

FU/BEST Program

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Course title: Media Politics: Structures and Case-Studies in Germany and Europe

Course number: FU-BEST 22

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 45

ECTS-Credits: 5 **U.S. semester credits:** 3

Course description

This course introduces its participants to mass media systems and structures in Germany and Europe and provides them with the analytical tools and background knowledge to assess the ways in which the mass media and politics interact and thus shape each other.

We will start with an overview of the different structures of mass media (public/private) in Germany and selected European countries, including how they have historically developed and particularly which political ideas have shaped the frameworks in which media institutions and individuals operate. At the same time, we will take a critical look at how the media in turn have shaped and are still shaping the ways in which the political process works and presents itself to the public. Historical and current case-studies will help us analyse the manifold points of interaction between media and politics. At the end of the course, students will also have the opportunity to compare European and American media politics and to ask whether there may be trends and influences across the Atlantic (one or both ways) that are shaping today's politics and mass media on both sides.

Student profile

Second-semester sophomore or above

Prerequisites

None

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam: 20%

Term Paper: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Active Class Participation 20%

Independent Project Report 10%

FU/BEST Program

Literature

- Street, John: Mass Media, Politics and Democracy (2nd ed.), Basingstoke 2011.
- Course reader with selected texts.

Course schedule

Sessions	Topics, Readings, etc.
Session 1	<p>Topic: Introduction: Media Politics – Media and Politics; Key Players and Keywords; Course Schedule and Expectations</p> <p>In this introductory session, we will familiarize ourselves with concepts and keywords that will play a dominant role in the weeks to come. What is meant by “media” in the context of this course? What kinds of “media politics” are there – is it the sum of policies that determine how media can work, or the state of politics (i.e., media-driven) nowadays? Who is “the media”? And what is expected of you as participant throughout the course?</p> <p>Reading: Street, John (2011): Mass media, politics and democracy. 2nd ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 1-17.</p>
Session 2	<p>Topic: Topic: From a totalitarian state to democracy: restructuring the media-system after Nazism</p> <p>To understand media politics in Germany, we will have to know media history – and vice versa. This is why in this session we will first look at media and politics in Nazi Germany, especially at the NS-propaganda system and how their specific structures came about after the Second World War. In the second part we will learn about the consequences for the post 1945 media system and the reconstruction of the press market.</p> <p>Reading: Welch, David (1993): The Third Reich. Politics and propaganda. 1st ed. New York: Routledge, pp.17-39. Taylor, Philip M. (2008): Propaganda in World War II. In Wolfgang Donsbach (Ed.): The international encyclopedia of communication. 1st ed. Malden,</p>

FU/BEST Program

	<p>MA [et al.] Blackwell Reference Online. Wilke, Jürgen (2008): Propaganda. In Wolfgang Donsbach (Ed.): The international encyclopedia of communication. 1st ed. Malden, MA et al.: Blackwell Reference Online. Humphreys, Peter (1994): Media and media policy in Germany. The press and broadcasting since 1945. 2nd ed. New York: Berg, pp. 1-11, 65-67, 132-154, 164-176, 190-192.</p>
<p>Session 3</p>	<p>Topic: Media Structures in Germany today</p> <p>This session deals with the structures of the German media system as it is today. First, we will have a closer look at the Press and newspaper market, its market structures, challenges and consequences for the public sphere and democracy. Then, we will have a closer look at the peculiarities of the German media system (e.g., the so-called “Dual System” of public and private broadcasting) and their political motivations.</p> <p>Reading: Kleinsteuber, Hans J. (2004): Germany. In Mary J. Kelly, Gianpietro Mazzoleni, Denis McQuail (Eds.): The media in Europe. 3rd ed. London, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 78–90. Williams, Kevin (2005): European media studies. London, New York, NY: Hodder Arnold; Distributed in the United States of America by Oxford University Press. Chapter three “Public Service and the deregulation of European Broadcasting”, pp. 45-61.</p> <p>Ferree, Myra Marx; Gamson, William A.; Gerhards, Jürgen; Rucht, Dieter (2002): Four Models of the Public Sphere in Modern Democracies. In: Theory and Society 31 (3), pp. 289–324</p>
<p>Session 4</p>	<p>Topic: Public Service Broadcasting in Germany</p> <p>Excursion: In this session we will have a guided tour at RBB (Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg), which will help us to gain an insight into Public Service Broadcasting in Germany.</p> <p>Reading: Press Offices of the ARD (2011): „The German Broadcasting System“. Picard, Robert (2006): Financing Public Media: The</p>

FU/BEST Program

	<p>Future of Collective Funding. In Christian S. Nissen (Ed.): Making a difference. Public service broadcasting in the European media landscape. Eastleigh, UK, Bloomington, IN: John Libbey Pub.; Distributed in North America by Indiana University Press, pp. 183–196.</p>
<p>Session 5</p>	<p>Topic: Institutions, Regulations and Ethics</p> <p>So far, we have looked at theoretical, historical, political and structural aspects of the German media system. In this session, we will gain knowledge about the economic realities of media companies and the working situation, professional training and self-understanding of journalists. In order to complete the picture of how the media work, we will then turn to the legal frameworks in which media institutions and individuals operate and ask to which ethical guidelines they (should) adhere. One set of questions to be asked is: How political can the media be, and how free from politics can they act?</p> <p>Reading: Puppis, Manuel (2010): Media Governance: A New Concept for the Analysis of Media Policy and Regulation. In Communication, Culture & Critique 3 (2), pp. 134–149. Des Freedman (2008): The politics of media policy. 1st ed. Cambridge et al.: Polity Press, pp. 1-17. Ian Richards (2010): Journalism’s Tangled Web: Business, Ethics, and Professional Practice. In Christopher Meyers (Ed.): Journalism Ethics. A Philosophical Approach: Oxford Scholarship Online, pp. 171–183. Ward, David (2006): Can the market provide?: public service media, market failure and public goods. In Christian S. Nissen (Ed.): Making a difference. Public service broadcasting in the European media landscape. Eastleigh, UK, Bloomington, IN: John Libbey Pub.; Distributed in North America by Indiana University Press, pp. 51–63. Street, John (2011): Mass media, politics and democracy. 2nd ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 146-153. Fielden, Lara (2012): Regulating the Press: A comparative study of international press councils:</p>

FU/BEST Program

	<p>Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, pp. 16 and 41-43. Deutscher Presserat (2006): German Press Code, Bonn: Deutscher Presse Rat, pp. 2-7.</p>
Session 6	<p>Midterm Exam INDEPENDENT PROJECT PAPER DUE</p>
Session 7	<p>PAPER OUTLINE PRESENTATION Topic: Methods and Tools for the Analysis of Media Politics.</p> <p>One aim of this course has been to equip its participants with knowledge and helpful tools that will enable them to analyse media politics outside of this course, too. In order to learn about how to use them, in this session we will discuss how to use and compare specific concepts and theories on Media Effects and Media Politics. In addition, we will have a colloquium discussing the specific paper outline topics.</p> <p>Reading: Grossberg, Lawrence; Wartella, Ellen; Whitney, D. Charles (2008): Mediamaking. Mass media in a popular culture. 2nd ed. London: Sage, pp. 282-302. Krappinen, Kari; Hallvard, Moe (2012): What we talk about When We Talk about Document Analysis. In Natascha Just, Manuel Puppis (Eds.): Trends in Communication Policy Research. New Theories, Methods and Subjects. Bristol, UK; Chicago, USA: Intellect, pp. 177–193. Entman, Robert M. (1993): Framing: Toward Clarification of a Fractured Paradigm. In: Journal of Communication, Vol. 43(4), pp.51-58.</p>
Session 8	<p>Topic: Freedom of the press and political interference</p> <p>With our newly-gained background on structures and activity frames of German media and media politics, we will start delving into specific issues at their points of interaction. Therefore, we will dedicate this session to a critical analysis of one of the most touchy subjects between politics and the media: the clash between freedom of the press/freedom of speech and political interference on behalf of certain interest groups. A first case study will help us to enlighten this topic.</p>

FU/BEST Program

	<p>Reading: Freedom House (2014*): Freedom of the Press 2014*</p> <p>Freedom House (2014*): Country Reports USA & Germany</p> <p>Street, John (2011): Mass media, politics and democracy. 2nd ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp.303-328.</p> <p>Wahl-Jorgensen, K.; Hunt, J. (2012): Journalism, accountability and the possibilities for structural critique: A case study of coverage of whistleblowing. In: Journalism 13 (4), pp. 399–416. Gunkel, Christoph (2012): 50th Anniversary of the 'SPIEGEL Affair'. A Watershed Moment for West German Democracy.</p> <p>* year varying according to the most actual reports</p>
<p>Session 9</p>	<p>Topic: European Neighbors – Italy and Great Britain</p> <p>In this session we will turn to our European neighbours and their media politics. Two case studies will take us to Italy and Great Britain where we will encounter two media moguls and their impact on the media system. Our comparative analysis will examine the impact of Media concentration/conglomerates and the merge of media and politics.</p> <p>Reading: European Journalism Center (2013): Media Landscapes United Kingdom Media Landscapes Italy, Freedom House (2013): Italy; United Kingdom. In: Freedom House: Freedom of the Press. Mazzoleni, Gianpietro (2004): Italy. In Mary J. Kelly, Gianpietro Mazzoleni, Denis McQuail (Eds.): The media in Europe. 3rd ed. London, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 126–138. Mancini, Paolo (2008): The Berlusconi Case: Mass Media and Politics in Italy. In Ib Bondebjerg, Peter Madsen (Eds.): Media, democracy and european culture. Bristol, Chicago: Intellect, pp. 107–118. Tunstall, Jeremy (2004): The United Kingdom. In Mary J. Kelly, Gianpietro Mazzoleni, Denis McQuail (Eds.): The media in Europe. 3rd ed. London, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 262-274. Street, John (2011): Mass media, politics and</p>

FU/BEST Program

	<p>democracy. 2nd ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 159-184.</p> <p>BBC News Online: Timeline and Q&A of the “News of the World” Phone-Hacking Scandal.</p>
<p>Session 10</p>	<p>Topic: Media and Political Actors. Media Celebrities in Politics and Politicians as Media Celebrities</p> <p>Another field of interaction between politics and the media is the growing presence of the media in political campaigns. Do politicians use the media to their ends, or do the media provide ruthless insights into the candidates’ true beliefs and motivations? What does it mean when political candidates not only need to be telegenic, but also well-versed in media use and manipulation these days? In this context, our fourth case study deals with the former German President Wulff, who had to resign in 2012 due to his attempts to influence the media coverage about his person involved in several political scandals.</p> <p>Reading: Street, John (2011): Mass media, politics and democracy. 2nd ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 235-260.</p> <p>Grabe, Maria Elizabeth; Bucy, E. Page (2009): Image bite politics. News and the visual framing of elections. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press (Series in political psychology), pp. 85-89; 93-101; 132-145.</p> <p>Papathanassopoulos, S.; Negrine, Ralph M. (2011): European media. Structures, policies and identity. Cambridge, Malden, MA: Polity (Global media and communication), pp. 141-149.</p> <p>Mazzoleni, Gianpedro; Schulz, Winfried (1999): “Mediatization” of Politics: A Challenge for Democracy?, Political Communication, 16:3. Pp. 247-261.</p> <p>Selected Articles from SPIEGEL Online</p>
<p>Session 11</p>	<p>TERM PAPER DUE</p> <p>Topic: New Media – New Politics? Blogs and Cyber Activism as challenges to journalism and politics.</p> <p>This session will take a look at new forms of</p>

FU/BEST Program

	<p>information providers and its influence on journalism and politics. What is the impact of news leaks, blogs and cyber activism on the relationship of mass media, journalism and politics? Where is the limit between privacy and the right to freedom of information? In a last case study about WikiLeaks we will try to answer these questions and learn about digital protest and empowerment.</p> <p>Reading: Street, John (2011): Mass media, politics and democracy. 2nd ed. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 283-302.</p> <p>Milan, Stefania; Hintz, Arne (2013): Networked Collective Action and the Institutionalized Policy Debate: Bringing Cyberactivism to the Policy Arena? In Policy & Internet 5 (1), pp. 7–26.</p> <p>Cammaerts, Bart (2013): Networks Resistance: The Case of WikiLeaks, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, 18 (2013), pp. 420-436.</p> <p>The Economist (2011): WikiLeaks and other newcomers. Julian Assange and the new wave.</p> <p>Wikipedia (2013): Anonymous (group)</p>
<p>Session 12</p>	<p>Topic: Media Politics Revisited - Conclusion and Outlook</p> <p>We will look back and ahead at the end of this course and try to get a sense of the relationship between, and the future of, media and politics in modern Western societies in the 21st century: Are they opponents or accomplices? Do they strive for the same goals or for opposite ones? Is theirs a give-and-take situation or a tug-of-war? Do they critically control each other or secretly manipulate one another? Is there perhaps a middle way in each of these questions? And where do media and politics go in the future?</p> <p>Reading: Balcytiene, Aukse; Raeymaeckers, Karin; Vartanova, Elena (2011): Changing Practices of Journalism. In Josef Trappel, Denis McQuail (Eds.): Media in Europe today. Bristol, UK/Chicago: Intellect, pp. 220–233.</p> <p>Schudson, Michael (op. 2011): Why Democracies Need an Unlovable Press. In Doris Appel Graber (Ed.): Media power in politics. 6th ed. Washington, D.C: CQ Press, pp. 33–44</p>
<p>Session 13</p>	<p>Final Exam</p>

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