

MDIA 321 Special Topic: Media Representations of Politics

Trimester 2 2013

15 July to 17 November 2013

20 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	15 July to 18 October 2013
Mid-trimester break:	26 August to 8 September 2013
Study Week:	21 to 25 October 2013
Last piece of assessment due:	29 October 2013

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures: Wednesday 2.10 - 4.00pm HMLT001

Tutorials: begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the MDIA 321 site on Blackboard: go to "Tutorials" and then follow the instructions under the "SCubed - Tutorial Enrolment Instructions" link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the bulletin board outside the administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Doug Van Belle Douglas.VanBelle@vuw.ac.nz 04 463 7447 Room 307, 83 Fairlie Terrace

Office Hours: Wed 11.00 – 12.00 noon

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course communication will come through class meetings and tutorials. On rare occasion, if there is an urgent need to contact a student an email may be sent so if you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

This course explores how the nature of different media and the manner in which they are utilized enable, represent and frame the presentation of political processes, theories and dynamics. Students will analyse the representation of politics in media from a social-scientific conceptual framework.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Identify the key differences between a media studies-oriented perspective on politics and a political theory based perspective.
2. Demonstrate critical awareness of how the nature of film production and the need for visual representation of literary conflict distorts the political content.
3. Analyse how the nature of descriptive prose in print texts enables and limits political representations.
4. Critically discuss how variations in narrative arcs and episodic verses stand-alone stories shapes discourses on the political.
5. Examine how the presumption of a teaching objective shapes representations of politics in documentary and other “non-fictional” media narratives.

TEACHING FORMAT

Attendance at both lectures and tutorials is required. Lectures and tutorials build upon and extend the information in the required texts; they do not repeat the material from these texts. Therefore students are expected to independently read or view assigned texts. Texts will include visual material that may need to be purchased or rented.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit the essays on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend at least 7 tutorials
- Attend at least 9 lectures

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours over the trimester or 13 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay 1: 1,000 Words	20%	1	Tuesday, 20 August
2	Essay 2: 2,000 Words	40%	1, 4 & 5	Friday, 27 September
3	Essay 3: 2,000 Words	40%	1 to 5	Tuesday, 29 October

This course is internally assessed. Above is an outline of the points of student assessment. These criteria are final for Trimester 2-2013 and supersede all other descriptions or depictions. All assessments are required and must be completed to pass this course.

The specific topic of the essays and details regarding expectations will be discussed in lectures and tutorials. Students who miss lectures or tutorials are highly likely to miss critical information regarding the assessment.

Students are expected to use a standard style guide for formatting references and footnotes. The formatting and referencing instructions in the *SEFTMS Student Handbook* may be used, but students majoring in other disciplines or familiar with other formats may use an alternative that is a standard form in the academic discipline of his or her choice.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

Electronic assignments need to be submitted as a MS Word file through Blackboard. How to name your file and step-by-step instructions can be found on Blackboard in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section.

Your marked assignment will be found on Blackboard in the same section.

PENALTIES

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

SET TEXTS

Van Belle and Mash, *A Novel Approach to Politics*, 3rd edition (CQ Press).

Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (Pan).

Caro and Buchanan, *A Foreign Country: New Zealand Speculative Fiction* (Random Static).

Available from vicbooks, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade.

You can order textbooks online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

You may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and email address for this course:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades

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- Resolving academic issues:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclfe/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclfe/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	17 July	<p><u>Lecture Topics:</u></p> <p>First Hour: Introduction. Course structure. Assignments and expectations.</p> <p>Second Hour: Media “Types” Communication theory and media. What do we mean by a Social Science Approach?</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activity:</u> No Tutorials</p> <p><u>Tutorial Assignment for Week 2:</u> Politics in a child’s world. Examine media targeted at children and discuss how politics shapes it.</p> <p><u>Readings For Week 2:</u> Van Belle Chapters 1-4.</p>
Week 2	24 July	<p><u>Lecture Topics:</u></p> <p>First Hour: The oral tradition: Myths, gods, songs, epic poetry and politics.</p> <p>Second Hour: “Pre” media: Constellations, monuments, symbols and signifiers.</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activity:</u> Discussion of politics in a child’s world and political socialization.</p> <p><u>Tutorial Assignment for Week 3:</u></p> <p>TBA.</p> <p><u>Readings For Week 3:</u> Van Belle Chapters 5-8, Appendix: A Strategic Guide to Writing for the Classroom.</p>
Week 3	31 July	<p><u>Lecture Topics:</u></p> <p>First Hour: Storytelling: structures, strategies and archetypes.</p> <p>Second Hour: The stories of political structures</p> <p>Hand out of Essay Assignment.</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activity:</u> Discussion of Essay assignment (Due Tuesday of Week 6).</p> <p><u>Tutorial Assignment for Week 4:</u> Catalogue the stories on a 1 hour NZ evening news cast. In less than 25 words for each story, identify the disruption of the status quo, the conflict over that disruption and the resolution.</p> <p><u>Readings For Week 4:</u> Van Belle 10-14.</p>
Week 4	7 August	<p><u>Lecture Topics:</u></p> <p>First Hour: News, News, News.</p> <p>Second Hour: Democracy and mediated politics.</p> <p><u>Tutorial Activity:</u> Discussion of Essay structure.</p> <p>Readings For Week 5: Begin Reading Hitchhiker’s Guide. Must be completed before Week 6!</p>

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Week 5	14 August	First Hour: The educational Imperative of the news Second Hour: Documentaries and the educational imperative <u>Tutorial Activity:</u> Essay Discussion, library and research workshop <u>Tutorial Assignment for Week 6:</u> Watch Satirical TV <u>Readings For Week 7:</u> Hitchhiker's Guide. <u>Must be completed before Week 6!</u>
Week 6	21 August	<u>Lecture Topics:</u> First Hour: The Politics of Satire Second Hour: 7 Days, the Daily Show, Colbert, Yes Minister, Weekend Update and Hitchhiker's Guide <u>Tutorial Activity:</u> Discussion of cultural norms and political satire, hand out second essay assignment guide. <u>Tutorial Assignment for Week 8:</u> Select topic for second essay assignment and be prepared to discuss. <u>Readings For Week 7:</u> A Foreign Country
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013		
Week 7	11 Sept	<u>Lecture Topics:</u> First Hour: Speculative fiction and political theory. Second Hour: Speculative fiction and political activism. <u>Tutorial Activity:</u> Ideals, Idealism and Extremism. <u>Tutorial Assignment for Week 8:</u> Watch a Science Fiction film from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.
Week 8	18 Sept	<u>Lecture Topics:</u> First Hour: Politics in film 1. Second Hour: Politics in film 2. <u>Tutorial Activity:</u> Historical context and politics in film.
Week 9	25 Sept	Film Screening and Discussion <u>Tutorial Activity:</u> Discussion of politics and Armageddon.
Week 10	2 Oct	<u>Lecture Topics:</u> First Hour: Media Structure—Novels Second Hour: Media Structure—Short Fiction <u>Tutorial Activity:</u> Essay Workshop
Week 11	9 Oct	First Hour: Propaganda. Second Hour: Public Diplomacy.

(To be continued on page 8)

Week 12 16 Oct

Lecture Topics:

First Hour: TBD

Second Hour: TBD

Tutorial Activity: Essay assignment handed out, last chance to discuss.