

All the News

UHON 302-007 | T | 12:30-3:00 | SHC 28 | 37529

Fulfills A&S Group I: Writing and Speaking

Dr. Diane Rawls

Who makes the news, how do they make it, and how does the news make us? This class will examine the history, current structure, and possible future(s) of the American media as we know them. By considering the sources, methods, influences and effects of the production and distribution of the news, we will investigate the myriad ways in which the news is connected to the American democratic system, and how it influences the shape of our society. We will also inspect both the inherent biases and external pressures on the content and production of the news we consume.

Because democracy is dependent on its citizens' abilities to make educated choices, becoming critical and informed consumers of the media is vital for all of us in this era of 24 hour cable news channels, opinion journalism, and the ever expanding blogosphere.

Readings

Losing the News - Alex S. Jones

The Problem of the Media: U.S. Communication Politics in the 21st Century - Robert W. McChesney

Requirements

Two five page papers; weekly summary of selected media sources; final research project/paper and in-class presentation; regular attendance and consistent participation in class discussions.

About the Instructor

Diane N. Rawls is an inveterate watcher and reader of the news, and can usually be relied upon to voice an opinion (often unsolicited) about something she heard or read about something that happened somewhere in the world.

300-Levels