

Comm 468
Fall 2002

The Political Economy of Communication

Prof. Robert W. McChesney
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office hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:15; Thursday 2-2:45

Thursday 3-5PM, 336 Gregory

Please note: This is a tentative syllabus, subject to change

The political economy of communication is an introductory graduate seminar. The purpose is to acquaint students with the field, read recent work done in the tradition, and facilitate students developing their own research in the area.

This term the course emphasizes the United States, because in the spring 2003 term I will co-teach a seminar with Prof. Dan Schiller on the political economy of global communication.

Students will read one book each week for six or seven weeks. They will play an active role in class discussions. They will write research papers and submit them to the class. These are serious research papers that must be a *rock bottom absolutely bare minimum* of **12,000 words** in length. Students will criticize other students' papers, and respond to the criticism made by other students to their papers.

As the class is predicated upon students completing their research papers on deadline, incompletes are not available. A student who misses the deadline will fail the class.

Books have been ordered through University Bookstore, but it is up to each student to make sure they get a copy. (Do not rely on the bookstore.)

The readings:

1. A29: Introduction
2. S5: McChesney-Foster handouts on the political economy of communication
3. S12: C. Edwin Baker, *Media, Markets, and Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).
4. S19: Edward S. Herman & Noam Chomsky, *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*, second edition (Pantheon, 2002).
5. S26: Lawrence Soley, *Censorship, Inc.* (Monthly Review, 2002).
6. O3: 5-10 page paper outline due. Individual meetings with Bob.
7. O10: Todd Gitlin, *Media Unlimited* (Metropolitan Books, 2002).

8. O17: Eileen Meehan & Ellen Riordan, editors, *Sex & Money: Feminism and Political Economy in the Media* (University of Minnesota Press, 2002).
9. O24: Nathan Newman, *Net Loss: Internet Prophets, Private Profits, and the Costs to Community* (Penn State Press, 2002).
10. O31: work on papers
11. N7: work on papers
12. N14: turn in 15-20 page outline. Meet as class to discuss progress.
13. N21: work on papers
14. D5: turn in final papers by 5PM as word attachment.
15. D12: turn in critiques of other student's papers by 5PM as word attachment
16. D16: turn in response to critiques by 5PM as word attachment
 - a. Individual sessions that week with Bob to discuss papers, critiques.