

## JOUR 175: Media Literacy

Class Times: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### INSTRUCTOR

Prof. Susan Moeller

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

An analysis of the information, values and underlying messages conveyed via the news media, including television, newspapers, the Internet, magazines, radio and film, etc.. Examines the accuracy of those messages and explores how news and other media (such as advertising and games) shape views of politics, culture and society.

Required reading is online. Check this class website as new readings are added often.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In-class assignments and blog posts--40% of grade

Without Media project--10% of grade

Holocaust paper--20% of grade

Final--25% of grade

In-class participation, daily quizzes & Newseum field trip--5% of grade

NB: Attendance and participation will affect students' final grades—if a student's grade is hovering between two grades (say an A- and a B+) regular attendance and informed participation will prompt us to give the student the higher grade. Unexcused missed deadlines in or out of class will result in a grade of zero—you MUST notify me BEFORE the assignment is due to ask for an extension. Obviously, organization, completeness, accuracy and adherence to deadline, as well as correct spelling, grammar and facts will all weigh into the grading of assignments.

Remember, whether you use primary or secondary source material, including internet web sites, classroom lectures or material from other students, that the difference between plagiarism and valid research is a citation or attribution.

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html>

### SYLLABUS:

BE AWARE THAT THE ORDER AND EVEN THE TOPICS OF EACH DAY'S LECTURES MIGHT CHANGE, as this is a course that is uniquely responsive to news events and to media issues.

## 1 – Tuesday, June 1: What is Media Literacy? What is news?

- **Reading for next-day Blog Post:** "Principles for a New Media Literacy" (2008) by Dan Gillmor: [http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/sites/cyber.law.harvard.edu/files/Principles%20for%20a%20New%20Media%20Literacy\\_MR.pdf](http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/sites/cyber.law.harvard.edu/files/Principles%20for%20a%20New%20Media%20Literacy_MR.pdf)
- **Daily Reading for next-day News Quiz**
- **Long-term Assignment:** 24 hours without media: **due Monday, June 7**
- **Long-term Assignment:** Holocaust Museum paper: **due Thursday, June 10**

## 2 – Wednesday, June 2: The History of News

- **Reading for next-day Blog Post:** "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (1936) by Walter Benjamin: <http://www.mariabuszek.com/kcai/PoMoSeminar/Readings/BenjRepro.pdf>. (and you might be interested in reading this brief background, that also has links to other related articles on Benjamin: <http://www.artintheage.com/about/> )
- **Daily Reading for next-day News Quiz**

## 3 – Thursday, June 3: Images

- **Reading for next-day Blog Post:** "Looking at War: Photography's view of devastation and death," The New Yorker (2002) by Susan Sontag: [http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2002/12/09/021209crat\\_atlarge?currentPage=all](http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2002/12/09/021209crat_atlarge?currentPage=all)
- **Daily Reading for next-day News Quiz**

## 4 – Monday, June 7: Entertainment & News

- **Blog post due on 24 hours without media experiment**
- **Reading for next-day Blog Post:** *Bard 5.0: The Evolution of Storytelling* (18-minute video, 2010) by Sean Stewart: <http://www.tedxedmonton.com/2010/04/sean-stewart-bard-5-0-the-evolution-of-storytelling/>
- **Daily Reading for next-day News Quiz**

## 5 – Tuesday, June 8: Social Media

- **Reading for next-day Blog Post:** *24 Hours: Unplugged* (2010) by Susan Moeller, et al: <http://withoutmedia.wordpress.com/> (read entire website)
- **Daily Reading for next-day News Quiz**

## 6 – Wednesday, June 9: Politics

- **Reading for next-day Blog Post:** Two interviews with Shanto Iyengar: by Frameworks: <http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/assets/files/iyengarinterview2009.pdf> and the *Washington Post*: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/discussion/2006/11/28/DI2006112800924.html>

- **Daily Reading for next-day News Quiz**

**7 – Thursday, June 10:** Social Justice

- **Holocaust Paper due.**
- **Daily Reading for next-day News Quiz**

**8 – Monday, June 14:** Race/Gender/Diversity: Global Citizenship-Global Responsibility

- **Reading for next-day Blog Post:** Website on the to-be-built *National Museum of African American History and Culture*: [http://www.nmaahc.si.edu/section/about\\_us](http://www.nmaahc.si.edu/section/about_us)
- **Daily Reading for next-day News Quiz**

**9 – Tuesday, June 15:** Freedom of Expression & Democracy

- **Reading for next-day Blog Post:** *Impunity Index* by Committee to Protect Journalists: <http://cpj.org/reports/2010/04/cpj-2010-impunity-index-getting-away-with-murder.php>
- **Daily Reading for next-day News Quiz**

**10 – Wednesday, June 16**

- **Newseum field trip** (NB: there will be a question related to the trip on the final exam)

**11 – Thursday, June 17**

- **FINAL EXAM**

