum* of four pros and four cons, information from guest speakers, and a fact-based conclusion using specific examples from your research. ***Due → 12/7/17***