

YORK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
AS/POLS 3100 3.0M: *MEDIA, IDENTITY AND CITIZENSHIP*
WINTER, 2020

MEETING PLACE: FC 108

MEETING TIMES: Mondays 4-7 pm

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Michelle Mawhinney

OFFICE: S623 Ross

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays and Tuesdays, 2-3 pm or by appointment

Email: mmawhin@yorku.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the principles and theories underlying communications and cultural practices in Canada. It begins from an understanding of symbolic and representational media as inherently *political* – of the interconnection between power and representation played out on all levels of political life. Particular attention will be paid to the role of the state and of dominant economic and cultural interests in shaping the voice of the media in contemporary Canadian life. In this context, the role of the media in shaping dominant conceptions of authentic citizenship will be considered, as well as the politics of identity as a challenge to these conceptions. The specific history of Canada's cultural and media development will be considered, from Canada's early nation-building days, through the "welfare state" period, to the present neo-liberal stage of privatization, deregulation and ownership concentration. Specific issues to be addressed revolve around the role of the media in maintaining and promoting a healthy democracy, including the representation of women and racialized minorities, the impact of globalized capital, digital technologies and social media, the politics of war and security, and the erosion of Canadian culture.

REQUIRED MATERIAL:

Paul Nesbitt-Larking. **Politics, Society and the Media: Second Edition** (Broadview Press, 2007)

David Taras. **Digital Mosaic: Media, Power and Identity in Canada** (University of Toronto Press, 2015)

Augie Fleras. **The Media Gaze: Representing Diversities in Canada** (UBC Press, 2012)

Michelle Mawhinney, **AP/POLS 3100 Winter 2020 Course Kit**. (York University) (**KIT**)

All required material is available for purchase at the York University Bookstore. The texts and an earlier version of the course kit will be placed on reserve at the Scott Library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**CLASS STRUCTURE:**

The class meets once weekly for a 3-hour session. Lectures will take place in the first 1-2 hours, with the final hour used for group/class discussions. Discussions will be facilitated with short presentations/analyses between students (see below).

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Participation:	10%
Presentations (2 x 5%):	10%
Paper 1 (3-4 pages):	15%
Paper 2 (7-8 pages):	40%
Final Examination (exam period):	25%