POSC 220 Politics and Political History in Film

Winter 2016

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Tue/Thu 1:15–3:00

Office hours by appt: Mon-Thu

WCC 233

Sign-up MOODLE Meet Weitz Cafe

The Course
How do representations of politics in film influence our ideas about governance, citizenship, power, and authority? How do film and TV reflect values and beliefs of democratic society, particularly in the United States? These are two questions that we will consider in the course as we study films representing politics and historical events in fiction and non-fiction genres for entertainment and education.

Readings
The readings for the course have been drawn from a number of books and journal articles available on reserve at the library. You may make copies for your personal use. I have placed several recommended (REC, not required) resources on reserve in addition to assigned readings. These resources are for your use in your projects and in studying a particular topic in greater depth for our class discussion. Film screenings will take place in Library 344 at 7:15 pm as scheduled below. The films screened are considered texts for the course. Screenings are scheduled so that you can come to class on the following day to discuss the films after viewing them.

Assignments
Increasing visual literacy and knowledge of media effects in politics are among the main goals of the course. The reading assignments cover a range of interdisciplinary thinking about film and politics, including: film style and film theory, techniques of film production and their psychological effects on viewers, the function of film and visual media in political socialization and ideology, as well as the political psychology of narrative and framing. Your grade will be based on participation in our class discussion of the readings and an analysis of a political event, institution, or theory, which you will present in: 1) a written essay and 2) a proposal for “treating” this issue visually. The essay and film treatment assignment will be carried out in several steps with due dates for work noted on the schedule below. The four main steps (see a detailed assignment handed out in class) for this project are: 1) choosing a topic in political history, public policy, law, political culture, or political theory; 2) writing an analytical paper examining the problem/issue; 3) compiling a journal (separate from class notes) in which you connect the readings, discussions, and films viewed (including recommended relevant readings and/or films) to the written and proposed visual discussion of this topic; and 4) creating a visual treatment (or proposed visual treatment) expressing your ideas about the problem/issue/theory in a visual medium.
**Grades** will be computed as follows:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical paper</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Proposed Visual Treatment</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal and Journal Analysis</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation of Project Portfolio</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Participation (incl. attendance at screenings)</td>
<td>10</td>
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**Part 1: Elements of Film Style and Social Learning Effects in Representations of Politics and History**

- **Tues Jan 5**  
  **Foundations of Film Analysis**  
  Examples and discussion of film style (camera work, editing, mise en scène, settings, acting style, costumes, makeup, lighting)

- **Wed Jan 6**  
  **Film Screening: Charles Chaplin *The Great Dictator (1940)***

- **Thurs Jan 7**  
  Film Propaganda or Critique? Narrative Analysis (narrative, plot, theme)  

- **Mon Jan 11**  
  **Film Screening: Andre Heller and Ottmar Schmiderer *Blind Spot—Hitler’s Secretary (2002)***

- **Tues Jan 12**  
  Propaganda, Advertising, and Influence; Film Style and the documentary  


- **Wed Jan 13**  
  **Film Screening: Rachel Boynton *Our Brand is Crisis (2005)***

- **Thurs Jan 14**  
  Two Topics for Today:  
  I. Contemporary Propaganda and Advertising: Election Ads & News Coverage  
  Dan Stevens, John Sullivan, Barbara Allen, and Dean Alger.  

  Rec: Barbara Allen, Dan Stevens, Gregory Marfleet, Dean Alger, and John Sullivan “Local News and Perceptions of the Rhetoric of

If “the construction of political advertising” sounds like an interesting project topic for your paper/visual treatment, then ask me to suggest additional resources.

II. Film Sound Part 1

**************Journal “Check-in” (show your journal to me in class)**************

Mon Jan 18 **Film Screening: Barry Levinson Wag the Dog (1997)**
Tues Jan 19 Cognition and Choice: Seeing is Believing

***********************Topics for Project Due in Class**********************

Wed Jan 20 **Film Screening: Spike Lee Malcolm X (1992)**
Thurs Jan 21 Political Biography, Film Language, and the Effects of Framing and Priming on Cognitive Processing
Read: Malcolm X “Message to the Grassroots,” “The Ballot or the Bullet”, “Founding Rally of the OAAU,” “The Young Socialist Interview”

Mon Jan 25 **Film Screening: Herbert Bieberman Salt of the Earth (1954)**
Tues Jan 26 Film Critiques of Capitalism and Major Institutions; Media Ownership, Government Censorship, and Cultural Production

**************************Journal “Check-in” Due in Class**************************

Part 2: Film Representations, Policy, Politics, and Political Institutions

Wed Jan 27 Film Screening: Gilo Pontecorvo Battle of Algiers (1966)
Thurs Jan 28 Critique of Empire

Mon Feb 1 Film Screening: Jean-Pierre Melville Army of Shadows (1969, 2005)
Tues Feb 2 The “Good” War

Wed Feb 3 Film Screening: Francis Ford Coppola Apocalypse Now (1976)
Thurs Feb 4 I. “Not So ‘Good’” Wars and Questionable futures
II. Film Sound Part 2


Mon Feb 8 ******************MIDTERM BREAK******************

**Optional Film Screening: Oliver Stone W (2008) and/or Doug Liman Fair Game (2010)**

Tues Feb 9 The World As it Happens/Happened?


Wed Feb 10 Film Screening: John Frankenheimer Manchurian Candidate (1962)
Thurs Feb 11    Social Anxiety in the Nuclear Age


Ronald Reagan, “Remarks at the Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Orlando, Florida” March 8, 1983 at:

Ronald Reagan, “Address to the Nation on Defense and National Security” March 23, 1983 at:


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Analytical Paper Due in Class******************************************************************************


Tues Feb 16    Cold War Redux 1980–2007

Ronald Reagan, “Inaugural Address January 20, 1981 at:

Ronald Reagan, “Address to the Nation on Strategic Arms Control and Nuclear Deterrence,” November 22, 1982 at:

Ronald Reagan, “Address to the Nation on the Soviet Attack on a Korean Civilian Airliner” September 5, 1983 at:


******************Brief Statement of Treatment Focus Due in Class****************

Wed Feb 17 Film Screening: John Ford *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962)
Thurs Feb 18 Westerns and Gangsters I: State of Nature and Rule of Law

Mon Feb 22 Film Screening: J. Lee Thompson *Cape Fear* (1962)

Tues Feb 23 Westerns and Gangsters II: Patriarchalism and Rule of Law
“Resolution of the First Congress Submitting Twelve Amendments to the Constitution; March 4, 1789” [Proposed ‘Bill of Rights’] At: http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/const/resolu02.htm Amendments I–X At: http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/rights1.htm

Wed Feb 24 Film Screening: Steven Okazaki *The Mushroom Club* (2005)

Thurs Feb 25 Representations of Presidential Decision Making
From *The Federalist:*
Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, 1787–1789
The Federalist nos. 23, 26, 67–77. All Federalist Readings found at: http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed.htm
US Constitution Article 2, at:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/art2.htm
Rec: Madison’s Notes on the Debates in Federal Convention 1787
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/debates/debcont.htm
See: June 1, 4, 9; July 20, 21, 24, 25, August 31, September 4–7

Cuban Missile Crisis Documents:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/msc_cubamenu.asp
Read:
Doc 16 Editorial Note
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba016.asp
Doc 17 Editorial Note
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba017.asp
Doc 18 Transcript White House Meeting
Washington, October 16, 1962, 11:50 a.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba018.asp
Doc 21 Off the Record Meeting Washington, October 16, 1962,
6:30-7:55 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba021.asp
Doc 30 Editorial Note
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba030.asp
Doc 38 Minutes of Meeting National Security Council
Washington, October 21, 1962, 2:30-4:50 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba038.asp
Doc 48 Telegram from the Embassy in the Soviet Union to the
Department of State Moscow, October 23, 1962, 5p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba048.asp
Doc 60 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between the
Under Secretary of State (Ball) and the President's Special
Assistant for National Security Affairs (Bundy)
Washington, October 24, 1962, 8:25 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba060.asp
Doc 63 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between
President Kennedy and the Under Secretary of State (Ball)
Washington, October 24, 1962, 10:30 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba063.asp
Doc 64 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between
President Kennedy and the Under Secretary of State (Ball)
Washington, October 24, 1962, 11:15 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba064.asp
Doc 65 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between Secretary of State Rusk and the Under Secretary of State (Ball) Washington, October 24, 1962, 11:25 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba065.asp

Doc 66 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between the Under Secretary of State (Ball) and the Representative to the United Nations (Stevenson) October 24, 1962, 11:45 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba066.asp

Doc 67 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Between the Under Secretary of State (Ball) and the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs (Bundy) Washington, October 25, 1962, 12:30 a.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba067.asp

Doc 68 Telegram From the Department of State to the Embassy in the Soviet Union Washington, October 25, 1962, 1:59 a.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba068.asp

Doc 80 Memorandum From ABC Correspondent John Scali to the Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (Hilsman) Washington, undated
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba080.asp

Doc 84 Telegram From the Embassy in the Soviet Union to the Department of State Moscow, October 26, 1962, 7 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba084.asp

Doc 85 Editorial Note
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba085.asp

Doc 90 Summary Record of the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council Washington, October 27, 1962, 10 a.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba090.asp

Doc 91 Message From Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy Moscow, October 27, 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba091.asp

Doc 94 Summary Record of the Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council Washington, October 27, 1962, 4 p.m
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba094.asp

Doc 95 Telegram From the Department of State to the Embassy in the Soviet Union Washington, October 27, 1962, 8:05 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba095.asp

Doc 96 Memorandum From Attorney General Kennedy to Secretary of State Rusk Washington, October 30, 1962.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba096.asp

Doc 97 Summary Record of the Ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council Washington, October 27, 1962, 9 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba097.asp
Doc 98 The Cuban Missile Crisis
Current Intelligence Memorandum Washington, October 27, 1962.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba098.asp
Doc 102 Message From Chairman Khrushchev to President
Kennedy Moscow, October 28, 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba102.asp
Doc 103 Summary Record of the Tenth Meeting of the Executive
Committee of the National Security Council Washington, October
28, 1962, 11:10 a.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba103.asp
Doc 104 Telegram From the Department of State to the Embassy
in the Soviet Union Washington, October 28, 1962, 5:03 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba104.asp

Negotiations continued. Also of interest, post-crisis:
Doc 140 Kennedy to Khrushchev 3 Nov 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba140.asp
Doc 155 Kennedy to Khrushchev 6 Nov 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba155.asp

Doc 163 Telegram From the Mission to the United Nations to the
Department of State New York, November 8, 1962, 11 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba163.asp
Doc 165 Memorandum of Telephone Conversation Among the
Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Stevenson), the
Under Secretary of State (Ball), and the Deputy Under Secretary of
State for Political Affairs (Johnson) November 9, 1962, 12:30 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba165.asp
Doc 169 Memorandum From the Under Secretary of State (Ball) to
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba169.asp
Doc 171 Khrushchev to Kennedy 12 Nov 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba171.asp
Doc 176 Khrushchev to Kennedy 14 Nov 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba176.asp
Doc 183 Telegram From the Mission to the United Nations to the
Department of State New York, November 15, 1962, midnight
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba183.asp
Doc 229 Memorandum From Director of Central Intelligence
McCone to the President's Special Assistant for National Security
Affairs (Bundy) Washington, December 5, 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba229.asp
Doc 236 Telegram From the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the
Commander in Chief, Atlantic (Dennison) Washington, December
7, 1962, 1:54 p.m.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba236.asp
Doc 244 Khrushchev to Kennedy 11 Dec 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba244.asp
Doc 247 Kennedy to Khrushchev 14 Deco 1962
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba247.asp
Doc 263 Editorial Note
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba263.asp

***************Film Treatment Due in Class***************

Mon Feb 29 (Cool)  Film Screening: Otto Preminger *Advise and Consent* (1962)
Tues Mar 1  Representations of Legislative Politics
Read: Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, 1787–1789 *The Federalist* nos. 15, 24, 37, 38, 52–66. All Federalist Readings found at:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed.htm
US Constitution Article 1, at:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/art1.htm
Amendments: XI–XXVII (Especially the 25th Amendment) At:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/amend1.htm
REC: Madison’s Notes on the Debates in Federal Convention 1787, at:
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/debates/debcont.htm
See: June 7–9, 18, 21, 25, 30; July 7, 18, 21, 24; August 6, 10, 13, 18, 23; September 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 17

Thurs Mar 3  Representations of Foreign Policy
Read: Ronald Reagan, “Address before a Joint Session of on Central America, April 27, 1983” at:
Ronald Reagan, “Radio address to the Nation on the Situation in Central America” March 30, 1985 at:
Ronald Reagan, “Address to the nation on Aiding the Contras” March 16, 1986 at:
For other Ronald Reagan speeches see:
http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/archives/speeches/publicpapers.htm

**Tues Mar 8**

**Present Oral Reports on Completed Projects**

Completed Project (Issue Analysis, Proposed Treatment, with its Documentation of “Evolution” (Journal Analysis)) Due in Class