

Boğaziçi University

MIR 524: Media and Communication Systems: Case Studies from Turkey, Europe and the Middle East

Summer 2019

Instructor: Selcan Kaynak

Email: selcan.kaynak@boun.edu.tr, selcankaynak@gmail.com

Office: IB 411

Lecture Hours: Monday and Wednesday 18:00 to 20:50

Office Hours: Wednesday 16:00 – 18:00 and by appointment

Course Description and Objectives: This course primarily aims to equip the student with critical thinking skills, which will enable them to question mainstream views on politics and media. This overall goal suggests that by the end of the semester students would be able to:

- Have a knowledge of key concepts and debates in the field
- Think critically about everyday views and debates on media and politics
- Articulate critical questions and analyses in response to lecture material, in class discussions and assigned readings

Readings: All reading material will be available online; access will be facilitated during the first week of classes.

Policies: There are three essential components to this course: Assigned readings, lectures and in-class discussions. Thus, attendance and active participation is required. Please note: **Participation will constitute 15% of the final grade.** Participation grade will be based on attention to lecture material and providing intelligent contributions to class discussions. Thus, reading assigned material in time and being prepared to reflect on them during discussions are crucial.

Academic Honesty: The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism.
3. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
 - a) an automatic “F” in the assignment or the exam
 - b) an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee
 - c) losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty
 - d) losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs
 - e) losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department

The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action. Necessary information for proper citation guidelines will be provided in class. If you have any doubt about your citations, please feel free to consult me for help.

Grading:

Mid-term: %30

Final paper: % 40

Attendance and participation: % 15

Presentation: 15%

Mid-term: Mid-term will be cumulative and will cover all readings, lectures and audio-visual material presented in class. It is scheduled for July 24th. There will be **no make-up** for a missed midterm.

Final paper and presentation: Final paper will review a case study which will illustrate one of the themes covered through the semester. The paper will be presented in class during the last two meetings. Further information on presentation schedule will be provided in class.

Participation: Participation grade will be based on attendance and participation in discussions.

Lecture schedule: The following is a tentative list of all lecture topics. If need be, slight adjustments will be made; they will be announced in class.

Week 1: Introduction

June 24-26: Introduction to the course and key concepts. Crisis in Journalism.

Journalism (2019). 20th Anniversary Special Issue: The Challenges Facing Journalism Today
pp. tba

Week 2 : Journalism and Politics**July 1st:**

Schudson, M. (2017). How to Think Normatively About News and Democracy. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Communication*.

Kaya, R. & Cakmur, B. (2010). Politics and the Mass Media in Turkey. *Turkish Studies*, 11(4), 521 – 537.

Yesil, B. (2018). Authoritarian Turn or Continuity? Governance of Media through Capture and Discipline in the AKP Era. *South European Society and Politics*, 1-19.

Week 3: Technologies and Politics**July 8th :**

Postman, N. (1986). *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*. New York: Penguin. pp. 3-29, 83-98, 142-154. .

Turkle, S. (2011). *Alone Together: Why we Expect More From technology and Less From Each Other*. New York: Basic Books. pp: 1-20 , 279-305.

July 10th:

Pieterse, J. N. (2012). Leaking Superpower: WikiLeaks and the contradictions of democracy, *Third World Quarterly*, 33:10, 1909-1924

Grove, N. S. (2015). The cartographic ambiguities of HarassMap: Crowdmapping security and sexual violence in Egypt. *Security dialogue*, 46(4), 345-364.

Gerbaudo, P. (2016). Constructing public space| rousing the Facebook crowd: Digital enthusiasm and emotional contagion in the 2011 protests in Egypt and Spain. *International Journal of Communication, 10*, 20.

Saka, E. (2018). Social Media in Turkey as a Space for Political Battles: AKTrolls and other Politically motivated trolling. *Middle East Critique, 27*(2), 161-177.

Week 4: Popular Culture and Politics

July 17th:

Street, J., Inthorn, S., & Scott, M. (2015). Politics and popular culture. In *From Entertainment To Citizenship*. Manchester University Press.

Kraidy, M. M., & Al-Ghazzi, O. (2013). Neo-Ottoman cool: Turkish popular culture in the Arab public sphere. *Popular Communication, 11*(1), 17-29.

Rumelili, B., & Suleymanoglu-Kurum, R. (2017). Brand Turkey: Liminal identity and its limits. *Geopolitics, 22*(3), 549-570.

July 19th:

Goodman, M. K., & Barnes, C. (2011). Star/poverty space: the making of the 'development celebrity'. *Celebrity studies, 2*(1), 69-85.

Lagerwey, J. (2018). The Great British Bake Off, joy, and the affective potential of Nadiya Hussain's amateur celebrity. *Celebrity Studies, 9*(4), 442-454.

Street, J. (2019). What is Donald Trump? Forms of 'celebrity' in celebrity politics. *Political Studies Review, 17*(1), 3-13.

Week 5 : Media and Global Politics

July 22nd :

Zelizer, B. (2018). Cold War redux and the news: Islamic State and the US through each other's eyes. *Critical Studies in Media Communication, 35*(1), 8-23.

Allan, S. (2013). *Citizen Witnessing: Revisioning Journalism in Times of Crisis*. Polity Press. Pp. 1-25.
And review

July 24th: Midterm Exam

Week 6: Media and Global Politics

July 29th:

Dahlgren, P. (2018). Media, Knowledge and Trust: The Deepening Epistemic Crisis of Democracy. *Javnost-The Public, 1*-9.

Engesser, S., Ernst, N., Esser, F., & Büchel, F. (2017). Populism and social media: How politicians spread a fragmented ideology. *Information, communication & society, 20*(8), 1109-1126.

Waisbord, S. (2018). Why populism is troubling for democratic communication. *Communication Culture & Critique*, 11(1), 21-34.

July 31st: Presentations

Week 7: Conclusions

August 5th: Conclusions and Presentations