

JOUR 6301
Communication, Media and Concepts of the Public
Spring 2007
M 9:00 – 11:30
Armory 1B01

Professor:

Andrew Calabrese
School of Journalism & Mass Communication
Office: Armory 102D
Campus Box 478
Tel: 492-5374
Office Hours: T, Th 2:30 – 3:30, or by appointment
E-mail: andrew.calabrese@colorado.edu
Web: <http://spot.colorado.edu/~calabres>

Course Theme:

This course focuses on concepts that are central to the theory and practice of media politics, most prominent among them being the idea of *the public*. This concept figures prominently in discussions of how the media constitute “public spaces” in which social and political discourse takes place, and in attempts to understand the institutional and *technological* bases upon which “public opinion” is formed and “the public interest” is articulated. There has for many years been an ongoing discourse based on the argument that the media are either the cause or a key symptom in what is thought to be the decline of “the public sphere.”

The idea of the public sphere has been widely contested, but even some of the harshest critics of the concept are drawn to it as a starting point for attempting to understand and explain the bases of political communication and collective action. For many writers, the idea of a public sphere rests on the foundation of a civil society in which the means of communication are put to the service of free public expression. Traditionally, such freedom was thought to be most directly threatened by the overweening power of the state, but in recent history the greater or equal menace has come to be seen as the result of corporate control of the media, increasingly on a *global* scale. Needless to say, the same idealism used to historicize and define the contested idea of the public sphere must also be used to study the contested idea of civil society, as this course will emphasize.

In addition to providing a historical perspective on key concepts related to the idea of the public and of civil society, this course will examine how the means of communication have come to represent a source of optimism in the discourse on

global civil society. It will do so by focusing on what this discourse tends to identify as the key constitutive elements of civil society, namely, contemporary social movements and their institutional bases in nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Beginning with a survey of historical and contemporary uses of these concepts of the public, the course will then move on to examine how they are now being employed in discussions of *globalization*. Although the discourse of globalization is not an entirely recent one, it came into great prominence with the accelerated efforts in the early 1990s, due in large part to efforts spearheaded by the world's wealthiest countries to revise and "harmonize" the terms of global trade and investment, leading to debates about the rise of new forms of imperialism. In opposition to the terms of global corporate and policy harmonization, new networks of transnational – even global – social and political activism have emerged to prominence and influence. Sometimes, this new phenomenon of global activism is described as the basis of an emerging *global civil society*. This course will examine the role of the means of communication in the midst of these new developments.

University Policies:

Disability: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

Religious observance: If you have a religious obligation that conflicts with a particular date of classroom attendance, or with meeting an assignment deadline, please notify me two weeks prior to the date so that we may consider possible solutions to the conflict.

Classroom behavior: As a result of extensive discussions with and recommendations from faculty and students, the University has a new classroom behavior policy. Please consult the policy at: (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/index.html>).

Honor code: According to the university's honor code, students must neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance on the work they do. You are responsible for knowing and adhering to this code. The honor code is available at: (<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>). Please pay particular attention to the definitions of various forms of academic dishonesty so that you may be certain that you are not in violation of the code.

Sexual harassment: The university's policy on sexual harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite

gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/>

Schedule Outline:

- Jan 19 Introduction
- Jan 26 Basic readings on the public sphere
- The empty square
- Salons
- Whatever became of the public square?
- Public space (Dissent)
- Putnam, Bowling alone.
- Lippmann
- Dewey
- Habermas [encyclopedia article]
- Splichal, Calabrese, Sparks
- Feb 2 Readings on the public sphere, cont'd. (interpretations & critiques)
- Arendt (to p.78)
- Habermas (to p.140)
- Marx
- Calhoun
- Benhabib
- Feb 9 Readings on the public sphere, cont'd. (interpretations & critiques)
- Calabrese, "Creative destruction?"
- Calabrese & Burke, "American identities."
- Fraser, "From redistribution to recognition?"

*Fraser, “Rethinking the public sphere.”

*Keane, “Structural transformations of the public sphere.”

Landes, “The public and the private.”

Thompson, “The theory of the public sphere.”

Paper #1 due: Paper #1 due: “Recognition and redistribution” (communication as need; justifications for communication rights)

Consider the implications of contemporary polarities over “need” versus “identity,” or “redistribution” versus “recognition,” in how we might conceptualize rights intended to enhance our ability to participate effectively in the public sphere. In doing so, reflect on the implications of the “great dichotomy” of public/private in choosing to side with one position or the other (need/identity, redistribution/recognition).

Feb 16 Media as subject and object of civic education – **Holly**

Please read the following short pieces from the University of Oregon’s Media Literacy Online Project:

Bill Walsh, A brief history of media education.

Robert Kubey, The case for media education.

Renee Hobbs, Literacy for the information age.

Renee Hobbs, The seven great debates in the media literacy movement.

Chris Worsnop, Twenty important reasons to study the media.

Len Masterman, Visions of media education: The road from dystopia. *Media Development*.

Len Masterman, Media education: Eighteen basic principles. Media Awareness Network.

Steven Manning, Students for sale. *The Nation*.

Alex Molnar, The Ninth Annual Report on Schoolhouse Commercialism Trends: 2005-2006

The following items are available on e-reserve:

Calabrese, A. (2001). Why localism? Communication technology and the shifting scale of political community. In G. Shepherd & E.

Rothenbuhler (Eds.), *Communication and community* (251-270). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Publishers.

Calabrese, A. (2001). The political significance of media literacy. In O. Luthar, K. McLeod & M. Zagar (Eds.). *Liberal democracy, citizenship and education* (68-88). Oakville, Ontario: Mosaic Press. Reprinted in B. Cammaerts, L. Van Audenhove, G. Nulens & C. Pauwels (2003). *Beyond the digital divide: Reducing exclusion, fostering inclusion*. Brussels: Free University Press.

Karol Edward Soltan, Introduction: Civic competence, democracy, and the good society. In Stephen L. Elkin and Karol Edward Soltan (Eds.). *Citizen competence and democratic institutions* (1-13). University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999.

Please spend an hour or two browsing the following broad sample of websites from organizations that contribute to the public discourse on media literacy:

Adbusters.

Center for Media Literacy.

Center for Social Media.

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting.

Media Education Foundation.

MediaChannel.

Project Censored.

Feb 23 Communication and the discourse on civility – **Claudia**

Mark Kingwell, Justice as civility, in *A Civil Tongue*. ON E-RESERVE.

Pierre Bourdieu and Jean-Claude Passeron, "Foundations of a Theory of Symbolic Violence," in *Reproduction in Education, Society and Culture*, 2nd ed., trans Richard Nice (London: Sage, 1990). ON E-RESERVE.

Herbert Marcuse, "Repressive Tolerance," in Robert Paul Wolf, Barrington Moore, Jr. and Herbert Marcuse, *A Critique of Pure Tolerance* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1965). ON E-RESERVE.

Claus Offe, Modern 'Barbarity': A micro-state of nature? *Constellations*, 2(3), 1996. AVAILABLE THROUGH CHINOOK.

Etienne Balibar, Outlines of a topography of cruelty: Citizenship and civility in the era of global violence. *Constellations*, 8(1), 2001. AVAILABLE THROUGH CHINOOK.

Zizi Papacharissi, Democracy online: Civility, politeness, and the democratic potential of online political discussion groups. *New Media and Society*, 6(2), April 2004. AVAILABLE THROUGH CHINOOK.

Introduction to Aggravating circumstances: A status report on rudeness in America. Public Agenda Online.

Randall Kennedy, The state of the debate: The case against 'civility'. *The American Prospect*.

J.L. Lemke, Violence and language: The signs that hurt.

Thomas J. Osborne, Civility on trial: Welfare in the Western world. *The Humanist*.

Civility in the House of Representatives, transcript from the Subcommittee on Rules & Organization of the House, April 17, May 1, 1997.

G.P. "Bud" Peterson, Balancing free speech and civility. *Boulder Daily Camera*.

Mar 2 Communication, civil disobedience and political violence – **Colleen**

"Symbolic conduct," (1968, June). *Columbia Law Review*, vol. 68, pp. 1091-1126. **E-RESERVE**

Calabrese, A. (2004). Virtual nonviolence? Civil disobedience and political violence in the information age. *Info: The Journal of Policy, Regulation, and Strategy for Telecommunications, Information, and Media*, 6(5), 326-338.

Cortright, D. (2002, February 18). The power of nonviolence. *The Nation*.

Habermas, J. (1985). Civil disobedience: Litmus test for the democratic constitutional state. *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, vol. 30, pp. 95-116. **E-RESERVE**

Katz, B. J. (1985, April). Civil disobedience and the First Amendment. *UCLA Law Review*, vol. 32, pp. 904-919. **AVAILABLE ON LEXIS-NEXIS (via Chinook, under "Find Articles"). SEARCH UNDER "LAW REVIEWS" (let me know if you need further instruction)**

Sartre, J.-P. (1963). Preface to F. Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press. **E-RESERVE**

Sunstein, C. (1995, June 22). Is violent speech a right? *The American Prospect*.

Wolff, R.P. (1969, October). On violence. *The Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 66, no. 19, pp. 601-616. **AVAILABLE ON JSTOR (via Chinook)**

Mar 16 Media, justice, and the global moral economy – **Sophia**

Paper #2 due: Reflections on Hayek, communication and global justice

Friedrich A. Hayek, [*The Road to Serfdom \[in cartoons\]*](#). Based on the book by the same title, published in 1944.

Friedrich A. Hayek, “Equality, value, and merit,” in Michael J. Sandel (ed.), *Liberalism and Its Critics* (NY: NYU Press, 1984). **E-RESERVE**

Steven Lukes, Social justice: The Hayekian challenge. *Critical Review*, 11(1), Winter 1997. **E-RESERVE**

Donatella della Porta, [The global justice movement: An introduction](#). In Donatella della Porta, ed. *The Global Justice Movement: Cross-national and Transnational Perspectives* (Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2006).

Amartya Sen, Justice across borders, in Pablo De Grieff and Ciaran Cronin (eds.), *Global Justice and Transnational Politics: Essays on the Moral and Political Challenges of Globalization* (MIT Press, 2002). **E-RESERVE**

Andrew Calabrese (1999). [Communication and the end of sovereignty?](#) *Info*, 1(4), 313-326.

Andrew Calabrese (2004). [The promise of civil society: A global movement for communication rights](#). *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies*, 18(3), 317-329.

Andrew Calabrese (2005). [Communication, global justice and the moral economy](#). *Global Media and Communication*, 1(3), 301-315.

Mar 23 Imperialism – **Alex**

Harold A. Innis, *Empire and Communication* [**ALL ON E-RESERVE**]:

Ch. 1 – Introduction

Ch. 5 – The Written Tradition and the Roman Empire

Ch. 7 – Paper and the Printing Press

David Harvey, *The New Imperialism*:

Ch. 1 – All About Oil

Ch. 2 – How America’s Power Grew

Ch. 5 – Consent to Coercion

Afterword to book

Mar 30 SPRING BREAK (no class)

Apr 6 Imperialism – Doug

Excerpts from Hardt & Negri, *Empire*:

Preface

Constitution of Empire

Alternatives Within Empire

Intermezzo

Slavoj Žižek, Ideology of Empire, in *Empire's New Clothes*.

John Tomlinson, The Discourse of Cultural Imperialism, in his *Cultural Imperialism*.

Herbert Schiller, Communication Theorists of Empire, in his *Living in the Number One Country*.

Andrew Calabrese (2005). [Casus belli: U.S. media and the justification of the Iraq war](#). *Television and New Media*, 6(2), 153-175.

Apr 13 Critiques of the idea of global civil society – Elena

John Keane, *Global Civil Society?*

Unfamiliar Words

Cosmocracy

Ethics Beyond Borders

Andrew Calabrese (2005). [[Review of Global Activism, Global Media](#)]. *European Journal of Communication*, 20(4), 555-559.

The following are on e-reserve:

Iris Marion Young, "Civil Society and Its Limits," in *Inclusion and Democracy* (New York: Oxford, 2000), 154-195.

Anne Phillips, "Who Needs Civil Society?" *Dissent* (Winter 1999), 56-61.

Krishnan Kumar, "Civil Society: An Inquiry Into the Usefulness of an Historical Term," *British Journal of Sociology* 44 (September 1993), 375-395.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Questioned on Translation: Adrift," *Public Culture* 13 (2001).

Ellen Meiksins Wood, "The uses and abuses of civil society," in R. Miliband and L. Panitch (eds.), *Socialist Register, 1990: The Retreat of the Intellectuals* (London: Merlin Press, 1990).

- Apr 20 Individual consultations
- Apr 27 Paper presentations & discussions
- May 4 Paper presentations & discussions
- May 9 Final papers due (no class meeting)

Design for a study (lit review, RQ/argument, method)