

PCC 117. FRENCH MEDIA: FROM THE NEWSPAPER TO THE INTERNET

Professor Sarah Juliette Sasson

Lecture

Office Hours:

By appointment

*This course will explore the interaction between French media and contemporary society. The aim of the course is to give participants a detailed understanding of the various media: press, television, radio, publishing and the internet. Themes will include the genesis and growth of the French media, institutionalization of the media, media and politics, media as a tool of power, and the identity of the French media within Europe and a globalized world. We will contextualize the current state of affairs and look closely at the way the nineteenth century paved the way for modern media today. Each class will be divided in two parts: an interactive seminar followed by a workshop in which we will explore specific issues and questions in greater detail. The course will also include visits to several institutions of contemporary media as well as interventions from actors in the French media sphere. These will be noted in revisions to the syllabus as they are confirmed. [Communications, History, Sociology]; **5.0 credits***

CLASS MATERIALS

Raymond Kuhn, *The Media in France*, Routledge, 1994.

Course Reader

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Attendance /Participation: 30%

Presentation: 10 %

Midterm: 15%

Research paper: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1. September 7-11

Introduction

Workshop. Overview of the different media actors

Week 2. September 14-18

The Origins: Reading Practices in the Eighteenth Century

Salons, cabinets de lecture, book circulation.

Reading. Robert Darnton

Workshop: The Culture of libelles. Chantal Thomas on Marie-Antoinette

Week 3. September 21- 25

Cultural Production and Politics in the Nineteenth Century

-Journalism in the nineteenth century: circulation, influence, the role of feuilletons.

Reading: Balzac, *Lost Illusions* [excerpt]; Raymond Kuhn, *Media in France*

Workshop: Caricature and Humour in the Nineteenth Century.

Week 4. September 28-October 2

The Presse écrite between Tradition and Economic Necessity

Reading. Raymond Kuhn, "The Press: History and Economics"

Workshop: Paris Match

Nicolas Hewitt. "The Birth of the Glossy Magazines: The Case of Paris Match" in B.Rigby and N.Hewitt, *France and the Mass Media*. (McMillan, 1991)

Week 5. October 5-9

Radio as a Tool of Power

Reading. Kuhn, *Media in France*. Hélène Eck, "Radio, Culture and Democracy in the Immediate Postwar Period, 1944-1950" in Brian Rigby and Nicholas Hewitt eds, *France and the Mass Media* (London: MacMillan, 1991)

Brdget Knapper, "beur FM: Agent of Integration or Ghettoisation?", *Web Journal of French Media Studies*, Vol 6:1, Dec.2003.

Workshop. Broadcasting French culture

-RFI, TV5, France 24,

www.france24.com

www.tv5.org

www.rfi.fr

Week 6. October 12-16

TV: From De Gaulle to the Decline of the State Television

Reading. Kuhn, *Media in France*

Workshop. *Covering the News. Main Differences between France and the US*

Week 7- October 19-23

Towards a Privatized TV

Reading, Kuhn, French Media.

Workshop: *Les Guignols*

Week 7. October 19-23

Classes and Midterm

Semester Break October 26-November 1

Week 8. November 2-6

The Shadow of Reality TV.

Film and Discussion: “Le Prix du Danger” (Yves Boisset, 1983)

Week 9. November 9-13

Distinct Voices: French Publishers and the Cultural Landscape

Workshop. *The “Exception française”. How to Run a Small Press Today.*

Week 10. November 16-20

French Critics on Media.

Reading. Guy Debord, *Comments on the Society of the Spectacle* (London, New York, Verso, 1998)

Pierre Bourdieu: On Television (New York: New Press, 1998)

Olivier Razac, “Real TV: the Art of Taming” and Martin Winckler “The Screens of Contempt,” in Manières de voir [Le Monde diplomatique], December 2007-January 2008.

Workshop. *The Role of the Anglophone Press in Europe*

Week 11. November 23-27

New Media. The Rise of the Internet

Readings. Paul Virilio, *Politics of the Very Worst* (New York: Semiotext(e), 1999)
Lee Siegel, *Against the Machine: Being Human in the Age of the Electronic Mob* (New York: Spiegel and Grau, 2008)

Workshop: The French Facebook. Are France's New Media Original?

Week 12. November 30-December 4.

Review and Presentation of Students' Research

Last Week of Classes and Final Exams. December 7-11