

**GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE PROPOSAL**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON**

Use this form to submit **EXISTING** courses for review. If this course will be submitted for review in more than one category, submit a separate proposal for each category.

<b>COURSE NUMBER:</b>	FSEM 100A5		
<b>COURSE TITLE:</b>	POLITICS, CULTURE, AND THE GLOBAL MEDIA		
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Farhang Rouhani	<b>DATE:</b>	1-23-08
<i>This course proposal is submitted with the department's approval. (Put a check in the box to the right.)</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>If part of a science sequence involving two departments, both departments approve.</i>			

**THIS COURSE IS PROPOSED FOR** (check one).

First-Year Seminar ( <i>indicate in the rationale if this will also count for major credit</i> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Quantitative Reasoning				
Global Inquiry				
Human Experience and Society				
Experiential Learning				
Arts, Literature, and Performance: Process		or	Appreciation	
Natural Science ( <i>include both parts of the sequence</i> )				

**NOTE:** See the report entitled "General Education Curriculum as Approved by the Faculty Senate," dated November 7, 2007, for details about the general education categories and the criteria that will be used to evaluate courses proposed. The report is available at [www.jmorello.org/gened](http://www.jmorello.org/gened).

**RATIONALE:** Using only the space provided in the box below, briefly state why this course should be approved as a general education course in the category specified above. Attach a course syllabus. Submit this form and attached syllabus electronically as one document to John Morello ([jmorello@umw.edu](mailto:jmorello@umw.edu)). All submissions must be in electronic form.

This course is designed as a way for students to examine and understand the processes of globalization through the particular role that global media institutions and flows play in the process. Over the course of the semester, we examine the ways in which film, television, and other media alter our understandings of space, time, and cultural identity. Analyzing the global media in such a way requires students to engage with larger current debates about political power, the global economy, and cultural politics. It is conducted in a discussion-oriented seminar format.

**First-Year Seminar:  
Politics, Culture, and the Global Media  
Spring 2008**

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**Description and Objectives:**

This course will encourage you to critically explore the role of the global media in current debates about political power, the global economy, and cultural politics. Over the course of the semester, we will examine the ways in which film, television, and other media alter our understandings of space, time, and cultural identity. Rather than providing answers through a set of discrete “facts,” this course is designed to engage students with ongoing debates and questions. Over the course of the semester, we will focus on diverse media environments; a variety of media; and a variety of economic, political, and cultural issues. We will particularly focus on research from the fields of media studies, cultural geography, and global studies.

The course will consist of three themes:

- The Media and Globalization, centering around the media’s centrality in the processes of globalization and uneven economic development
- Global Media Space and New Boundaries, focusing on the role of media in relation to political institutions, democratization, and social movements
- Construction of Identities in a Globalized World, examining the ways in which local identities are shaped and reshaped through global media flows

The goals of the course are:

- to help you to learn how to think spatially about the political, economic, and cultural aspects of globalization
- to increase your familiarity with media institutions and environments
- to introduce you to scholarly debates about media, culture, and politics
- to improve your skills in reading and interpreting academic studies of the global media

**Required Texts:**

Drori, G. 2005. *Global E-Litism: Digital Technology, Social Inequality, and Transnationality*. Worth.

de Jong, W., Shaw, M. and Stammers, N. Eds. 2005. *Global Activism, Global Media*. Pluto.

Rantanen, T. 2004. *The Media and Globalization*. Sage.

Additional readings to be announced and placed on Blackboard.

**In-Class Discussion and Participation:**

Attendance and discussion are essential components in the course. You are expected to have the necessary reading(s) done to be able to actively participate in class discussions. Participation will be judged more based on quality, rather than quantity, of contribution to class discussions. You must be in class to receive participation credit. Often, there will be reading questions at the beginning of

class to prompt discussion, so you should be sure to have the reading for the day done by the time you come to class. Your two paper presentations will also be a part of your participation grade.

### **Critical Review Essays:**

Your first two writing assignments will be reflective critical review essays. The critical review essay includes two components: 1) a shorter portion, which is a summary of the main goals and methods of the reading, and 2) a longer portion, which is your evaluation of the strengths, limitations, and usefulness of the text. For the second portion, you may also incorporate external readings. As essays, these papers should have a central argument that is supported with evidence from your text(s). Each review should be about three pages long.

### **Leading Discussion:**

Over the course of the semester after the first three weeks, you will on two occasions be assigned to lead class discussion on a reading. Here are some guidelines for leading a seminar session:

1. Carefully read the chapters, thinking critically through what the authors are arguing.
2. Think about what strikes you as the most interesting, provocative, or challenging points made by the author(s) as a way to begin thinking about how you will generate discussion in class.
3. Options for beginning the discussion include:
  - assigning a focused writing assignment to get the class thinking about the topic
  - asking the class to brainstorm the main points of the article
  - bringing in a relevant short newspaper article and ask students what it means in light of the reading.
  - asking class to help you understand the most difficult parts of the article
  - presenting a major point and asking students if they agree or disagree
4. Write a list of about 5 questions that will help you regenerate if there is a lull in the discussion.
5. Ask students to respond to comments made by other students, or reflect on the connections between the reading and other readings in the semester.

### **Reading Responses:**

On each day with a reading assignment, you are required to post a short response on the discussion board on Blackboard by 6pm on the day before the reading discussion. Your response should be about 100 words in length and include a summary and your thoughts about the reading. These responses will aid the discussion leaders in preparing topics for their discussion.

### **Research Papers:**

You will carry out two research projects in this course. The first will be a library-oriented research project concerning media politics, censorship, and activism; and the second will be am interview-oriented project examining generational changes in media usage in your family (or someone else's). I will provide more specific guidance on these projects in the near future.

### **Evaluation:**

Student grades will be based on a point average of exams and assignments. Grade values break down as follows:

Global media review essay	10%
Digital divide review essay	10%
Media politics research paper	20%
Mediagraphy analysis	20%

Class participation and presentations	20%
Reading responses	10%
Discussion leading (2)	10%

## COURSE CALENDAR:

### ***Introduction: Geographies of the Global Media***

1/15-17	Introduction to the course
1/22	Introduction to the global media (Flew 1, Blackboard)
1/24	Economic aspects (Flew 3, Blackboard)
1/29	Cultural aspects (Flew 5, Blackboard)
1/31	Political aspects (Flew 6, Blackboard)

### ***Global Media and Development: the Digital Divide (Drori)***

2/5	Ch. 1-2; Global media review essays due
2/7	3
2/12	5-6
2/14	7-8
2/19	Digital divide review essays due

### ***Global Media Space and New Boundaries (deJong et. al.)***

2/21	Ch. 1-2
2/26	3-5
2/28	6-7
3/11	8-9
3/13	10-11
3/18	12-14
3/20	Consultations
3/25-27	Media politics papers and presentations

### ***Construction of Identities in a Globalized World (Rantanen)***

4/1	Ch. 1-2
4/3	3
4/8	4-5
4/10	6-7
4/15	Consultations
4/17	No class, AAG meeting
4/22-24	Mediagraphy papers and presentations