

<p style="text-align: center;">STPEC SENIOR SEMINAR 491H MEDIA AND POLITICS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH</p>

FALL 2009

TUESDAYS, 2:30-5:00

ROOM TBA

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Course Description

In the last 20 years, there has been a dramatic explosion in access to television, mobile phones and to a lesser extent, access to computers and the Internet, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. In this seminar, we will select specific local and transnational case studies to examine the complex relationship between growing access to media and information technologies and political transformation. We will focus on a range of theoretical approaches to the question of media/technology and social change in the global South. These will include, among other areas, debates about electronic public cultures and democracy, debates about popular culture and populism, debates about technology and poverty, and debates about mobile and digital media and social movements. This course will be conducted as a seminar and students will be expected to present on the readings on a regular basis. Students will also be expected to write a final research paper based on topics covered during the semester. Although not a requirement, background and interest in global or international studies is strongly encouraged.

Required Texts:

Baulch, Emma (2007) *Making Scenes: Reggae, Punk, and Death Metal in 1990s Bali* (Duke, 2007)

Kozloff, Nikolas (2008) *Revolution!: South America and the Rise of the New Left* Palgrave

Larkin, Brian (2008) *Signal and Noise: Media, Infrastructure, and Urban Culture in Nigeria*, Durham: Duke University Press.

Qui, Jack Linchuan (2009) *Working-Class Network Society: Communication Technology and the Information Have-Less in Urban China*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Rist, Gilbert (2009) *History of Development: From Western Origins to Global Faith* Zed Books

Varzi, Roxanne (2006) *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran* Durham: Duke University Press.

All books available at **Amherst Books at 8 Main Street**, Amherst

Phone: 413 256 1547.

Email: books@amherstbook.com

All books will also be on reserve at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library (3rd floor Reserve Services)

ELECTRONIC COPIES OF ALL ADDITIONAL MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE CLASS EMAIL LIST.

Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation (10%)

Regular attendance is required and active participation in class discussion is encouraged.

Presenting on Weekly Readings and Themes(10%)

Students are required to present on the weekly readings and themes twice during the course of the semester. These will be group presentations of 2-3 students, depending on the week you choose. The presentations should provide a brief overview of the main readings/texts assigned for the class and should raise analytical questions about the arguments made by the authors to help lead the direction of discussion for the seminar. You can bring in additional relevant information from credible sources for your presentations, which should be no shorter than 15 minutes and no longer than 20 minutes. An additional handout and sign-up sheet will provide further instructions on the format of these presentations.

Reaction Papers (20 %)

Students are required to submit at least two reaction papers, each counting 10 points towards your final grade. These papers should respond to the readings and/or films assigned for seminar. Each reaction paper should be 2-3 pages (double-spaced) and provide an analysis and interrogation of the text in question. You can choose any week during the course of the semester to submit reaction papers, but you must submit at least one reaction paper before week 7 of the semester. Papers are always due at the end of seminar. You may choose to do more than two reaction papers, with your final grade reflecting your highest grades for this exercise.

Midterm Essay Exam (20%)

Due Friday, October 23rd

There will be a midterm take-home essay exam where you will have a choice of questions covering the themes discussed in readings and lectures in the first half of the semester. Your essay should be 5-7 pages of text (doubled spaced) incorporating assigned readings as well as lecture and other class-related materials. Please refrain from using or referencing any materials for this essay that are not assigned in the syllabus, including wikipedia, non-assigned online sources, etc.

Final Paper (40%)

There will be a final 12-15 page (double spaced) research paper assignment, which you will present to the rest of the seminar in the last two weeks of class, and which is due on Friday, **December 11th**. These papers will develop the theoretical and empirical themes covered in the seminar. More information about your final papers will be handed out in the second half of the seminar. Please note that a brief (1 page) outline and bibliography for your proposed final papers is due on **Tuesday, November 3rd**.

Policies

Plagiarism: If you fail to cite or identify the origin of a direct quote or of an idea that you have paraphrased, then you are plagiarizing. Plagiarism can result in consequences varying from a warning to a more formal punishment through the university, including failing the class.

Style for Assignments: Students will be asked to cite and reference their assignments in the APA (American Psychological Association) style, which will be reviewed in class. Standard instructions for class assignments include: identifying assignments with student numbers rather than names, stapling, and double-spacing, and using 12 point font.

Electronic Devices: All electronic devices should be in the off or vibrate position and out of sight during class session. Laptops should be used only to take notes and or access material directly relevant to class discussion.

Turning in Papers and Exams:

You can hand in all your assignments as hard copies in class or as email attachments (Word Docs only). All papers and exams due on their due date

Late Assignments: It is difficult for the instructor and teaching assistant to coordinate grading, ensure fairness, or return papers in a timely manner when assignments are not handed in on time. Each day that a paper is late it will receive a 5% reduction in grade. Papers will not be accepted more than 2 weeks after the assignment was originally due, unless there are extenuating circumstances (such as an illness that can be documented), in which case the student and instructor will come to an agreement together.

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities, with the advice and assistance of the appropriate services on campus.

Syllabus Changes: This syllabus is a contract between professor and students. However, it is subject to change with sufficient notice to students.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

September 8th: Introduction and Overview of Seminar

WEEK 2

September 15th: Media, Modernity and Empire

Required Readings:

- Armand Mattelart, (2000) *Networking the World*, Chapters 1 & 4
- Paula Chakravartty and Katharine Sarikakis (2007) *Media Policy and Globalization*, Chapter 2

WEEK 3

September 22nd: Colonialism, Development and the Bipolar World

Required Readings:

- Gilbert Rist, Chapters 1-6

Screening of *Aimee Cesaire a Voice for History*

WEEK 4

September 29th: The Globalization of Development

- Gilbert Rist, Chapters 7-12

Screening of *Maquilapolis*

WEEK 5

October 6th: Colonial Legacy, Media and the Everyday (Nigeria)

Required Readings:

Larkin, Brian (2008) *Signal and Noise: Media, Infrastructure, and Urban Culture in Nigeria*, Durham

WEEK 6

*October 13th: Popular Culture and Social Transformation (Indonesia)

Required Reading: Baulch, Emma (2007) *Making Scenes: Reggae, Punk, and Death Metal in 1990s Bali* (Duke, 2007)

*Midterm Essay Exam Questions Handed Out

WEEK 7

October 20th: Neoliberal Transformations and Subaltern Publics (India)

Required Readings:

- Nivedita Menon and Aditya Nigam (2007) *Power and Contestation in India since 1989*. Zed Books. (Chapters 3 & 4)
- Maxine Loynd (2008) "Politics without Television: The BSP and the Dalit Counter Public Sphere" in N. Mehta (Ed.) *Television in India*. Routledge: pp. 62-86.

Recommended Viewing:

- *Naata*, details about documentary screening TBA

MIDTERM ESSAY DUE FRIDAY OCTOBER 23RD

WEEK 8

October 27th: Information Societies and Inequality (China)

Required Reading:

Qui, Jack Linchuan (2009) *Working-Class Network Society: Communication Technology and the Information Have-Less in Urban China*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Screening of scenes from *San*

WEEK 9

November 3rd: Media and Political Transformation (South America and the Pink Tide)

Kozloff, Nikolas (2008) *Revolution!: South America and the Rise of the New Left*
Palgrave

Screening: *The Hugo Chavez Show*

***BRIEF OUTLINE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FINAL PAPER DUE**

WEEK 10

November 10th: Youth, Media and Modernity (Iran)

Required Reading:

Varzi, Roxanne (2006) *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran*
Durham: Duke University Press.

WEEK 11

November 17: New Media and New Publics

- Rafael, Vicente L “The Cell Phone and the Crowd: Messianic Politics in the Contemporary Philippines” *Public Culture*–15: 3 Fall 2003, pp. 399-425
- Clemencia Rodriguez (2007) “The Poetics of Indigenous Radio in Columbia” *Media, Culture and Society* 29 (3) 449-468.

WEEK 12

November 24th (Class Cancelled)

WEEK 13

December 1st

PRESENTATIONS OF FINAL PAPERS

WEEK 14

December 8th

PRESENTATIONS OF FINAL PAPERS

FINAL PAPERS DUE FRIDAY DECEMBER 11TH

