Visual Representations of Political Thought and Action

Visual Representations of Political Thought and Action
2017

POSC 214
Prof. Barbara Allen
Tues Thurs 10:10–11:55
Willis 414
WCC 235
Office hours M Tu W Th
by appt. (sign-up & check
meeting location on Moodle)

The Course

Visual media offer an alternative method of framing political ideas and events. Images found in such texts as film, posters, and even in statistical tables can enlighten—or mislead. Readings in visual theory, political psychology, and graphic representation will enable you to read images and use these powerful media to convey your ideas and research. We have an exciting opportunity to work with visual artist Jesse Willenbring on an installation of political art in the Weitz Commons. The installation will consist of your political posters, art, and infographics brought together with Willenbring’s paintings.

Course Requirements
Below are the readings and general topics for each of our meetings. Readings, which are on e-reserve, should be
done for the day on which they are assigned unless otherwise noted. Our readings cover three main topics:
theories of visual representation and “seeing,” methods of expressing qualitative and quantitative data, and the
political theory the Declaration of Independence, the Declaration of the Rights of the Man and of the Citizen,
the Federalist, the US Constitution, the Letter from the Birmingham City Jail, and By Any Means Necessary. Your
grade will be based on individual work (analytical paper, 3 illustrations with short written explanations, and
participation) and group work (final infographics/poster project and presentation). Group work is extremely
important. You will be evaluated by the instructor and by your peers.

Individual Work

Based on our readings you will write a five-page analytical paper, due on April 19.

On April 3 and April 5 you will submit illustrations, ideas, data, and/or infographics that illustrate the ideas from
the Federalist and the two Declarations (April 3) and “By Any Means Necessary” and the “Letter from the
Birmingham City Jail” (April 5). On April 10 you will submit your individual idea for a political poster or
infographics that you will recommend to your group as a basis for the group’s final project. Each of these
submissions includes a one-page explanation of your choices in terms of narrative, color, symbol/metaphor and
other aspects of representation discussed in class. The April 10 written submission is the “pitch” that you will
make to your group, recommending that your idea be a basis for the group project design.

Group Work

Sign up for one of the groups no later than April 5. Working five–person teams you will design and create a
poster or infographic that illustrates a political theory, event, or idea, drawing on the historical documents
discussed in class. You may illustrate the principles or propositions found in the documents, use the documents
as a bridge to contemporary events and ideas in any way that interests you. The first step in the group process
involves pitching your idea to the group. Based on your April 10 submission, you will work with your group to
find a design that everyone supports for a final project. It is not necessary that each person’s initial design
become part of the group design, but it is necessary that each of you present your ideas as a step in determining
what the group will do. The instructor works closely with the groups to figure out a process of research and
creation that fits our style. On the last day of class, April 27, we will present our class installation of political
ideas, events, and theories, including quantitative or qualitative data. Attending this event is required to finish
the course.

A Word about Participation, Our Schedule, and ATTENDANCE

This class is designed as a “hands-on” experience in visual analysis and representation. Teamwork is a critical
part of this course. The poster/infographic assignment specifically asks you to integrate your question/work with
other members of the team. The 50% of your grade that relies directly on teamwork subject peer evaluation as
well as my evaluation. Your peers will evaluate your work on the team. If there are difficulties on the team that
you cannot resolve, please let me know. Productive differences/ “conflict,” problem-solving, amendment, and
innovation are part of the process of constitutional decision making and teamwork. The instructor also evaluates
your general participation in the class. Enthusiastic participation in the reading–centered discussions throughout
the term and discussions of your illustration ideas is essential to each student’s learning process and our
classroom community. Participation will be judged relative to an average score of 8.5 pts (85%). Below average
or above average participants will earn bonuses or deductions from that baseline value in accordance with the
instructor’s evaluation of their conscientious preparedness, commitment, and engagement with the material.
Attendance is vital to the classroom community. An absence of two classes (sans valid reason and sufficient
notice to me and your teammates) will result in a drop in your grade by one letter. Our schedule for individual
assignments is also important to class discussion and teamwork. Observe the due dates for assignments; turn in
your work on time using the Moodle hand-in icons.

Grades

Final Infographic/Poster and Presentation (Group Project incl. Peer Eval) 50
Data/Images and Explanation (Individual work) 30
  [Federalist and Declarations 5
   Any Means and Letter 5
   Idea for the Group 20]
Discussion Paper (Individual work) 20
Your Ideas Here

This is a forum where you can post examples and ideas

Announcements

Infographic and Poster Production Teams

Sign up for one team with which you will work on your final infographic or poster for the Weitz Commons installation by April 5, 2017.

Images and Graphics Illustrating Federalists and Declarations

Upload your illustrations that depict propositions from the Federalist and/or compare and contrast ideas from the French and US Declarations of Independence and Rights. Use any software medium that you know (e.g. a PowerPoint Slide, In Design, Illustrator) for a canvas and place your illustrations in a designed orientation on the canvas. Supply a one-page explanation of your graphic. Submit by 5:00pm 3 April

Images and Graphics Illustrating MLK and MX Ideas

Upload your illustrations that depict theories, ideas, or propositions of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. You may choose one of these political actors as your focus or compare or contrast their ideas. Use any software medium that you know (e.g. a PowerPoint Slide, In Design, Illustrator) for a canvas and place your illustrations in a designed orientation on the canvas. Supply a one-page explanation of your graphic. Submit by 5:00pm 5 April

Each Person’s Questions for Constitutional Law Professor Kim Smith

Kim Smith will be your interview subject in class 13 April. There are two steps to this assignment: 1) individual questions, 2) selection of an interviewer from each group and a final list of the group’s questions.

1) Each of you should write at least two interview questions. Submit these questions here. Also share these questions with the members of your group. 2) Select one person from your group who will be the main interviewer for this session. Submit the interviewer’s name and group number with a final list of the group’s question at the next icon.

Name of Interviewer and Final Questions Kim Smith from Group

Select one person from your group who will be the main interviewer for this session. Submit the interviewer’s name and group number with a final list of the group's question here

Individual Analytical Paper
Upload your Analytica Paper, based on one lesson from the course and the readings for that lesson. The topic is open. You might choose to write about the portions of the US Constitution discussed in class, the Federalist or the Declarations, the work of MLK or Malcolm X, the readings on propaganda, street art, political art and advertising…. An analytical paper introduces a topic, question, or puzzle; tells why the puzzle matters and what the state-of-the-art thinking about this puzzle might be (i.e. refers to the readings on the syllabus); offers your thinking about what the readings or other evidence shows in the form of an logical argument that reasons through a discussion of "answers" to the question/puzzle or gives an exposition of the topic; and a conclusion that is drawn from the logic of the argument. What matters: clear statement of thesis, presentation of relevant reading/insights of others; evidence and illustrations that illuminate; logical argument; conclusion drawn from the logical argument; good grammar; clear sentence and paragraph structure; documentation of sources; good style in writing. Submit by 11:55 pm 14 April

Individual Infographic or Poster Proposal and Pitch

Upload your Infographic or Poster here along with your explanation to be presented to your group, the "pitch" that convinces them of the merits of your idea as a final topic, concept, or method for the final visual representation. Submit by 5:00pm 10 April

DRAFT 1 Group Infographic or Poster

Upload THE DRAFT Infographic or Poster here. This is the group illustration of data and ideas that will be printed our class installation in the Weitz Commons. WE ARE DISCUSSING YOUR DRAFTS WITH ARTIST JESSE WILLENBRING IN CLASS ON 18 APRIL. Submit by 5:00pm 17 April

DRAFT 2 Group Infographic or Poster

Upload THE DRAFT Infographic or Poster here. This is the group illustration of data and ideas that will be printed our class installation in the Weitz Commons. WE ARE DISCUSSING YOUR DRAFTS WITH ARTIST JESSE WILLENBRING IN CLASS ON 20 APRIL. Submit by 7:00am 20 April

Draft 3 for PRINTING Team Infographic or Poster

BY NOON 24 April, Please upload your nearly completed draft of the team Infographic or Poster here. We will print these drafts between 1-4 Monday 24 April so that you may make adjustments as necessary before submitting the final (at the hand-in below). Noon, NOON, Yep NOOOON

FINAL Group Infographic or Poster

Upload THE FINAL Infographic or Poster here. This is the group illustration of data and ideas that will be printed our class installation in the Weitz Commons. Submit by 5:00pm 24 April

Supplemental Material for Group Infographic or Poster

Upload supplemental material used in creating THE FINAL Infographic or Poster here. Such material might include individual images, citation lists for sources of materials, data collected used in creating the infographic. Submit by 5:00pm 27 April

Power Point on Many Features of Many of our Documents Uploaded 10/04/17, 15:51
This (apologies to Tufte) power point covers aspects of Federalist 10, 51, Declaration, Slavery and the Constitution, Letter from the Birmingham Jail, and By Any Means Necessary.

Caption Draft 1

Each Team uploads a caption for the graphic here. The caption states: Names of Team [Artists], Name of Work, Medium of Work, Date of Work, and Description, in which description highlights features the viewer might wish to observe, tells about the ideas at the heart of the piece (might explain the title, the concepts, the homage to other artists). If you have taken images from some source, then the source needs some sort of citation giving credit.

These statements should be in the form of Word documents so that we can format them easily. Please upload by 10 am 25 April.

Peer Evaluation

Hand-In Your Peer Evaluation Here no later than 5:00 pm 27 April. Use the form. YOU MUST TURN IN THIS EVALUATION FORM TO PASS THE COURSE.

Peer Evaluation Form Uploaded 23/04/17, 17:37

Use this form to evaluate your team; submit by 5:00 pm 27 April

Add an activity or resource

26 March - 1 April

Part 1: Democratic Theory and the Power of Media

Tues Mar 28  Introduction to the course

I. Problems in Qualitative and Quantitative Data Presentation

The Political Poster and Infographics

Guest: Doug Foxgrover


Examples taken from:


II. A Power Point on The Federalist and Federalism

Read: Federalist Papers Nos. 1, 10, 15, 23, 41, 47–51

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen

Declaration of Independence

III. Visual Regimes—a Critique of Power Point
Read: Edward Tufte. “Power Point is Evil”
Edward Tufte, “Power Point Does Rocket Science”

Thurs Mar 30 Workshop 1 Infographics and Political Posters

Guest Doug Foxgrover


Charles Minard Map of Napoleon’s Campaign to Russia 1812.


Joseph Goebbels Principles of Propaganda

Some examples of propaganda posters and a discussion of propaganda styles with an interesting choice for the “How-To-Make” propaganda, which you may wish to deconstruct.


Recently Observed on the Streets of LA and St. Paul
2 April - 8 April

**Mon Apr 3**  
Submit Images/Data/Infographics Illustrating Essential Propositions from the *Federalist* or the Contrasting Ideas of the Declarations (US and France)

**Tues Apr 4**  
I. Reading the Visual and Applying Visual Reading to Representation of Quantitative Data:


Stephen Jay Gould, “The Median Isn’t the Message”

II. Ideas for Illustration of The Federalist and the Declarations

Discussed in light of:

Read: Malcolm X. 1964. “Speech at the Founding Rally of the Organization of Afro-American Unity” (AKA “By Any Means Necessary”)

Malcolm X Speech at the Founding Rally of the Organization of Afro-American Unity

**Wed Apr 5**  
After reading Malcolm and Martin, submit images/data/infographics to discuss key propositions of Malcolm X By Any Means Necessary and Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from the Birmingham City Jail

**Thurs Apr 6**  
I. Political Communication and Visual Representation


**READING PHOTOGRAPHS**

Nicole Dahman and Don Heider. 2/05/2017. “Want to Resist the Post-Truth Age? Learn to Analyze Photos Like an Expert Would.” *Quartz*


**A CASE STUDY OF APPROPRIATIONS**

*The Original*


The book with interviews is on Library Reserve for you to consult.

*The Return*


Maharidge and Williamson’s 2015 Reflections on their 1980s work


*The Next Story*


And reflections in an interview

http://www.wbur.org/heraandnow/2017/01/02/america-working-poor

*The Reappropriation*

Sherrie Levine

Reappropriating the Image

At the Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Broad, Sherrie Levine

*Appropriation in Politics Now*
II. Discuss Malcolm X & MLK Image/Data/Infographics

The Idea of Institutional Design: The American Experiment

Read: Constitutional Choice and Constitutional Development


Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from the Birmingham City Jail

Constitution of the United States of America

Preamble, Article I, sec. 2; Article II; Article IV, sec2 4; Amendments 13–15.

King expresses the citizen's responsibility for self-government in 1967.

King discusses the "promissory note" in a different way in 1968 before the Poor People's March
9 April - 15 April

**Mon April 10**
INFOGRAPHIC/POSTER IDEA DUE for class discussion upload at Moodle. Hand-In Icon by 5:00

Each student submits two questions for Kim Smith interview at Moodle Icon. Share these questions (use email) with group members

**Tues Apr 11**  I. Color Theory, Visual Narrative, and Metaphor


Submit Name of Group interview leader and final list of group questions for Kim Smith Interview

**Metaphor Examples and Critiques**

Look at Art/Advertising: Tibor Kalman 1993 ads for Benetton “Colors” AKA “What if…”

Interview with Kalman by Brad Wieners, “Color Him a Provocateur” Wired

Benetton Campaign Historical Retrospective


Originally on The Fishery blog

Katie Richards. 3/7/2017. “This Empowering Ad From United Colors of Benetton Encourages Women to Take Their Half,” *Ad Week*

Applying these ideas to elections

Guido Álvarez “Obama, McCain Fictional Design Competition,” August 2, 2008” From HyperScholar Blog TypePoetry November 2, 2008 (Images Posted on Moodle)

**Narrative**


**Examples and Ideas**

Familiarize yourselves with ideas of Franco Barardi by reading this review of *Heroes: Mass Murder and Suicide* Scott McLemee. 9/2/2015. “The Atrocity Exhibition.” *Inside Higher Education*. I will not be posting the video discussed, but it can be found at LiveLeak.com, which calls itself a site that redefines media.

Work of Rob Pruitt:
Daily Art Fair Notice of Pruitt’s work

Pricilla Frank. 12/16/2016, “Nearly 3,000 Paintings Of President Obama Are On View Together In NYC Rob Pruitt painted a portrait for every single day of Obama’s two terms.” Huffington Post.


Shia LeBouf’s Approach, “He Will Not Divide Us”


II. Discuss Your infographic/Poster Ideas continuing into

Common Time with PIZZA

Thurs Apr 13  Guest Speaker Kim Smith. Recent Developments in Constitutional Interpretation: Emoluments Clause, Fourteenth Amendment and More!!!

Friday April 14  ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE upload at Moodle Hand-In Icon

Add an activity or resource

16 April - 22 April

Monday Apr 17  Infographic/Poster Project DUE 5:00 pm upload at Moodle Hand-In Icon

April 18-27 Guest, Artist in Residence Jesse Willenbring

See notes on narrative series Odyssey

Tues Apr 18  Workshop 1: Present Design Ideas and Explanations: Your Posters, Infographics, or Theory and Qualitative Data Visualizations


Presentations of Your Poster/Infographics on Theory, Quantitative and/or Qualitative Data

Wed Apr 19  4:30 pm Jesse Willenbring Artist Talk Narrative of the Odyssey WCC 235 Reception follows

Thurs Apr 20  Workshop 2: Designing the Installation (Refining infographics and poster designs)
Meet in Classroom, move to Weitz Commons to discuss installation. Ideas for our work draw on these short readings:


On the Grid System

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Gestalt Principles Uploaded 20/04/17, 10:41

Add an activity or resource

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23 April – 29 April

**Mon April 24** DRAFT INFOGRAPHIC OR POSTER DUE NOON FOR DRAFT PRINTING HAND-IN Icon

1:00–4:30 pm WCC 027 PRINTING YOUR GRAPHICS. TEAM MEMBERS Sign Up Appointments link.

5:00 pm FINAL Graphics Moodle Hand-In Icon

**Tues Apr 25** Workshop 3: Work on the Installation & Captions

**10:10 HAND IN CAPTION FOR YOUR WORK**

**Wed April 26** Continue Work on Installation & Captions

**Thurs Apr 27** Workshop 4: Present on Site During Class and at Common Time Visual Representations of Political Ideas and Actions

Hand In All Supplemental Material Used to Produce Final Graphic Moodle Hand-In Icon

*****Final Projects Presented on Site Class& Common Time*****
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>30 April – 6 May</td>
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Add weeks