U.S. Politics and Media
Beering Hall 2275

The topic of this course is how government and politics shapes the policies toward the media. In this area, technology advances rapidly and changes the policy landscape. Politicians and government officials are trying to develop policy within the structures of government, existing law and regulations, economic and market forces, various policy and economic principles, and pressures from the public and interest groups. We will look at policies toward the Internet, television, public broadcasting, and video competition. These are some of the cutting edge issues in the video and Internet media world.

I am the Director of the C-SPAN Archives that we will use throughout the course. We will also study C-SPAN as a special case in the media. This course is crosslisted in communication and political science.

Contacts:
Robert X Browning, 464-4178, rxb@purdue.edu
Office: BRNG: 2216D: T&Th. 1:30 to 2:45 PM & by appointment.

Texts:

Follow syllabus for reading dates. These are the dates that we will discuss the topics. Some dates may move to accommodate guest speakers.

Also, each class session you should watch a Communicators Video Program. They are 30 minutes and cover a topic that we will integrate into the lectures. The links are on the Blackboard web site.

Requirements:

Midterm examination (20%), final examination (30%), two papers (40%), attendance and participation (10%). Final exam is scheduled during final exam period.

Two papers are required. One will be the analysis of a policy taken from the C-SPAN program The Communicators. [http://www.c-span.org/series/?communicators](http://www.c-span.org/series/?communicators) The other is a policy recommendation on a topic in Media and Politics.

Each will be between 5 and 7 pages.

Announcements

Incompletes are the bane of academic life and should not be contemplated.
The grading scale includes plus and minus grades

Refer to the University policy on academic integrity at http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academicintegritybrochure.php. Students should be familiar with and adhere to these policies. When exams are administered online, consulting outside online material is not permitted. Dishonesty in the form of cheating or plagiarism will result in an F grade and will be reported to the Dean of Students.

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control. Here are ways to get information about changes in this course.

- Course web page or Blackboard (mycourses.purdue.edu)
- Instructor’s email (rxb@purdue.edu)
- Instructor’s phone (765-494-4178)

Purdue University is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion and welcomes individuals of all ages, religions, sex, sexual orientations, races, nationalities, languages, military experience, disabilities, family statuses, gender identities and expressions, political views, and socioeconomic statuses. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by everyone in this course. Behaviors that threaten, harass, discriminate or that are disrespectful of others will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviors will be addressed with disciplinary action, which may include being referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.
**Paper 1: Communicators assignment Due: 2/18/16**

2. Summarize the issue that is being debated
3. Summarize the participants and their perspectives
4. What is the central policy issue?
5. Who are the actors and what positions are they taking? (Not all the actors will be featured on the show, but they may be talked about.)
6. What is expected to happen?
7. How does this policy issue relate to what we have covered in class?
8. Organize your answers in a complete paper. - Do not just answer these seven questions.
9. The paper should be 5-7 pages.

**Paper 2: Policy Recommendation Due: 4/14/16**

1. Choose one policy issue in the communication field.
2. Write a policy memo as a paper in which you make a recommendation for a position on this policy.
3. To do this, you should choose a perspective. You could be working for a congressperson, the president, an agency, an interest group, a candidate. You should be explicit about what perspective you are taking.
4. In your paper, provide a background on the issue, indicate the position of others on the issue, the principles that you are taking into consideration, and the political and policy hurdles in following your recommendation.
5. The paper should be 5-7 pages.

The class will be divided into six groups. For the second part of the course, we will use the C-SPAN program *Communicators* for the topics that we analyze. There will be prep sessions and presentation sessions in class. During the prep sessions the groups will work together on preparing their presentations. Groups will prepare two clips on the topic; one summary of the issue; and one policy analysis.
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<th>No.</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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