

# **Society, culture and media**

## **Course description:**

This course aims at discussing main, up to date sociological and cultural theory perspectives of the study of media and their socio-economic, cultural and political dimensions. Questions regarding technological development, media production and consumption shifts and institutional changes are central in the understanding of today's media world. Important contemporary social phenomena that involve the media such as representation and reception, participation, creativity and peer to peer production, big data, and globalization, among other, will be theoretically unfolded in the class with the use of relevant examples from everyday life. The purpose of the course is to provide a deep and broad knowledge and understanding of the ways that media develop and of the impact they have in social life across all fields of human activity.

1. Introduction: media uses and media content
2. Media production, technology and political economy
3. Media, ideology and control
4. Media and risk society: consumerism, fragmentation, globalization
5. Media and ethnicity
6. Media and gender
7. Media communities and subcultures
8. Media, participation and civic cultures
9. Media and creativity

## **Criteria of assessment:**

The criteria of assessment include participation in classroom, one page written review of the readings for each lecture as well as the oral presentation of empirical examples from the media world that are relevant to each lecture. Final assignment of a topic chosen by each student (consulted with the course's lecturer), to be presented orally in a 30 minute examination to the course's lecturer, or a 10 page written assignment of a topic chosen by each student. 60% of the grade will be obtained by the students' performance in class and by the quality of his/her regular class assignments (see above), 40% of the grade will be obtained by the final assignment (written or oral).

## **Selected readings:**

Paul Hodkinson (2011) Media, culture and society

José van Dijck (2013) The Culture of Connectivity, a Critical History of Social Media  
Vincent Mosco (2009) the political economy of media  
Stuart Hall (1997) Representation  
Ulrich Beck (2011) Cosmopolitanism as Imagined Communities of Global Risk  
Ulrich Beck et al (2003) Global America? The Cultural Consequences of Globalization  
Peter Dahlgren (2009) Media and political engagement  
Nick Couldry (2010) why voice matters  
Richard Sennett (2008) The craftsman  
David Gauntlet (2008) Media gender and identity  
Martin Reisigl and Ruth Wodak (2001) Discourse and Discrimination: Rhetorics of racism and anti-Semitism  
Paul Hodkinson and Wolfgang Deicke (2007) Youth Cultures: Scenes, Subcultures and Tribes