

School of Journalism and Communication
2000-2001
27.601
Selected Topics in Communication: The Political Economy of Communication
Tuesday 6-9PM
Fall Term
Professor Mosco
Office Hours: Tuesday 1PM-4 PM, 316A St. Pat's
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<http://www.carleton.ca/~vmosco/vm.html>

Course Description:

This seminar covers the major traditions in the field of political economy, examines how they have been used in communication research, and how they can be rethought and renewed with ideas from a wide range of perspectives including economics, geography, sociology, cultural studies, and policy studies.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation. Class participation, including the presentation of a research seminar, is worth 25 percent of the grade for the course.
2. Students will choose by Week 6 one of the following two options for the remainder of the course grade:
 - a. Write a thirty to thirty-five page term paper based on research in a theoretical or substantive area of the political economy of communication. The paper is due no later than December 14. It is worth 75 percent of the course grade.

OR

- b. Complete a take-home exam consisting of three essay questions on the course material. Questions will be distributed on the last class meeting, November 29, and answers are due no later than December 6. Exam answers are to be no longer than five pages per question. Worth 35 percent of the course grade. Complete a fifteen to twenty-page term paper based on research in a theoretical or substantive area of the political economy of communication. The paper is due no later than December 15. Worth 40 percent of the course grade.

Readings:

J. Jacobs. *The Nature of Economies*. Random House Canada, 2000.

V. Mosco, *The Political Economy of Communication: Rethinking and Renewal*, London: Sage, 1996.

Science and Society. Vol.64, No.1, especially:

W.J. Robinson, "Towards a Global Ruling Class: Globalization and the Transnational Capitalist Class," pp. 11-54.

C.W. Barrow, "The Marx Problem in Marxian State Theory," pp. 87-118.

Readings are available at the Octopus Bookstore, 116 Third Avenue, Ottawa. They have also been placed on reserve at the Carleton library.

Topics and Reading Assignments:

Week 1 Introduction. and class organization.

Weeks 2-3 Economy and Ecology

J. Jacobs, *The Nature of Economies*

Weeks 3-4 What is Political Economy? What is the Political Economy of Communication?

V. Mosco, Chapters 1-3

Week 5 Commodification, Spatialization, Structuration

V. Mosco Chapters 4-6

Week 6 Political Economy, Cultural Studies and Policy Studies

V. Mosco Chapter 7

Weeks 7 Theorizing the State and Communication

Science and Society

Weeks 8-12 Each week will contain two or more student presentations based on their research on the political economy of communication. Students are to suggest one to two articles for students to read and must provide me with titles and/or copies two weeks before the presentation.

This course follows University policy on instructional offences which is described on p.64 of the 2000-2001 Graduate Calendar.