

CO 458 Radio in Culture and Society (Writing Intensive Seminar)

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Office hours posted on door
Classroom: _____
Time: _____

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

Electronic media have had a profound impact on our world. Indeed, broadcasting has shaped attitudes and perceptions in almost every area of human experience and endeavor. Because of the power and pervasiveness of the radio medium, it is important that we understand and fully appreciate the way in which it has operated and conducted itself concerning the fair and just treatment of all social groups at a time when cultural diversity and multiculturalism are issues of great importance to us. Likewise it is important to learn how these groups have employed the medium to address their special concerns and agendas.

Therefore, this course will seek to examine and analyze the role of broadcast radio in non-mainstream segments (minority, counterculture, extremist, and alternative-lifestyle clusters) of the population. Since the inception of the first electronic mass medium, participation in it has been primarily limited to members of the nation's ruling majority, namely Anglo males. In the last quarter century, so-called "outerculture" or "fringe" groups have asserted their rights to a fair and equal access to the airwaves as a means for mollifying, if not reversing, the negative perceptions and stereotypes that have prevented them from fully benefiting from citizenship in the world's preeminent democracy.

Students will gather research data for the development of an extensive paper designed to probe and evaluate the effects and implications of the radio medium on American society and culture. Ultimately, the course is intended to further the student's understanding of the role of the medium as an influential force in the life of the nation.

ATTENDANCE

You are expected to attend class! Attendance will be taken and absences will lower your class participation grade. Repeated lateness to class will have a similar impact on your grade. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed. Obviously, class attendance is mandatory during a scheduled oral presentation

and examinations. If you miss these, you will receive an “F” for that occasion. There will be no make-up opportunities without proper notice. (SEE STATEMENT ATTACHED!)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Course Packet: *Radio in Culture and Society*

(Other titles relevant to this subject area will be added if available.)

SECONDARY OR SUGGESTED READING

- Hilmes & Loviglio. eds., *Radio Reader*. Routledge, 2002.
- Susan Merrill Squier, ed., *Communities of the Air: Radio Century, Radio Culture*. Duke, 2003.
- William Barlow. *Voice Over: The Making of Black Radio*. Temple, 1999.
- Howard Dorgan. *The Airwaves of Zion: Radio and Religion in Appalachia*. Temple., 1993.
- Michael C. Keith. *Voices in the Purple Haze: Underground Radio in the Sixties*, Praeger, 1997
- Matthew Lasar. *Pacifica Radio: The Rise of an Alternative*. Temple, 1999.
- Peter M. Lewis. *The Invisible Medium: Public, Commercial, and Community Radio*. Howard, 1990.
- Barbara D. Savage. *Broadcasting Freedom: Radio, War, and the Politics of Race*. University of North Carolina, 1999.
- Hilliard & Keith. *Waves of Rancor: Tuning the Radical Right*, M.E. Sharpe, 1999
- Gini Graham Scot. *Can We Talk: The Power & Influence of Talk Shows*. Insight, 1996.
- Lawrence Soley. *Free Radio: Electronic Civil Disobedience*. Westview, 1999.
- Lucila Vargas. *Social Uses & Radio Practices*. Westview, 1995.
- Michael C. Keith. *Sounds in the Dark: All-Night Radio in American Life*. Iowa State University Press. 2001.
- Philo C. Washburn. *Broadcasting Propaganda: International Radio and the Construction of Political Reality*. Praeger, 1990.
- Johnson & Keith. *Queer Airwaves: Gay and Lesbian Broadcasting*, M.E. Sharpe, 2001.
- Donna Halper. *Invisible Stars: A Social History of Women in American Broadcasting*, M.E. Sharpe, 2001.
- Michael C. Keith. *Signals in the Air: Native Broadcasting in America*. Praeger, 1995.
- Tona Hangan, *Redeeming the Dial*, University of North Carolina Press, 2001.
- Hilliard & Keith. *Dirty Discourse: Sex and Indecency in American Radio*. Iowa State University Press, 2003.

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be determined in the following manner:

Class Participation.....	15%
Research Paper.....	35%
Class presentation.....	20%
Examinations.....	30%

Class Participation: Short opinion papers (1 to 2 pages) in which students respond to topical questions presented by instructor will constitute part of the work of this category.

Participation in class discussions and attendance will be weighed as well.

Research Paper: A 20-25 page paper is required. This paper must focus of some aspect of radio's role in culture and society--aesthetically, politically, ethnically, economically, technologically, and so forth.

Paper must properly attribute all sources and do so by employing an appropriate format as prescribed by an established style guide--APA is suggested.

A minimum of six published outside sources is required. Information drawn from websites and other data sites does not figure into this count but must be appropriately documented when included in the paper.

More detailed information about the research paper will be provided at a future date.

Class Presentation: Lead a class discussion. Each student will be required to present insightful questions pertain- to a topic assigned by instructor. Written questions are to be submitted to instructor.

Students are responsible for all assigned readings, lectures, papers, presentations, a/v material, and handouts, since it is from these sources that the final exam questions will be drawn. *All assignments must be on time.*

PLAGIARISM

- Reading: Course Packet
- Week 10 -- Lecture: *The “Right” to Broadcast Hate*
(Discussion of rancorous radio messages)
Reading: Course Packet
- Week 11 -- Lecture: *All Sounds Straight and Narrow*
(Discussion of barred lifestyles on the air)
Readings: Course Packet
- Week 12: -- Lecture: *A Change is in the Air*
(Discussion of GLBT programming)
Readings: Course Packet
- Week 13: -- Lecture: *Regulatory and Technological Influences*
(Discussion of their impact on the medium and its
cultural role)
Readings: Handout Material
- Week 14: -- Lecture: *Various Topics*
Readings: Handouts and Reserve Readings
- Week 15 -- Final review

FINAL EXAMINATION

(Schedule of topics may be adjusted at the discretion of instructor.)

This course plan is subject to modification as deemed appropriate by instructor. Students will be advised in advance of any changes in the course schedule or its content. Video and audio tapes will be presented as they serve the context of the lecture. Guest speakers may address class.