

Seminar in Media Criticism, F'09
Dr. Kirkton, MZ 333
Office Hrs. Tues. 6-7:00
Ph: 818) 677-6126

We will be focusing our attention on building a foundation for media criticism by reading some of the important, scholarly texts written on the subject. Your responsibilities will include facilitating the seminar one evening and completing the reading and writing assignments. (This is a heavy workload commensurate with graduate program expectations, so be sure to build enough time into your schedule to read thoroughly and write thoughtfully.)

This seminar is intended to prepare you to enter the conversation of scholarly media criticism, so it is critical for your success in the program that you understand the breadth and depth of what other scholars are contributing to the conversation. Consequently, it is very important that we keep our attention on the arguments that are in the texts rather than extrapolating to our own individual experiences or complaints.

As facilitators, it will be your responsibility to keep the evenings discussion on track. You need to prepare a number of penetrating questions, the responses to which will help everyone better understand the material under consideration. We should investigate the methodology employed, the thesis, and other truth claims, the sources if data or information, the organization of the text, and presentation or quality of writing. You are going to have nearly three hours to discuss ½ of a book, so there should be very little that we don't cover.

You will also be required to submit 2 papers, one mid-term of from 5 to 7 pages and one final of from 12 to 15 pages. Your grades will be based on the papers and the quality of your facilitation efforts. As this is a graduate seminar, you are expected to be in attendance. Participation in discussions is essential. You cannot fulfill your responsibilities to the group if you are not present. I will note participation and absences. They will figure into your final grade.

Schedule

Aug. 25	Introduction
Sept. 1 8	Emery, Michael. <i>On the front Lines</i> —Bringelson Brookman
15 22	Gans, Herbert. <i>Deciding What's News</i> —Bruell Ghofranian
Sept. 29 16	Berkowitz, Dan. <i>Social Meaning of News</i> .—Glover & Sepulveda Hovhanesian

13 Mid-term paper due

20 Herman and Chomsky. *Manufacturing Consent*—Key & Shifa
27 Li,

Nov. 3 Carter and Steiner. *Critical Readings: Media and Gender*—MacArthur
10 Nazarov

Nov. 17 McChesney, Robert. *Rich Media, Poor Democracy*—Perez,
24 Potter,

Dec. 1 Atton and Hamilton. *Alternative Journalism*—Quezada
Dec. 8 Rendon

15 Final papers due by 7 p.m.