

CM/PS 368: Entertainment, Media, & Politics
Spring 2018
T/Th 10:50am – 12:05pm
Maryland Hall Room 344

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-2:30pm and by appointment	Office Hours: Tuesday 9-10:30; Wednesday 10:30-2:30 or by appointment

Course Description

Today, entertainment media dominates our lives more than ever before. Content and platforms proliferate; people can listen to podcasts in the shower, watch YouTube clips while on the bus, and stream TV shows all night. This entertainment boom has occurred as democratic politics has become more fraught: US electoral politics is dominated by partisan polarization and the rise of populist outsider candidates while Brexit is shaking the European Union.

This course will explore the relationship between these changes in entertainment media and democratic politics. How does the increasing proliferation of entertainment options and platforms shape political knowledge, civic engagement, and democratic citizenship? How is electoral politics affected by the rise of ‘infotainment’? How accurate are fictional portrayals of politics on the big and small screen, and what do such portrayals teach the public about democracy? What does the future of entertainment and politics look like, and is it as dark as dystopian portrayals in pop culture might suggest?

Specific Educational Objectives of the Course:

In this course, students will:

1. Be more critical and sophisticated consumers of politically-relevant entertainment media, including infotainment, political comedy, fictional portrayals of electoral politics, and dystopian fiction.
2. Understand the incentives, ideas, and technological developments that shape recent developments in news and entertainment media and democratic politics.
3. Grasp the normative implications of trends in entertainment media for elections, democratic participation, public opinion, and governing.

Required Texts and Materials

Tryon, C. (2016). *Political TV*. New York: Routledge.

To watch several TV episodes in February, you will need access to Netflix either through a subscription or a login you are allowed to use.

Copies of all films are available on reserve through the library.

Course Moodle site (all other readings beside Political TV are posted there)

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Expectations

Students who wish to be successful in this course will come to class prepared by having done the readings and assignments ahead of time and be able to discuss with the larger group. Part of being an active contributor in class is offering your own commentary on the material. It will also be important to respect the comments and questions of your fellow students as we work to answer some tough questions. It is your job as students to keep up-to-date with the course schedule. It is our job as the professors to keep you informed of any changes in schedule.

Contacting Us

Email is the best way to reach us. **Please cc both of us on all course-related emails:** Dr. Becker (abbecker@loyola.edu) and Dr. Paris (ccparis@loyola.edu). If your email arrives during normal business hours (M-F, 9am – 5pm), we will do our best to respond within 24 hours. We do not check our email regularly during the evenings and weekends. Please remember to put CM/PS 368 in your email subject line and remember that while email is electronic, it is still a form of professional communication.

Contacting You

We plan to contact you via email at your Loyola.edu account. It is your responsibility to regularly check this account for announcements and notes about the course. If there is a change in schedule, we will send out important information via email so please check your messages daily.

Office Hours

Our office hours are posted on the syllabus. Please feel to drop in during our open office hour times. We are also available to meet with you at other times; simply email one of us to set up an appointment. If you make an appointment, we expect you to keep it. If you need to cancel, please email 24 hours ahead of time.

Technology Policy

We expect students to be active participants in the classroom – we only meet for a little over 3 hours each week. We'll give you our full attention; we expect you to do the same.

Laptops: In general and unless otherwise specified, laptops should not be used during class. If you believe that not using a laptop will create serious difficulties for your note-taking, please see one of us so we can discuss note-taking strategies. If after our discussion we agree that it may make sense for you to use a laptop on occasion, two requirements will apply: 1) if you are not currently taking notes, the screen must be tilted or closed and 2) you must not do anything other than look at course readings or take notes on the laptop during class time (unless a specific question arises in class that we ask you to Google). If we believe that you are not adhering to these requirements, corrective action will be taken (which could include revoking laptop permissions).

Phones: Cell phones must always be turned off or put away, whether during an exam or non-exam class. Please remember that checking your phone during class is distracting to others, so as tempting as it may be to just glance at it, you should resist the temptation. Checking your phone during an exam will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

Attendance

Your attendance and participation grade starts at zero, and you can earn up to 16 points of your final grade through attendance and participation. Every three class sessions you attend will earn you 1 point. Every two days that you make a significant contribution to class discussion will earn you 1 point.

This system puts you in charge of your own learning and has some flexibility built in, since perfect attendance and consistent contribution would theoretically (but not actually) enable you to score significantly more than 15 points.

Also note that this does mean some level of participation is required—if you never contribute to class discussion, the most you can score is 8.7 out of 15 points. **Note: thoughtful questions asked after class or via email count as contributions.**

There are no 'excused absences' under this system, since you are not penalized for missing class – you are simply missing an opportunity to learn, contribute, and accordingly gain points on your final grade. Thus, regardless of whether you miss class for reasons that are considered excused absences by Loyola University (participating in religious observances; student athletes participating in athletic events) or for other reasons (minor illnesses; travel; car trouble; etc.), it is up to you to make sure that your attendance and participation are meeting your own goals for learning and for the grade you earn. Even with several absences, it will still be possible to attain a perfect score in this category, as long as you participate consistently.

That said, **as a matter of courtesy, you should always inform us (in advance, when possible) any time you will be absent from class.** Of course, any time you are absent, you will need to make up any missed work. **Student Athletes**

If you are a student athlete, please provide us with your travel and game schedule indicating when you will need to miss class to participate in athletic events. You will need to make up any missed work.

Late Work/Missed Exams

****Late assignments will not be accepted, except in the following instances:**

1. hospitalization or illness, with a documented doctor's note; or
2. a death or serious illness in the family, with documentation from an immediate family member.

In all cases, the decision to allow a student to make up an exam/extend the deadline for an assignment, as well as the time period for completion, is up to the discretion of the professors.

In general, assignment due dates are published well in advance. If you know you are going to be out or away from your computer when an assignment is due online, please upload ahead of time.

If you are unable to take an exam given the reasons listed above, please try to contact us at least 24 hours ahead of time (if possible). Barring extenuating circumstances, students who miss an exam and do not make alternate arrangements ahead of time will receive a zero.

Students with Disabilities

If you are registered with DSS and a faculty notification email has been sent to us on your behalf, please schedule a brief meeting during our office hours to discuss accommodations. If you need academic accommodations due to a disability you must register with [Disability Support Services](#). For more information please contact DSS at DSS@loyola.edu or (410) 617-2750.

The Counseling Center - Stress is a normal part of a being a student. However, if personal or emotional concerns are interfering with your ability to live and learn at Loyola, please stop by the Counseling Center in Humanities 150 or call 410-617-CARE (2273). More information about the Counseling Center is at <http://www.loyola.edu/counselingcenter>.

Department of Political Science Policy on Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a fundamental requirement for all courses in the Department of Political Science. **Plagiarism, i.e. the use of other people's ideas, words, or work without giving them appropriate credit, is unacceptable.** Whenever you use an idea

from someone else in your work, you should include a citation. When you go beyond using someone else's idea to borrowing their actual words, you must use quotation marks in addition to identifying the source through a citation. To omit quotation marks where necessary, to paraphrase inadequately, or to fail to note your source (intentionally or unintentionally) is plagiarism. Plagiarism, cheating (e.g., giving or receiving aid on an assignment or exam, copying off another student's assignment or exam), lying about academic matters, duplicate submissions without explicit permissions, forgery, not reporting these offenses if one becomes aware of them, and other violations of the [Honor Code](#) will be penalized. **The standard sanction in the Political Science Department for violations of the Honor Code is failure in the course and referral to the College's Honor Council where other penalties may be handed out.** It is your responsibility to learn and follow good citation practices.

Student Support Services

Loyola offers services to support students' academic and emotional development:

1. The Study Center, located on the third floor of Jenkins Hall, offers tutoring, writing coaching, and study skills guidance <https://www.loyola.edu/thestudy>;
2. The Writing Center offers consultations on writing technique and is located in Jenkins Hall 011 <https://inside.loyola.edu/writingcenter/index.html>. Make an appointment by calling 5415 or emailing lwc@loyola.edu.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Op-Ed Assignment	15%
Watching Memo	15%
Research Paper	20%
Research Paper Presentation	5%
Exam #1	15%
Exam #2	15%
Attendance & Class Participation	15%
TOTAL	100%

Grading

A	94-100	Grading Policy: Students earn the grades they deserve based on the quality of the work completed; students are not given grades . It is the student's responsibility to keep track of their grades on Moodle and monitor their progress/status in the course. In general, we do not change grades unless there is
A-	90-94	
B+	87-90	
B	84-87	
B-	80-84	
C+	77-80	
C	74-77	
C-	70-74	

D+	67-70	some sort of administrative error. Students are always welcome to come to office hours to discuss grades 24 hours after the grade is posted online. We will not discuss grades or grade complaints/concerns over email.
D	60-67	
F	Below 60	

Assignments

All written work should be submitted through link on Moodle. See Moodle for rubrics and assignment descriptions.

Op-Ed Assignment (15%)

Watching Memo (15%)

Research Paper (20%)

Research Paper Presentation (5%)

Exam #1 (15%)

Exam #2 (15%)

Participation: (15%) Participation is an integral part of this course. Your level of participation includes attendance and your contributions and preparedness for class.

Extra Credit. A small number of extra credit assignments may become available during the course of the semester (e.g., participation in a research study, attendance and review of a campus event). These activities will be announced via Moodle along with information about point value(s).

FINAL EXAM SLOT: No Final Exam, but Research Papers are due on Moodle at this time: Thursday, May 3rd @ 1:00pm

Spring 2018 Course Schedule

	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments
Week 1	T 1/16	Introduction to Course	
	Th 1/18	Unit 1: Introduction to Political Comedy Watch CNN Special Report	(Tryon, 2016) Political TV: Introduction
Weekend watching: Track all your media time for the weekend: note which shows you watch, whether news or entertainment, and any other time you spend with media.			
Week 2	T 1/23	News vs. Entertainment	(Green 2014; Putnam 2001; Prior 2005 incl. appendix)
	Th 1/25	The Blurring of News and Entertainment	Political TV: Ch 2 (Becker, 2016a) - Vox
Weekend watching: Watch 1 episode of <i>Last Week Tonight with John Oliver</i> and 1 episode of <i>Full Frontal with Samantha Bee</i> ; review http://www.thehpalliance.org/			
Week 3	T 1/30	Comedy as Activism: Oliver & Samantha Bee	Assignment Due Date 1 (Becker & Bode, 2017) (Feldman & Chattoo, 2017)
	Th 2/1	Harry Potter, Fan Communities & Activism	(Kligler-Vilenchik 2015; Mutz 2016)
Weekend watching: Watch the movie or read the book <i>The Circle</i> (book by Eggers)			
Week 4	T 2/6	The Dark Side of Social Media	Assignment Due Date 2 (Turtle 2015; Ronson 2015; Sanders 2016; Leonard 2017)
	Th 2/8	Satire	Political TV: Ch 3 (Young, 2013)
Weekend watching: Watch 1 episode of <i>The Daily Show</i> with Jon Stewart & 1 with Trevor Noah; Watch these two episodes of <i>Parks & Recreation</i> : S3E3 “Time Capsule” and S4E3 “Born and Raised”			
Week 5	T 2/13	The Daily Show and Public Knowledge	Assignment Due Date 3; (Becker & Goldberg, 2017) (Becker, 2016) (Noah, 2016)
	Th 2/15	Parks & Recreation, Local Politics, and Political Values	Political TV: Ch 4 (Rosenberg 2015; Ryan 2015; ‘Knope’ 2016)
Weekend watching: old and new <i>SNL</i>			
Week 6	T 2/20	SNL and Campaigns	(Baumgartner, Morris, & Walth, 2012; Becker, 2017)
	Th 2/22	Exam 1	
Weekend watching: Watch “Hatfield’s Landing” episode of <i>The West Wing</i> and at least 2 episodes of <i>House of Cards</i>			

Week 7	T 2/27	Melodrama and the Presidency	Assignment Due Date 4; Political TV Ch 5 pp. 137-152; (Holbert 2003)
	Th 3/1	House of Cards and Beltway Politics	Political TV Ch 5 pp. 152-163; (Masket 2015; Desta 2017; Barnes 2017; Variety 2017)
Week 8	NO CLASS: LOYOLA SPRING BREAK: March 5 - 11		
Watching over break: Watch old <i>The Colbert Report</i>			
Week 9	T 3/13	Colbert Super PAC and Campaign Finance	Assignment Due Date 5; Political TV Ch 1 (Hardy, Gottfried, Winneg, & Jamieson, 2014)
	Th 3/15	Colbert Late Show	(Lindbergh, 2016a, 2016b) (Koblin, 2017)
Weekend watching: Check out Jimmy Fallon, Seth Meyers, Jimmy Kimmel, and Stephen Colbert (at least opening monologues)			
Week 10	T 3/20	Network Late Night Comedy	Assignment Due Date 6; (Baumgartner, Morris, & Coleman, 2015) (Garber, 2017; Itzkoff, 2017)
	Th 3/22	Melodramas of National Security	Political TV Ch 6
Weekend watching: Watch the movie <i>Snowden</i> ; watch John Oliver's interview with Edward Snowden: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEVlyP4_11M			
Week 11	T 3/27	Edward Snowden and Surveillance	(Bamford 2014; Kaplan 2016)
	Th 3/29	NO CLASS – EASTER BREAK	
Easter break watching: Watch the movie or read the book <i>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</i>			
Week 12	T 4/3	Harry Potter, Bureaucracy, and Government Legitimacy	(Barton 2006)
	Th 4/5	No Class – MPSA – Work on Research Papers/Presentations	
Watching or reading: Watch the movie or read the book <i>The Hunger Games</i>			
Week 13	T 4/10	The Hunger Games and Radical Resistance	(Dominus 2011; Driscoll 2013; Jones and Paris 2017)
	Th 4/12	Exam 2	
Week 14	T 4/17	Research Paper Presentations	
	Th 4/19	Research Paper Presentations	
Week 15	T 4/24	Research Paper Presentations	

	Th 4/26	Research Paper Presentations	
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