General

POSC 220 Politics and Political History in Film

Winter 2018
Tue/Thu 1:15–3:00
WCC 132
Barbara Allen, ballen@carleton.edu
Office hours by appt: Mon-Thu
Sign-up MOODLE
Note Meeting Location
(not noted as either Weitz Cafe or Willis 414)

The Course

How do representations of politics in film influence our ideas about governance, citizenship, power, and authority? How do film and TV reflect values and beliefs of a democratic society, particularly in the United States? These are two questions that we will consider in the course as we study films representing politics and historical events in fiction and non-fiction genres for entertainment and education.

Readings

The readings for the course have been drawn from a number of books and journal articles available on reserve at the library. You may make copies for your personal use. I have placed several recommended (REC, not required) resources on reserve in addition to assigned readings. These resources are for your use in your projects and in studying a particular topic in greater depth for our class discussion. Film screenings will take place in Library 344 at 7:15 pm as scheduled below. The films screened are considered texts for the course. Screenings are scheduled so that you can come to class on the following day to discuss the films after viewing them.

Assignments

Increasing visual literacy and knowledge of media effects in politics are among the main goals of the course. The reading assignments cover a range of interdisciplinary writings about film and politics, including: film style and film theory, techniques of film production and their psychological effects on viewers, the function of film and visual media in political socialization and ideology, as well as the political psychology of narrative and framing. Your grade will be based on participation in our class discussion of the readings and an analysis of a political event, institution, or theory, which you will present in: 1) a written essay and 2) a proposal for “treating” this issue visually. The essay and film treatment assignment will be carried out in several steps with due dates for work noted on the schedule below. The four main steps for this project are: 1) choosing a topic in political history, public policy, law, political culture, or political theory; 2) writing an analytical paper examining the problem/issue; 3) compiling a journal (separate from class notes) in which you connect the readings, discussions, and films viewed (including recommended relevant readings and/or films) to the written and proposed visual discussion of this topic; and 4) creating a visual treatment (or proposed visual treatment) expressing your ideas about the problem/issue/theory in a visual medium.

Grades will be computed as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Visual Treatment</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal and Journal Analysis</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation Project Portfolio</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Announcements

News forum

Project Proposals

Turn in your project topic proposal here.

ANALYTICAL PAPER

Turn in your analytical paper here.

First Journal Synopsis (Reflections on the Project near Mid Term)

Turn in your 2-3 page synopsis here

Brief Statement of Visual Treatment of Analytical Paper

Turn in a brief statement of your proposed treatment, expressing the points of your analytical paper visually.

FILM TREATMENT

Due MONDAY 19 FEB BY NOON UPLOAD HERE

COMPLETE PROJECT PORTFOLIO SHOWING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Due Tues March 8

Turn in Revised Issue Analysis, Visual Treatment, and Documentation of the Project Development (i.e. your Journal Analysis)

Film Term Glossary

POSC 220 Handout 1 Montage

Use this handout to consider visual representations of text

FILM TREATMENT PROJECT

Read about the project and each of its parts here. Resources and examples are included.

Sample Film Treatments

Sample Proposals & Film Treatments

The Jerome Foundation Sample of Awards
31 December - 6 January

Part 1: Elements of Film Style and Social Learning Effects in Representations of Politics and History

Thurs Jan 4  Foundations of Film Analysis

Examples and discussion of film style (camera work, editing, mise en scène, settings, acting style, costumes, makeup, lighting)

7 January - 13 January

Mon Jan 8  Film Screening: Charles Chaplin The Great Dictator (1940)

Tues Jan 9  Film Propaganda or Critique? Narrative Analysis (narrative, plot, theme)


Wed Jan 10  Film Screening: Andre Heller and Ottmar Schmieder Blind Spot—Hitler’s Secretary (2002)

Thurs Jan 11  Propaganda, Advertising, and Influence; Film Style and the documentary


Last date by which you must talk with me if you wish to undertake a GROUP project for the course

14 January - 20 January

Mon Jan 15

Film Screening: Rachel Boynton Our Brand is Crisis (2005)

Tues Jan 16

Two Topics for Today:

I. Contemporary Propaganda and Advertising: Election Ads & News Coverage


If “the construction of political advertising” sounds like an interesting project topic for your paper/visual treatment, then ask me to suggest additional resources.

II. Film Sound Part 1


Journal “Check-in” (bring your journal to class to show that you have started this part of the project)

Wed Jan 17

Film Screening: Barry Levinson Wag the Dog (1997)

Thurs Jan 18

Cognition and Choice: Seeing is Believing


Topics for Project Due 11:55 pm

21 January - 27 January

Mon Jan 22

Film Screening: Spike Lee Malcolm X (1992)

Tues Jan 23

Political Biography, Film Language, and the Effects of Framing and Priming on Cognitive Processing

Read: Malcolm X “Message to the Grassroots,” “The Ballot or the Bullet,” “Founding Rally of the OAAU,” “The Young Socialist Interview”


Wed Jan 24

Film Screening: Herbert Bieberman Salt of the Earth (1954)

Thurs Jan 25

Film Critiques of Capitalism and Major Institutions; Media Ownership, Government Censorship, and Cultural Production


Analytical Paper Due by 11:55 pm

28 January - 3 February

Part 2: Film Representations Policy, Politics, and Political Institutions

Mon Jan 29 Film Screening: Gilo Pontecorvo Battle of Algiers (1966)

Tues Jan 30 Critique of Empire


Wed Jan 31 Film Screening: Jean-Pierre Melville Army of Shadows (1969, 2005)

Thurs Feb 1 The “Good” War


Journal “Check-in” First Synopsis of Project Development Due by 11:55 pm

4 February - 10 February
Mon Feb 5 ****************MIDTERM BREAK*****************

Film Screening: Francis Ford Coppola Apocalypse Now (1976)

Tues Feb 6

I. “Not So ‘Good’” Wars and Questionable futures

II. Film Sound Part 2


** Brief Statement of Treatment Focus Due 11:55 pm **

Wed Feb 7 ** Film Screening: Oliver Stone W (2008) and/or Doug Liman Fair Game (2010)**

Thur Feb 8 The World As it Happens/Happened?


11 February – 17 February


Tues Feb 13  Cold War Redux 1980–2007

Ronald Reagan, “Inaugural Address January 20, 1981 at:

Ronald Reagan, “Address to the Nation on Strategic Arms Control and Nuclear Deterrence,” November 22, 1982 at:

Ronald Reagan, “Address to the Nation on the Soviet Attack on a Korean Civilian Airliner” September 5, 1983 at:

Ronald Reagan, “Remarks Accepting the Presidential Nomination at the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas” August 23, 1984 at:
http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/archives/speeches/1984/82384f.htm

Ronald Reagan, “Inaugural Address January 21, 1985 at:

Wed Feb 14

**Film Screening: Spike Lee When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts Parts 1 and 2**

Thurs Feb 15

**NO CLASS MEETING**

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: WATCH SPIKE LEE When the Levees Broke Parts 3 and 4 for class discussion Feb 20

18 February - 24 February

Mon Feb 19

**FILM TREATMENT DUE NOON UPLOAD ON MOODLE**

**Film Screening: John Frankenheimer Manchurian Candidate (1962)**

Tues Feb 20 Our Distractions--Social Anxiety in the Nuclear Age and in the Age of “Terrorism” (or Climate Change)


Discuss Manchurian Candidate and The Day the Levees Broke

**Watch on Vimeo**

**Hard Earned**

**A Film Series Produced for Al Jazerra America by Maggie Bowman Carleton**
Hard Earned follows five families around the country to find out what it takes to get by on 8, 10 or even 17 dollars an hour. The series turns an intimate lens on a group of 21st century American dreamers. They fight against all odds to thrive, when it takes everything they have to simply survive.

Episode 1 – Premieres Sunday, May 3, 2015

As Emilia celebrates her 50th birthday, she takes stock of her career as a waitress and struggles to hold onto her house. DJ gets frustrated with working conditions at Walgreens and starts talking to his co-workers about how to make a change. Clerical worker Jose and his girlfriend Elizabeth look for a way to move out of their parents’ basements and give their son his own bedroom. https://vimeo.com/115321278

pw: HaR53arn3D

Hard Earned
Episode 2 – Premiered Sunday, May 10, 2015

Hilton juggles two full-time jobs, and returns home at night to the one-car garage he calls home in the heart of Silicon Valley. Jose and Elizabeth try to qualify for a mortgage, Emilia reveals a troubling part of her past, and DJ and Takita try to start over in a new neighborhood. https://vimeo.com/115321279

pw: H3ardYb0yz

Hard Earned
Episode 3 – Premiered Sunday, May 17, 2015

A surprise on the housing front leads Jose to think about his future with Elizabeth in a new light. Hilton and Diana prepare for the birth of twins, while Hilton works hard for a promotion at work. Emilia pounds the pavement for a better-paying job. DJ fears recrimination at work for his union activity. https://vimeo.com/116433359

pw: T5HEat3rBrr

Wed Feb 21 Film Screening with Maggie Bowman

Thurs Feb 22 Discussion with Maggie Bowman

25 February – 3 March

Mon Feb 26
Film Screening: Steven Okazaki The Mushroom Club (2005)
Ronald Dawson Thirteen Days (2000)

Tues Feb 27
Representations of Presidential Decision Making

From The Federalist:


US Constitution Article 2, at:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/art2.htm


See: June 1, 4, 9; July 20, 21, 24, 25, August 31, September 4–7

Cuban Missile Crisis Documents:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/msc_cubamenu.asp

GROUP 1 Read:

Doc 16 Editorial Note
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba016.asp

Doc 17 Editorial Note
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba017.asp

Doc 18 Transcript White House Meeting
Washington, October 16, 1962, 11:50 a.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba018.asp

Doc 21 Off the Record Meeting Washington, October 16, 1962, 6:30-7:55 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba021.asp

Doc 30 Editorial Note
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba030.asp

GROUP 2

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba038.asp

Doc 48 Telegram from the Embassy in the Soviet Union to the Department of State Moscow, October 23, 1962, 5p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba048.asp

Doc 60 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between the Under Secretary of State (Ball) and the President’s Special Assistant for National Security Affairs (Bundy)
Washington, October 24, 1962, 8:25 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba060.asp

Doc 63 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between President Kennedy and the Under Secretary of State (Ball) Washington, October 24, 1962, 10:30 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba063.asp

Doc 64 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between President Kennedy and the Under Secretary of State (Ball) Washington, October 24, 1962, 11:15 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba064.asp
GROUP 3

Doc 65 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between Secretary of State Rusk and the Under Secretary of State (Ball) Washington, October 24, 1962, 11:25 p.m.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba065.asp

Doc 66 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between the Under Secretary of State (Ball) and the Representative to the United Nations (Stevenson) October 24, 1962, 11:45 p.m.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba066.asp

Doc 67 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between the Under Secretary of State (Ball) and the President’s Special Assistant for National Security Affairs (Bundy) Washington, October 25, 1962, 12:30 a.m.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba067.asp

Doc 68 Telegram From the Department of State to the Embassy in the Soviet Union Washington, October 25, 1962, 1:59 a.m.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba068.asp

Doc 80 Memorandum From ABC Correspondent John Scali to the Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (Hilsman) Washington, undated

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba080.asp

Doc 84 Telegram From the Embassy in the Soviet Union to the Department of State Moscow, October 26, 1962, 7 p.m.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba084.asp

Doc 85 Editorial Note

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba085.asp

Doc 90 Summary Record of the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council Washington, October 27, 1962, 10 a.m.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba090.asp

GROUP 4

Doc 91 Message From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy Moscow, October 27, 1962

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba091.asp

Doc 94 Summary Record of the Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council Washington, October 27, 1962, 4 p.m

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba094.asp

Doc 95 Telegram From the Department of State to the Embassy in the Soviet Union Washington, October 27, 1962, 8:05 p.m.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba095.asp

Doc 96 Memorandum From Attorney General Kennedy to Secretary of State Rusk Washington, October 30, 1962.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba096.asp

Doc 97 Summary Record of the Ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council Washington, October 27, 1962, 9 p.m.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba097.asp

Doc 98 The Cuban Missile Crisis

Current Intelligence Memorandum Washington, October 27, 1962.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba098.asp

GROUP 5
Negotiations continued. Also of interest, post-crisis:

Doc 140 Kennedy to Khrushchev 3 Nov 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba140.asp

Doc 155 Kennedy to Khrushchev 6 Nov 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba155.asp

Doc 163 Telegram From the Mission to the United Nations to the Department of State New York, November 8, 1962, 11 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba163.asp

Doc 165 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Among the Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Stevenson), the Under Secretary of State (Ball), and the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs (Johnson) November 9, 1962, 12:30 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba165.asp

Doc 169 Memorandum From the Under Secretary of State (Ball) to President Kennedy Washington, November 10, 1962.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba169.asp

GROUP 6

Doc 171 Khrushchev to Kennedy 12 Nov 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba171.asp

Doc 176 Khrushchev to Kennedy 14 Nov 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba176.asp

Doc 183 Telegram From the Mission to the United Nations to the Department of State New York, November 15, 1962, midnight
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba183.asp

Doc 229 Memorandum From Director of Central Intelligence McCone to the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs (Bundy) Washington, December 5, 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba229.asp

Doc 236 Telegram From the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Commander in Chief, Atlantic (Dennison) Washington, December 7, 1962, 1:54 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba236.asp

Doc 244 Khrushchev to Kennedy 11 Dec 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba244.asp
Wed Feb 28  Film Screening: Otto Preminger *Advise and Consent* (1962)

Thurs Mar 1  Representations of Legislative Politics

Read: Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, 1787–1789 *The Federalist* nos. 15, 24, 37, 38, 52–66. All Federalist Readings found at:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed.htm

US Constitution Article 1, at:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/art1.htm

Amendments: XI–XXVII (Especially the 25th Amendment) At:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/amend1.htm

REC: Madison’s Notes on the Debates in Federal Convention 1787, at:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/debates/debcont.htm

See: June 7–9, 18, 21, 25, 30; July 7, 18, 21, 24; August 6, 10, 13, 18, 23; September 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 17

4 March - 10 March

Mon Mar 5  Film Screening: Costa-Gavras *Missing* (1982)


Tues Mar 6  Representations of Foreign Policy

Read: Ronald Reagan, “Address before a Joint Session of on Central America, April 27, 1983” at:

Ronald Reagan, “Radio address to the Nation on the Situation in Central America” March 30, 1985 at:

Ronald Reagan, “Address to the nation on Aiding the Contras” March 16, 1986 at:


For other Ronald Reagan speeches see: http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/archives/speeches/publicpapers.htm


Thurs Mar 8  Present Oral Reports on Completed Projects
Completed Project (Issue Analysis, Proposed Treatment, with its Documentation of “Evolution” (Journal Analysis)) Due 11:55 pm