

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Fall 2013

TUESDAY- THURSDAY 08:30AM-10:00AM

PS 2410FAO MASS MEDIA AND POLITICS

INSTRUCTOR: DR. D. WEST OA3019 Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT

Telephone: 705-330-4008, 2647

This course focuses on the relationship between media and politics in Canada. It is designed as an introduction to Media Studies which encourages students to analyze, interpret and understand the various media and their influence on the process of politics, gender and sexual representation, multiculturalism, civic engagement, international relations, among other general themes. Students are required/encouraged to participate in class discussions and through the preparation of their assignments. Each class will consist of a lecture, a break and then a film and discussion. Students should be prepared for these discussions.

GRADING

Book Review40%

A 5-7 page review of the required text that includes at least 10 outside references.

Documentary Review.....30%

A 5-7 page review of one of the documentary films viewed in class which includes a consideration of:

- **Style, Content and Evaluation of Message**

Final Exam 30%

REQUIRED TEXT

Hedges, Chris. *Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle*. Toronto. Knopf, 2009. Available at LU Alumni Bookstore

Articles posted on Desire2Learn

READING/CLASS DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Introduction - Course description and administration

Media – Chris Hedges in Conversation with Allan Gregg

<http://www.tvO.org/TVO/WebObjects/TVO.woa?videoid?73201869001>

Week 2– Understanding Media

Media – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImaH51F4HBw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcqB2TESg8g>

<http://www.cbc.ca/archives/categories/arts-entertainment/media/marshall-mcluhan-the-man-and-his-message/gzowski-interviews-mcluhan.html>

<http://marshallmcluhanspeaks.com/>

Week 3 - Understanding Media

Media – The Corporation

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-corporation/>

Week 4 - Understanding Media

Media – The Corporation

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-corporation/>

Week 5 – Media and Social Issues

Media – <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/big-sugar/>

Week 6 –Media and Social Issues

Media – Media That Matters – Good Food

<http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org/watch/goodfood/>

Week 7 – Media and Social Issues

Media – <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/no-logo-brands-globalization-resistance/>

Week 8 – Media and Social Change

Media – Chosen by students

Week 9 – Media and Social Change

Media – Chosen by students

Week 10 – Alternative Media

Media – Chosen by Students

Week 11 –Alternative Media

Media – Chosen by Students

Week 12 – Final Thoughts

Assignments Due