

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

War and the Media
War and the Media

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	MK7016
Valid from:	Spring 2010
Date of approval:	2009-09-29
Department	Department of Media Studies
Main field:	Communications Studies/Media and Communication Studies
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This course plan has been approved by the board of directors of the Department for Journalism, Media & Communication (JMK) 2009-09-29.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
KROM	War and the Media	7.5

Course content

This course explores the functions, roles, and responsibilities of the media in armed conflict from World War II to the present. Drawing on both news and entertainment media, the course examines how war is represented and remembered in various media, and explores the ways in which these media become conduits for both dominant and counter discourses. The class will look into issues and debates that have been raised about topics such as the practices of the war correspondent; perception management and attempts to control the image of war by certain stakeholders (government, military, media); how media images affect the public's perception of war; media as a tool for propaganda and persuasion; new media and the spectacle of war; and the role of popular media in constructing and contesting national myths and memories of war.

Learning outcomes

After passing the course the student will have acquired advanced insights into various theories about the relationship between war and media, and will also have practiced and proved his/her ability to critically and independently analyze the role of the media in the production and circulation of knowledge about war, in a historical as well as contemporary perspective.

Education

Teaching consists of lectures, screenings and class discussions based on assigned readings.

Forms of examination

The final grade will be based on active participation in seminars (obligatory attendance), and a final paper. This final paper will be an essay (5-6 pages + bibliography) on a topic of choice that is relevant to the course.

Grades are given according to a seven-point scale: A=Excellent, B=Very good, C=Good, D=Satisfactory,

E=Adequate, Fx=Insufficient, F=Fail.

Assessment criteria will be circulated at the start of each course.

The final grade for the whole course must be at least E to pass.

Students who fail a course with grade Fx or F have the right to undertake four additional assessments, so long as courses continue to run, to achieve a pass grade. Students who receive grade E cannot request a second examination for a higher grade. Students who receive grade Fx or F for a course on two occasions by one and the same examiner have the right to request that another examiner be appointed to consider the grade, if there is no particular reason that excludes such action. A formal request concerning change of examiner shall be submitted to the departmental board.

Required reading

Allan, Stuart "The Culture of Distance: Online reporting of the Iraq War" pp. 347- 362, in
Allan, S. Zelizer, B. (2004) Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime. London: Sage.

Allan, Stuart and Matheson, Donald (2009) Digital War Reporting. Cambridge: Polity Press.
(187 pages)

Andén-Papadopoulos, K. (2008) The Abu Ghraib torture photographs: News frames, visual
culture, and the power of images, Journalism. Theory, practice and criticism, vol. 9, no 1,
February 2008, pp. 5-30.

Bennett, W.L., Lawrence, R.G. and Livingstone, S. (2006) 'None Dare Call it Torture', Journal
of Communication 56(3), pp. 467-85.

Carruthers, Susan L. (2000) The Media at War. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Chapters 1- 3, 5
(213 pp.).

Der Derian, James (2000) 'Virtuous War/Virtual Theory', International Affairs, Vol. 76, No. 4,
pp. 771-788.

Hallin, D. C. (1986) The 'Uncensored' War. The Media and Vietnam. Berkeley, Los Angeles,
London: University of California Press. (215 pages)

Iskandar, A. & El-Nawawy, M. 'Al-Jazeera and war coverage in Iraq: the media's quest for contextual
objectivity', pp. 315-332, in Allan, S. Zelizer, B. (2004) Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime. London:
Sage.

Keeble, R. 'Information warfare in an age of hyper-militarism', pp. 43-58 in Allan, S. Zelizer, B. (2004)
Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime. London: Sage.

Kumar, D. 'War propaganda and the (ab)uses of women', in Feminist Media Studies, Volume 4,
Issue 3, November 2004, pp. 297-313.

Liebes, T. & Kamp, Z. (2004) "The PR of terror: How new-style wars give voice to terrorists", pp. 77-93, in
Allan, S. Zelizer, B. (2004) Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime. London: Sage.

Maltby, S., and Keeble, R. (eds.) (2007) Communicating War: Memory, media and military.
Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press. (around 100 pages)

Reese, S. D. 'Militarized journalism: framing dissent in the Gulf Wars', in Allan, S. Zelizer, B. (2004)
Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime. London: Sage. pp. 247-265

Robinson, P. 'Researching US media –state relations and twenty-first century wars', pp. 96-112, in Allan, S.
Zelizer, B. (2004) Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime. London: Sage.

Sontag, S. (2003) Regarding the Pain of Others. New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux. (175
pages)

Sturken, M. (1997) Tangled Memories: The Vietnam War, The AIDS Epidemic, and the Politics
of Remembering. University of California Press, pp. 2-145.