

SOCIOLOGY 330—SOCIOLOGY OF MEDIA

Fall 2016

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Course Objectives

1. Students will understand how structural censorship occurs in the United States.
2. Class will evaluate the importance of a free press for the maintenance of democratic institutions in society.
3. Students will be able to evaluate and analyze the sociological impacts of the global concentration of media.
4. Students will become familiar with independent /alternative news sources.
5. Students will learn methods to research news articles for expanded context and democratic understanding.
6. Class participants will become proficient in using library databases, interview research, and web news sources.
7. The class will evaluate and become familiar with the new global Media and Democracy Movement.
8. Students will understand the concept of Truth Emergency inside the corporate media managed news systems.

Course Goal: Development of critical thinking analysis skills regarding corporate-propaganda media in support of democracy and citizen awareness of important socio-economic issues in the world

Textbooks:

Censored 2016

Seven Stories Press
Available in class for \$15.00 or one-line

Censored 2017

Seven Stories Press
Available in class for \$15.00 or on-line(September 9)
Student Discount Rates for both books \$25

Course Evaluation:

A News Research Portfolio	20%
Two Media Analysis Working Papers (2-3 p.)	20%
Participation and Group Discussion	20%
Weekly Quiz on Readings	20%
Final Exam Summary	20%

Independent News Monitoring: Students will monitor daily independent news web sites. Stories approved in class for further research will become individual portfolio projects to be selected by mid-semester. Come prepared each week to share an important news story from the previous week.

Independent News Monitoring:

Read regularly: <http://www.censorednews.org/>

Subscribe to one or all of the following daily news feeds: <http://www.truth-out.org/>, <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/> Or <http://www.opednews.com/>,

News Research Portfolio: Student will conduct an in depth research study on a independent news story during the semester. Research will include full data base checks, consultation with experts in the field, finding of related news stories for context, the building of a portfolio file and a 105-200 word electronic summary of the story. Validated news stories will be posted on the Validated News & Research at: <http://www.projectcensored.org/category/validated-independent-news/>

Weekly Readings & News Report: Students will come to class prepared to discuss the weekly readings including the book chapters and an independent news story. /students will conduct a [Lexis/Nexis Academic on your weekly news story to determine coverage levels in the US.](#)

Group discussion Teams: the class will be divided into 4 discussion teams. Each week a different discussion team will lead the class dialogue on the readings and present their media analysis working paper. Student teams will sign up to prepare a list of questions and lead discussion for 30-40 minutes each week.

Media Analysis Working Papers: Are research/theory papers designed to bring together contemporary independent news with theory and analysis from the readings. The analysis of an independent news story includes a review the corporate media coverage of the issue or lack thereof. Answer the questions: why is this story important, and why isn't it getting more attention in the corporate media?

Class Schedule:

Weekly Classes will include: Weekly quiz, team led discussion of readings, review of contemporary news stories, team presentation of individual working papers, theory building, movies and speakers

Group discussion Teams: the class will be divided into 4 discussion teams. Each week a different discussion team will lead the class dialogue on the readings.

