

MDIA 321 Special Topic: Media Representations of Politics

Trimester 2 2014

14 July to 16 November 2014

20 Points

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-Trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 28 October 2014

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Thursdays 3.10-6.00pm 77 Fairlie Terrace FT77306

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

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

Office Hours: TBC

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 utilised 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. This course will be delivered in a 3-hour lecture/workshop format. There are no tutorials for this course.

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

Class meetings will be a combination of lecture and tutorial/workshop.

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 9 lectures/workshops.

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, 19 August 2PM to MDIA drop slot at 83 Fairlie Terrace and Turnitin via Blackboard.
2 Essay 2: 2,000 Words	40%	1, 4 & 5	Friday, 26 September 2PM to MDIA drop slot at 83 Fairlie Terrace and Turnitin via Blackboard.
3 Essay 3: 2,000 Words	40%	1 to 5	Tuesday, 28 October 2PM to MDIA drop slot at 83 Fairlie Terrace and Turnitin via Blackboard.

This course is internally assessed. Above is an outline of the points of student assessment. These criteria are final for Trimester 2, 2014 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. Students who miss lectures are highly likely to miss critical information regarding the assessment. Any marking criteria specific to each essay will be provided in class with the assignment.

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

All essays are due at 2PM on the day due.

All essays must be submitted as hardcopy and via the Turnitin link on Blackboard.

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the MDIA drop slot outside the administration office: **83 Fairlie Terrace**. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by you instructor in lecture. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. In addition to the hardcopy, to be turned in by 2PM on the day due, students should follow the instructions provided in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section of Blackboard.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. 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. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 7 November 2014.**

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.

SET TEXTS

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

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

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

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability

- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	17 July	<p>Lecture Topics:</p> <p>First Hour: Introduction. Course structure. Assignments and expectations.</p> <p>Second Hour: The oral tradition: Myths, gods, songs, epic poetry and politics. “Pre” media: Constellations, monuments, symbols and signifiers.</p> <p>Third Hour: Screening: Max Headroom</p> <p>Preparation Activity for Week 2: Politics in a child’s world. Examine media targeted at children and consider how politics of ‘education’ shapes it.</p> <p>Readings For Week 2: Van Belle Introductory Material and Chapters 1-2.</p>
Week 2	24 July	<p>Lecture Topics:</p> <p>First Hour: Discussion of Readings</p> <p>Second Hour: Screening: Cartoons</p> <p>Third Hour: Discussion of politics in a child’s world and political socialization.</p> <p>Preparation Activity for Week 3: Use The Google: Analyse and summarise your online identity.</p> <p>Readings For Week 3: Van Belle Chapters 3-4. Appendix: A Strategic Guide to Writing for the Classroom.</p>
Week 3	31 July	<p>Lecture Topics:</p> <p>First Hour: Discussion of Readings</p> <p>Second Hour: Screening and discussion</p> <p>Third Hour: Hand out essay assignments. Discuss Appendix: A Strategic Guide to Writing for the Classroom and paper expectations.</p> <p>Preparation Activity for Week 4: Scene breakdown for sitcom episode.</p> <p>Readings For Week 4: Van Belle Chapters 5-6.</p>
Week 4	7 Aug	<p>Lecture Topics:</p> <p>First Hour: Discussion of Readings</p> <p>Second Hour: Storytelling structures, strategies and archetypes.</p> <p>Third Hour: Chiefs, Kings and Presidents</p> <p>Preparation Activity for Week 5: Watch 3-1 hour crime dramas and consider the importance of ‘process.’</p> <p>Readings For Week 4: Van Belle Chapters 7-9.</p>

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Week 5 14 Aug **Lecture Topics:**
First Hour: Discussion of Readings
Second Hour: Screening and discussion
Third Hour: Screening and discussion
Preparation Activity for Week 6: Read the Dom Post.
Readings For Week 6: _Van Belle Chapters 10-11.

Week 6 21 Aug **Lecture Topics:**
First Hour: Discussion of Readings
Second Hour: News News News
Third Hour: Democracy and mediated politics.
Preparation Activity for Week 7: Read Speculative Fiction Novel.
Readings For Week 7:_Speculative Fiction Novel.

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 25 August to Sunday 7 September 2014

Week 7 11 Sept **Lecture Topics:**
First Hour: Novels, structures and politics of publication.
Second Hour: Speculative fiction.
Third Hour: Screening and Discussion
Preparation Activity for Week 8: TBA
Readings For Week 8:_TBA

Week 8 18 Sept **Lecture Topics:**
Guest Lectures and Screenings
Preparation Activity for Week 9: Watch a war movie.
Readings For Week 9:_Van Belle Chapters 12-13.

Week 9 25 Sept **Lecture Topics:**
First Hour: Discussion of Readings
Second Hour: Media and War.
Third Hour: Media and International Politics
Preparation Activity for Week 10: Scene breakdown for sitcom episode.
Readings For Week 4:_Van Belle Chapters 14-15. First half of Foreign Country

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Week 10 2 Oct **Lecture Topics:**
First Hour: Discussion of Readings
Second Hour: Satire, culture and politics.
Third Hour: Screening and discussion
Preparation Activity for Week 11: None
Readings For Week 11: Second half of Foreign Country.

Week 11 9 Oct **Lecture Topics:**
First Hour: Discussion of Readings
Second Hour: Screening and discussion
Third Hour: Essay Workshop
Preparation Activity for Week 12: “outline” of essay
Readings For Week 12: None

Week 12 16 Oct **Lecture Topics:**
First Hour: Summary Lecture
Second Hour: Screening and discussion
Third Hour: Screening and discussion.