Washtenaw Community College Comprehensive Report

PLS 220 Politics and the Media Effective Term: Spring/Summer 2020

Course Cover

Division: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences **Department:** Social Sciences **Discipline:** Political Science **Course Number: 220** Org Number: 11750 Full Course Title: Politics and the Media Transcript Title: Politics and the Media Is Consultation with other department(s) required: No Publish in the Following: College Catalog, Time Schedule, Web Page Reason for Submission: Three Year Review / Assessment Report **Change Information:** Consultation with all departments affected by this course is required. **Course description Outcomes/Assessment Objectives/Evaluation** Rationale: The syllabus for PLS 220 has not been reviewed since 2009.

Proposed Start Semester: Fall 2019

Course Description: In this course, students critically examine the role of the mass media in shaping American political life, focusing on the historical development of the mass media in American society, the economic and political forces that shape news coverage of political leaders and institutions, the influence of the mass media on the American public and normative assessments of how well the media promotes public deliberation in a democracy.

Course Credit Hours

Variable hours: No Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: Instructor: 45 Student: 45 Lab: Instructor: 0 Student: 0 Clinical: Instructor: 0 Student: 0

Total Contact Hours: Instructor: 45 Student: 45 Repeatable for Credit: NO Grading Methods: Letter Grades Audit Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?: NO (same sections)

College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

College-Level Math No Level Required

<u>Requisites</u>

Prerequisite

PLS 112 minimum grade "C-"

General Education

MACRAO MACRAO Social Science **General Education Area 5 - Social and Behavioral Science** Assoc in Applied Sci - Area 5 Assoc in Science - Area 5 Assoc in Arts - Area 5 Michigan Transfer Agreement - MTA MTA Social Science

Request Course Transfer Proposed For:

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the historical development and technological changes in the mass media environment in the U.S.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Departmental exam Assessment Date: Winter 2022 Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years Course section(s)/other population: All sections Number students to be assessed: All students How the assessment will be scored: Answer key and departmentally-developed rubric Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher on the outcome-related questions Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

2. Articulate the role of the mass media in the United States.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Departmental exam Assessment Date: Winter 2022 Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years Course section(s)/other population: All sections Number students to be assessed: All students How the assessment will be scored: Answer key and departmentally-developed rubric Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher on the outcome-related questions Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

3. Identify the factors influencing media content in and outside of the U.S.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Departmental exam Assessment Date: Winter 2022 Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years Course section(s)/other population: All sections Number students to be assessed: All students How the assessment will be scored: Answer key and departmentally-developed rubric Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher on the outcome-related questions Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

4. Articulate the interaction of the news media profession and government

officials/politicians/campaigners.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Departmental exam Assessment Date: Winter 2022 Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years Course section(s)/other population: All sections Number students to be assessed: All students How the assessment will be scored: Answer key and departmentally-developed rubric Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher on the outcome-related questions Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

5. Identify the effects of the news media on the public's perceptions of the political world.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Departmental exam Assessment Date: Winter 2022 Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years Course section(s)/other population: All sections Number students to be assessed: All students How the assessment will be scored: Answer key and departmentally-developed rubric Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 70% or higher on the outcome-related questions Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

Course Objectives

- 1. Identify the role the mass media play in democratic and non-democratic political systems.
- 2. Describe the functions of the mass media.
- 3. Apply models of the news making process (i.e., the mirror, professional, political and economic models) to explain contemporary news coverage.
- 4. Identify the government regulatory environment under which the media operate in the United States and the effects of this environment on the news product.
- 5. Describe ownership, regulation and control pattern in other countries and assess their consequences for their media product.
- 6. Describe how the First Amendment, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, both protects and limits freedom of the press.
- 7. Describe the demographic and political backgrounds of American journalists and how these characteristics affect news reporting.
- 8. Explain the concept of media "gatekeeping."
- 9. Identify the effects of gatekeeping on the news product.
- 10. Describe the adversarial relationship between politicians and the press, and explain the reasons for this relationship.
- 11. Identify the strategies journalists and politicians employ as they attempt to manipulate information to their own public advantage.
- 12. Describe how the news media cover the executive branch.
- 13. Evaluate how individual members of Congress attempt to manipulate and control political information.
- 14. Describe how the news media cover the judicial branch.
- 15. Explain how news coverage of the judicial branch differs from coverage of the executive and legislative branches, and identify the consequences of these differences.
- 16. Describe how the news media cover state and local affairs.
- 17. Explain the differences between political markets and media markets and the consequences of these differences for the quantity and quality of state and local news coverage.
- 18. Describe how the news media cover the legislative branch.

- 19. Identify how state and local news coverage differ from national news coverage, and explain why they differ.
- 20. Evaluate White House strategies to manipulate and control political information.
- 21. Identify differences in audiences for foreign and domestic news.
- 22. Apply models of the news-making process to the reporting of foreign affairs and wars.
- 23. Describe the quality of foreign news coverage.
- 24. Compare news coverage of foreign affairs in U.S. and non-U.S. news outlets.
- 25. Assess the impact of foreign news coverage on public officials and public opinion.
- 26. Describe the practice of investigative journalism.
- 27. Identify the ethical considerations of investigative journalism.
- 28. Identify how journalists can affect the policy agenda.
- 29. Identify how news media could cover elections.
- 30. Apply models of news making to explain the quality and quantity of information provided to the American public in election coverage.
- 31. Critique journalists' claims of political objectivity in election reporting.
- 32. Trace the historical development of televised debates in elections in the United States.
- 33. Describe the role of political advertising and its consequences in elections in the United States.
- 34. Identify the consequences of the news media's role in elections in the United States.
- 35. Explain the role of the media in political socialization, and apply it to their own upbringing.
- 36. Describe the agenda setting effects of the mass media.
- 37. Identify the effects of the media on political learning and behavior.
- 38. Trace developments in the new media technologies, and assess their consequences for the political system.
- 39. Critically evaluate the news media's contribution to the quality of public deliberation in the United States.

New Resources for Course

Course Textbooks/Resources

Textbooks Manuals Periodicals Software

Equipment/Facilities

Level III classroom

<u>Reviewer</u>	Action	<u>Date</u>
Faculty Preparer:		
Donna Wasserman	Faculty Preparer	Aug 08, 2019
Department Chair/Area Director:		
Gregg Heidebrink	Recommend Approval	Aug 15, 2019
Dean:		
Scott Britten	Recommend Approval	Sep 24, 2019
Curriculum Committee Chair:		
Lisa Veasey	Recommend Approval	Oct 17, 2019
Assessment Committee Chair:		
Shawn Deron	Recommend Approval	Oct 18, 2019
Vice President for Instruction:		
Kimberly Hurns	Approve	Oct 18, 2019

or help screens, select a field and press F1 ECTION I. SUBMISSION INFORMATION
1. Course: (Enter proposed discipline, number & title here.)
Discipline/No: PLS 220 Title: Politics and the Media Start Term Fall 2003
Banner allows only 29 characters and spaces, for the title. Longer titles will have to be abbreviated.
Division Code: <u>HHS</u> Department Code: <u>SSCD</u> Org #: <u>11740</u> Don't publish:in College Catalog Division Code: <u>HHS</u> Department Code: <u>SSCD</u> Org #: <u>11740</u> Don't publish:in College Catalog
 2. Type of Approval: (applies to both new courses and changes)
4. Change Information: (Check all that apply. Make proposed changes in Section III, Course Syllabus.)
Minor Changes Major Changes (will be reviewed by Curriculum Committee.) Course Discipline/Number (was) Credit hours (credits were:) Course Title (was) Change in Grading Method Course Description Change in Grading Method Course Objectives (minor changes) Approval for offering an Honors Section (Attach Approval Form) Distribution of Contact Hours (contact hours were: lect: lab other) Distribution Course Approval Form) Other Other
5. Rationale: (for new course or course change) Changes are are being made in response to data from Assessment: yes no
The mass media play an increasingly powerful in role in many aspects of American politics and society. The media are the dominant source of politically relevant information in our democracy. It is essential for our students to understand the relationship between media institutions and political institutions and learn to critically analyze the quality of information presented to them by the media. ECTION II. SIGNATURES 1. Department Review (To be completed by department chair) Will any new resources be required? No, none anticipated Yes (If yes, attach list with projected costs) You must consult all departments that may be affected by this course. List departments contacted below and attach relevant documents.
Does the department support approval of this course? \boxtimes yes \square no (if no, initial and return to preparer with rationale.Print:Donna Wasserman Faculty/PreparerSignature $Don-f$ W_{a-000} W_{a-000} Date: $3/21/2003$ Print:Gregg Heidebrink Department ChairSignature M_{a-000} M_{a-000} Date: $3-24-03$
2. Division Review (To be completed by division dean; if recommendation is no, initial and return to department with rationale.)
Is this a curricular priority for your division? X yes no (Comment) What is the estimated enrollment?
Recommendation Ves No ADA 03 24 03
Dean's/Administrator's Signature Date
3. Curriculum Committee Review (Attach additional comments if necessary and forward to Executive Vice President.) Recommendation X Yes No Ruth A. Huduw Curriculum Committee Chair's Signature Jate
4. Vice President for Instruction and Student Services Approval (Attac) additional comments if necessary.)
Approval Pres INO Mayor Millalary. 328/03 Vice pesident's Signature June Date
CS Code 12 Entered in Banner 142 Processes . 147 Log File 42
pproved for General Education Area/Group

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WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSE-SYLLABUS APPROVAL FORM (CSAF)

SECTION III. COURSE SYLLABUS

For help screens press F1.

A.	COURSE DETAILS	(Start with #1.)
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Discipline & No.: <u>PLS 220</u> Title: <u>Politics and the Media</u> Course and title will automatically appear above upon saving or previewing

1. Description: (Please be brief. Explain acronyms if used.)

"Politics and the Media" is an introduction to the role of the mass media in the political process. This course critically examines the role of the mass media in shaping American political life, focusing on the historical development of the mass media in American society, the economic and political forces that shape news coverage of political leaders and institutions, the influence of the mass media on the American public, and normative assessments of how well the media promote public deliberation in a democracy.

2. Credit Hours: 3	3. Contact Hours per Semester:	4. Class Capacity:	5. Course Options:
If Variable credit, Give Range:	Lecture: <u>45</u> Lab:		Distance learning (Attach DL Form)
to credits	Clinical:	(If nonstandard, attach	Honors (Attach
If repeatable for credit, how	Other: Total Contact Hours: 45	Class Capacity Exception form.)	Honors Addendum.)
many times	Total Contact Hours: 45	Exception form.)	P/NP Grading
6. Prerequisite(s) Min	Concurrent	Min. **Level	Other Prerequisites
and/or "(" Course Grade	Enrollment Test Name	Score ")" I II	
<u>PLS 112</u> <u>C-</u>			
			94-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14
			Consent Required
			7. Corequisites: (limit of 2)
* Can take prerequisite before or col	ncurrently with this course.		
**Level I is enforced in Banner; Lev	neurrently with this course. rel II is enforced by instructor on 1st day		
8. Course Purpose:	If a program requirement, specify	Please send syllabus for Transfer evaluation to:	Accepted for transfer: (attach documentation)
Program Requirement	the program(s)	\boxtimes EMU	
General Education		X UM	
Program Support Basic Skills/Developmental			
Transfer			
Industry/Professional Dev	·		
9. Terms Course will be offered:			en years Odd years
	th (e.g. 15 weeks, 1^{st} 7½ weeks, etc.)	Day Eve on	ly only
Winter <u>15 weeks</u>			t barred

B. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS A major instructional unit is a grouping of topics that naturally relate to one another. Add additional numbers as needed. (This section is unprotected so that you can cut and paste from other documents.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 1: The Role and Function of the Mass Media in Politics and Government

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will identify the role the mass media play in democratic and non-democratic political systems.
- 2. Students will describe the functions of the mass media.
- 3. Students will apply models of the news making process (i.e., the mirror, professional, political, and economic models) to explain contemporary news coverage
- 4. Students will critique news coverage of politics according to standards identified as important for democratic political systems.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 2: Ownership, Regulation, and Guidance of Media

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will trace the relationship between media institutions and political institutions in a historical context.
- 2. Students will explain the implications of private versus public ownership of the media.
- 3. Students will identify the government regulatory environment under which the media operate in the United States and the effects of this environment on the news product.
- 4. Students will describe ownership, regulation, and control pattern in other countris and assess their consequences for their media product.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 3: Press Freedom and the Law

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will identify rights of access to the media in the United States.
- 2. Students will describe differences in rights of access to public versus private information sources.
- 3. Students will explain the tension between individual rights of privacy and the public's right to know.
- 4. Students will identify the protections and limits of free speech under the First Amendment.
- Students will discuss how the Supreme Court attempts to balance First Amendment rights against the competing needs to preserve order and preserve the state.
- 6. Students will describe how the First Amendment, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, both protects and limits freedom of the press.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 4: News Making and News Reporting Routines

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will describe the demographic and political backgrounds of American journalists and how these characteristics affect news reporting.
- 2. Students will explain the concept of media "gatekeeping."
- 3. Students will identify the effects of gatekeeping on the news product.
- 4. Students will critically evaluate how news making and reporting routines affect the news they see, hear, and read every day.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 5: The Adversarial Relationship of Politicians and Journalists

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will describe the adversarial relationship between politicians and the press and explain the reasons for this relationship.
- 2. Students will identify the strategies journalists and politicians employ as they attempt to manipulate information to their own public advantage.
- 3. Students will describe how the news media cover the executive branch.
- 4. Students will evaluate White House strategies to manipulate and control political information.
- 5. Students will describe how the news media cover the legislative branch.
- 6. Students will evaluate how individual members of Congress attempt to manipulate and control political information.
- 7. Students will describe how the news media cover the judicial branch.
- 8. Students will explain how news coverage of the judicial branch differs from coverage of the executive and legislative branches and identify the consequences of these differences.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 6:

Covering State and Local News

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will describe the news media cover state and local affairs.
- 2. Students will explain the differences between political markets and media markets and the consequences of these differences for the quantity and quality of state and local news coverage.
- 3. Students will identify how state and local news coverage differ from national news coverage and explain why they differ.
- 4. Students will evaluate the quality of state and local news coverage in their own news sources.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 7: News Coverage of Foreign Affairs and Wars

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will identify differences in audiences for foreign and domestic news.
- 2. Students will describe how the foreign news product is made.
- 3. Students will apply models of the news making process to reporting of foreign affairs and wars.
- 4. Students will describe the quality of foreign news coverage.
- 5. Students will compare news coverage of foreign affairs in U.S. and non-U.S. news outlets.
- 6. Students will assess the impact of foreign news coverage on public officials and public opinion.
- 7. Students will explain the relationship between the media and government officials during times of war and trace how the relationship has changed over time.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 8:

The Media as Policy Makers

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will trace the history of muckraking journalism in the United States.
- 2. Students will describe the practice of investigative journalism.
- 3. Students will identify the ethical considerations of investigative journalism.
- 4. Students will classify journalists as neutral observers versus political activists using investigative journalism case studies.
- 5. Students will identify how journalists can affect the policy agenda.
- 6. Students will describe the conditions under which the media play a role in the public policy process.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 9: Media and Elections

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will identify how news media could cover elections.
- Students will analyze the content of news coverage of elections in order to classify news media coverage of elections in the United States.
- 3. Students will apply models of news making to explain the quality and quantity of information provided to the American public in election coverage.
- 4. Students will critique journalists' claims of political objectivity in election reporting.
- 5. Students will trace the historical development of televised debates in elections in the United States.
- 6. Students will describe the role of political advertising and its consequences in elections in the United States.
- 7. Students will identify the consequences of the news media's role in elections in the United States.

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MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 10: Media Influence on Attitudes and Behavior

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will explain the role of the media in political socialization and apply it to their own upbringing.
- 2. Students will describe theories of "uses and gratifications" and apply these theories to news story selection.
- 3. Students will name and describe information-processing theories.
- 4. Students will define media effects on the public's knowledge of and attitudes about politics.
- 5. Students will describe the agenda setting effects of the mass media.
- 5. Students will identify the effects of the media on political learning and behavior.
- 6. Students will classify the differential effects of print and broadcast news on political attitudes, learning, and behavior.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT 11: Media and Public Deliberation

Unit Objectives:

- 1. Students will describe citizens' attitudes about the role of the media in the political system and trace how these attitudes have changed over time.
- 2. Students will identify the implications of public attitudes about the media for the political system.
- 3. Students will trace developments in new media technologies and assess their consequences for the political system.
- 4. Students will critically assess the consequences of media-political relationships for the political system.
- 5. Students will critically evaluate the news media's contribution to the quality of public deliberation in the United States.

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSE-SYLLABUS APPROVAL FORM (CSAF) C. INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

DIRECTIONS: Use student outcomes-based language. (Example: Upon visiting a gravel pit students will observe, analyze and describe in one page the weathering processes.) Units should match those listed in Section B.

Please see previous pages.

D. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS, EVALUATION CRITERIA, AND ASSESSMENT

1. Instructional Methods: (Check the appropriate boxes and describe as needed.)

Lecture/Discussion	Performances
Clinical Instruction	Group Critiques
Laboratory Assignments	Field Trips
Internet Assignments	Telecourse
Computer Simulations	ITV Course
On-Site Work Experience	Self-Paced Instruction
Team Assignments	Other
Demonstrations	Other
2. Evaluation Criteria:	
Attendance	Quizzes
Class Discussion	Tests
Papers	Midterm
Portfolios	Final Exam
Projects	Presentations
Reports	Individual Performance
Clinical Assignments	Group/Team Performance
Home Work	Other
3. Assessment of Student Achievement: (Indicate assessment of student academic achievement at th	methods that will be used for NCA mandated e course and (if applicable) general education levels)
Departmental Exam	Pre-test/Post-test
Follow-on Tracking	Simulations
Standardized Test	Comprehensive Project
Portfolio Assessment	Other

F. EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES, TEXTS, MATERIALS, AND SUPPLIES

1. Special Equipment/Facilities : (Check the appropriate boxes and describe as needed.)

Lab equipment	ITV Classroom
Computer Lab	Off-Campus Sites
CD ROM's	Testing Center
Data Projector/Screen	Other Classroom Computer/Internet
VCR	Other
TV Monitor	Other

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WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSE-SYLLABUS APPROVAL FORM (CSAF) 2. Texts: (Please indicate if no text is required.)

Title: Mass Media and American Politics (6 th ed.)	
	Copyright Yr: 2001
Dublish and Companyational Operatories Desce	Est. Cost: <u>\$46.95</u>
The Mile Della and a Della Arabia de la Arabia de la Arabia de la	Descention
Title: Who Deliberates? Mass Media in American	······································
	Copyright Yr: <u>1998</u>
Publisher: Univ. of Chicago Press	Est. Cost: <u>\$11.00</u>
Title: Out of Order	
Author: Thomas Patterson	Copyright Yr: 1994
Publisher: Vintage Books	Eat Coats \$14.00
Titler	
Title:Author:	Copyright Yr:
Publisher:	Est. Cost:
Additional Texts:	
4. Reference Materials that will be used: (e.g. jo Title/Name	ournals, books, manuals, maps, LRC reserves, etc.)
5. Computer Software that will be used: Title/Name	Location
6. Audio/Visual Materials that will be used: (e.g	g. films, video tapes, slides, audio tapes, CDs, etc.)

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