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Media, War and Peace

Course description

Focusing on the media coverage of war, this course examines the challenges and dilemmas that journalists have to face when reporting on war, as well as the media's role in, and influence on, conflicts and conflict resolution.

The course provides historical and sociological approaches to war correspondence, from Thucydides' account of the Peloponnesian War to the current "war on terrorism," through the two World Wars and the Cold War. In this perspective, we will analyze the evolution of media norms and practices, in different countries and war situations. The discussion will emphasize the war correspondents' roles as victims, actors or denounciators of propaganda endeavors and will be nourished by a reflection on the responsibility of journalists for the evolution of armed conflicts.

Assignments

This course has four requirements: active in-class participation, a reading report, a mid-term examination in class and a take-home final paper. All requirements must be completed in order to pass the course.

(1) Active and informed in-class participation: Attendance is required, and any absences must be cleared with me.

(2) Reading report. During the semester, each of you will write a two-page critique of one of the week's recommended readings

(3) In-class midterm exam (1h30min.): It consists of 5 to 7 questions on the crucial concepts and ideas studied in the first part of the course.

(4) Take-home final paper: Essay (10 pages -- due at the end of the semester)

These requirements will count toward your final grade as follows:

Reading Report	20 percent
In-Class Midterm Exam	30 percent
Take-Home Final Paper	50 percent

Schedule of Classes, Readings and Assignments

Session 1: Introduction

Presentation of the course organization and assignments

History of war coverage: key dates

Sociology of war correspondence: standards, practices and public perception

Political involvement of war correspondents: manipulation and propaganda, tensions and dilemmas, role in conflict resolution

Session 2: Lessons from the first wars covered

Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*: an objective record of the past or a piece of literature?

The Crimean War: the first modern war coverage? Comparing William Howard Russell's articles with Roger Fenton's photographs

The Russo-Japanese War and the telegraph: the role of communication technology

The American Civil War: questions of aesthetics and ethics

Reading

Sontag, Susan (2003) Chapters 1 and 2 in *Regarding the Pain of Others*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux: 1-39

Recommended

Baldwin, Gordon; Daniel, Malcolm and Greenough, Sarah (2004) *All the Mighty World. The Photographs of Roger Fenton, 1852-1860*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press: 1-24

Daniel, Malcolm (2004) “A Note on Early Photographic Techniques”, in Baldwin, Gernsheim, Helmut (1986) *A Concise History of Photography*. New York: Dover Publications. 3rd edition: 139-143

Gordon; Daniel, Malcolm and Greenough, Sarah (With contributions by Richard Pare, Pam Roberts and Roger Taylor) (2004) *All the Mighty World. The Photographs of Roger Fenton, 1852-1860*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press: xii-xiii.

Hanson, Victor Davis (1998) Introduction to *The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War*. Free Press: ix-xxiv

Knightley, Phillip (1982) Chapter 1 “‘The Miserable Parent of a Luckless Tribe’ 1854-1856” in *The First Casualty: The War Correspondent as Hero and Myth-Maker from the Crimea to Kosovo*. London: Quartet Books: 3-17

Krigas, E. J. (2009) *Thucydides as a War Correspondent and Philosopher In Classical Greece*. Authorhouse: 1-48

Session 3: War and anti-war propaganda

Propaganda techniques

Bernays and the role of PR

The end of innocence (Lippmann)

Reading

Knightley, Phillip (2002) Chapter 4: “The Last War: 1914-1918” in *The First Casualty: The War Correspondent as Hero and Myth-Maker from the Crimea to Kosovo*. London: Quartet Books: 63-96

Recommended

Andersen, Robin (2006) Chapter 1: “The Great War and the Fight between Good and Evil: The Birth of War Propaganda” in *A Century of Media, A Century of War*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing: 3-18.

Bernays, Edward L. (2004 [1928]) “The psychology of public relations” in *Propaganda*. IG Publishing: 71-82

Lasswell, Harold, D. (1971 [1934]) *Propaganda Technique in World War I*. Cambridge, Mass: The M.I.T. Press

Nicholas Reeves Imperial War Museum (1986) *Official British Film Propaganda during the First World War*. London; Wolfeboro, N.H.: C. Helm

Society for Socialist Inquiry and Propaganda (Great Britain) (1932-) *What everybody should know about propaganda, how and why it works*. London

Session 4: Involvement, commitment and detachment

Lessons from the Spanish Civil War

Hemingway: between journalism and literature

Robert Capa’s photographs: democracy against fascism

Picasso’s Guernica: siding with the victims

Reading

Brothers, Caroline (1997) Chapter 2: “The Republican Militiamen” and Chapter 3: “Insurgent Soldiers and Moors”, in *War and Photography: A Cultural History*. Routledge: 35-57 and 58-75.

Recommended

Martin, Russell (2000) *Picasso’s War: the destruction of Guernica, and the masterpiece that changed the world*. Dutton

Rankin, Nicholas (2003) *Telegram from Guernica*. Faber & Faber

Scannell, Paddy (1984) "The BBC and foreign affairs: 1935-1939", *Media, Culture & Society* 6(3): 3-26

Session 5: War on all fronts

WWII: Journalists as team players or truth tellers?

The question of censorship

The role of music and cinema

Reading

Keller, Marcello (2007) "Why Is Music So Ideological, Why Do Totalitarian States Take It So Seriously: A Personal View From History, and the Social Sciences" in *Journal of Musicological Research*, XXVI (2-3): 91-122

Recommended

Horten, Gerd (2002) *Radio Goes to War: The Cultural Politics of Propaganda during World War II*. University of California Press: 1-88

Moeller, Susan D. (1989) Chapter 7: "The Context: 'An Urgent Obligation'", in *Shooting war: photography and the American experience of combat*. New York: Basic Books: 155-180.

Moeller, Susan D. (1989) Chapter 8: "The Photographers: a Model Partnership", in *Shooting war: photography and the American experience of combat*. New York: Basic Books: 180-212.

Roeder, George (1993) "War as a Way of Seeing", in *The Censored War: American Visual Experience during World War Two*. Yale University: 81-104

Wagner, Lilya (1989) *Women War Correspondents of World War II*. Greenwood Press

Vettel-Becker (2002) "Destruction and Delight. World War II Combat Photography and the Aesthetic Inscription of Masculine Identity", *Men and Masculinities* 5(1): 80-102.

Session 6: The controversial role of journalists

The Cold War and McCarthyism

The controversial coverage of the Vietnam War

The role of television

The influence of Literary Journalism

Reading

Hallin, Daniel C. (1989) Introduction to and Conclusion of *The “Uncensored War”: The Media and Vietnam*. University of California Press: 3-12 and 211-216

Recommended

Andersen, Robin (2006) Chapter 4, “Vietnam: Shattered Illusions” in *A Century of Media, A Century of War*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing: 47-68

Bernhard, Nancy (2003) Chapter 2: “A Weapon for Truth: Democracy and the Advent of Television News”, in *U.S. Television News and Cold War Propaganda, 1947-1960*. Cambridge University Press: 46-68

Bernhard, Nancy (2003) Chapter 7: “The most vigorous anticommunist campaign: Objectivity and consensus journalism”, in *U.S. Television News and Cold War Propaganda, 1947-1960*. Cambridge University Press: 155-177

Elwood-Akers, Virginia (1988) *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975*. Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press

Hoskins, Andrew (2004) *Televising war: from Vietnam to Iraq*. New York and London: Continuum International: 16-20

Session 7: War and collective memory

The image of war correspondents in popular culture

Iconic news images and Israeli collective memory

Reading

Cohen, Akiba; Boudana, Sandrine and Frosh, Paul (2018) “You Must Remember This: Iconic Photographs and Collective Memory”, *Journal of Communication*: 1-27

Videos

The Image of the War Correspondent in Movies and TV, 1931 - 2007, produced by IJPC program of the Annenberg School for Communication and screened at the 2009 conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication
Extract from Hitchcock's Foreign Correspondent (1941)

Midterm examination

Session 8: War as a spectacle

Blurring the lines between fiction and reality

Representing pain and trauma

The Gulf War as a videogame

Reading

Pinchevski, Amit (2016) "Screen trauma: Visual media and post-traumatic stress disorder", *Theory, Culture & Society* 33(4): 51-75.

Recommended

Ashuri, Tamar (2010) "I Witness: Re-presenting Trauma in and by Cinema", *The Communication Review* 13(3): 171-192.

Baudrillard, Jean (1995) *The Gulf War did not take place*. Indiana University Press: 1-15

Chouliaraki, Lilie (2006) "The aestheticization of suffering on television", *Visual Communication* 5(3): 261-285

Debord, Guy (1967) *Society of the Spectacle*. Detroit, IL: Black and White: 1-7

Kellner, Douglas (2004) "Media Propaganda and Spectacle in the War on Iraq: a Critique of U.S. Broadcasting Networks", *Cultural Studies <=> Critical Methodologies* 4(3): 329-338

Tomanic Trivundza, Llijal (2004) "Orientalism as news: Pictorial representations of the US attack on Iraq in Delo", *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism* 5(4): 480-499.

Yosef, Raz (2010) "War fantasies: Memory, trauma and ethics in Ari Folman's *Waltz with Bashir*", *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 9(3): 311-326.

Session 9: Media and terrorism

Terrorism needs the media

Evolution of the coverage of terrorist attacks in Israel

Reading

Griffin, Michael (2004) “Picturing America’s ‘War on Terrorism’ in Afghanistan and Iraq”, *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism* 5(4): 381-402

Zizek, Slavoj (2002) *Welcome to the Desert of the Real*. Verso. Selected extracts (5 pages)

Recommended

Andén-Papadopoulos, Kari (2008) “The Abu Ghraib torture photographs: News frames, visual culture, and the power of images”, *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism* 9(1): 5-30.

Popp, Richard K. and Mendelson, Andrew L. (2010) “‘X’-ing out enemies: Time magazine, visual discourse, and the war in Iraq”, *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism* 11(2): 203-221.

Wigoder, Meir (2004) “Revisiting the Oslo Peace Process and the Intifada: A conversation with Eldad Rafaeli, an Israeli photojournalist”, *J Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism* 5(4): 500-518.

Session 10: The drone war

Drones as weapons of targeted killing and mass communication

Case study: Operation Protective Edge (2014)

Reading

Gregory, Derek (2011) “From a view to a kill: Drones and late modern war”, *Theory, Culture & Society*, 28(7–8): 188–215.

Recommended

- Fitzsimmons, Scott and Sangha, Karina (2013) "Killing in High Definition: Combat Stress among Operators of Remotely Piloted Aircraft". Proceedings of the International Studies Association annual convention.
Accessible at <http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2013/Fitzsimmons.pdf>.
- Foucault, Michel (1975) *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage.
- Gere, Charlie (2006) "Genealogy of the computer screen", *Visual Communication* 5(2): 141-152.
- Jacobstein, Neil (2013) "Drones: A 360 degree view", *World Policy Journal* 30(3): 14-19.
- Niva, Steve (2013) "Disappearing violence: JSOC and the Pentagon's new cartography of networked warfare", *Security Dialogue* 44(3): 185-202.
- Wall, Tyler and Monahan, Torin (2011) "Surveillance and violence from afar", *Theoretical Criminology* 15(3): 239-254.

Session 11: Fake news and war

What's new about fake news?

Does fake news influence opinion formation?

How to detect fake news?

Reading

- Carlson, Matt (2009) "The Reality of a Fake Image: News norms, photojournalistic craft, and Brian Walski's fabricated photograph", *Journalism Practice* 3(2): 125-139.
- Lees, Caroline (2017) "Fake news: the global silencer", *Index on Censorship* : 88-91

Recommended

- Nielsen, Rasmus Kleis and Graves, Lucas (2017) "'News you don't believe': Audience perspectives on fake news", Factsheet, Reuters Institute: 1-8
- Tandoc, Edson C. Jr.; Lim, Zheng Wei and Ling, Richard (2018) "Defining 'Fake News'", *Digital Journalism* 6(2): 137-153

Vargo, Chris J. ; Guo, Lei and Amazeen, Michelle A. (2017) “The agenda-setting power of fake news: A big data analysis of the online media landscape from 2014 to 2016”, *New Media & Society*: 1-22

Vosoughi, Soroush ; Roy, Deb and Aral, Sinan (2018) “The spread of true and false news online”, *Science* 359: 1146-1151.

Session 12: Fairness in war reporting

Comparison between American and French models of journalism

Labeling the participants

Framing the reported event

Narrative and storytelling

Reading

Entman, Robert M. (1993) “Framing: Toward Clarification of a Fractured Paradigm”, *Journal of Communication* 43(4): 51-68

Recommended

Boudana, Sandrine (2016) “Impartiality is not fair: Toward an alternative approach to the evaluation of content bias in news stories”, *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism* 17(5): 600-618

Hackett, Robert, A. (1984) “Decline of a Paradigm? Bias and Objectivity in News Media Studies”, *Critical Studies in Mass Communication* 1(3) (September): 229-259

Labov, William (1997) “Some Further Steps in Narrative Analysis”, *The Journal of Narrative and Life History*: 395-415

Labov, William (2001) “Uncovering the event structure of narrative”. Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics.

Matthes, Jörg and Kohring, Matthias (2008) “The Content Analysis of Media Frames: Toward Improving Reliability and Validity”, *Journal of Communication* 58(2): 258-279

Session 13: Is Peace Journalism the solution?

The conflict in former Yugoslavia and the emergence of Peace Journalism

The role of journalists in conflict resolution

Reading

Hanitzsch, Thomas (2004) “Journalists as peacekeeping force? Peace journalism and mass communication theory”, *Journalism Studies* 5(4): 483-95

Recommended

Galtung, Johan (2006) “On the role of the media in worldwide security and peace”, in Tapio Varis (ed.), *Peace and Communication*: 249-266

Liebes, Tamar and Kampf, Zohar (2009) “Black and White and Shades of Gray: Palestinians in the Israeli Media During the 2nd Intifada”, *The International Journal of Press/Politics* 14: 434-453

Lynch, Jake and McGoldrick, Annabel (2005) *Peace Journalism*. United Kingdom: Hawthorn Press, Stroud

McLaughlin, Greg (2002) Chapter 9: “‘Something Must Be Done’ Journalism”, in *The War Correspondent*. London: Pluto Press: 182-197