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

Instructor: Dr. Michael C. Keith  
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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

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
Any form of plagiarism (quoting or paraphrasing without complete attribution to the source from which it is derived) will be punished in accordance with the ethical code of Boston College. (SEE STATEMENT ATTACHED!)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1  --  Introduction to course
Planning and Preparing the Research Paper
Lecture: *Rethinking Radio* and *The “Men” Who Created Radio*
(Discussion of the male dominance in radio)
Readings: Course Packet and Chapter Handout

Week 2  --  Lecture: *Radio’s Good Ol’ Boys Club*
(Discussion of gender discrimination)
Readings: Course Packet

Week 3  --  Lecture: *Non-Whites Not Invited*
(Discussion of racial bias in medium)
Reading: Course Packet

Week 4  --  Lecture: *Early Indigenous Broadcast Movement*
(Discussion of creation of Native radio)
Reading: Course Packet

Week 5  --  Lecture: *Goal and Impact of Native Programming*
(Discussion of content of Native programming)
Reading: Course Packet

Week 6  --  Lecture: *Rise of 60s Counterculture Radio*
(Discussion of medium as anti-establishment)
Reading: Course Packet

Week 7  --  Lecture: *Opposition Within & Without the Underground*
(Discussion of opposing forces in/out of CC-radio)
Reading: Course Packet

Week 8  --  Lecture: *Pirating the Community for Radio*
(Discussion of rise of neighborhood stations)
Reading: Course Packet

Week 9  --  Lecture: *Extremism in the Airwaves*
(Discussion of hate groups use of radio)
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.