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| **Title** | **Politics and the Mass Media** |
| **Lecturer:**  **Contact email address:** | **Prof. William G. Mayer**  Professor of Political Science at Norteastern University (Boston, USA)  <https://cssh.northeastern.edu/faculty/william-mayer/>  [wgmayer@erols.com](mailto:wgmayer@erols.com) |
| **Brief description** | It is impossible to discuss the state of contemporary American politics without taking account of the mass media. This course attempts to provide a detailed examination of the media’s role and behavior: the sources of its power, the current media system, the major theories that try to explain why the media reports the way they do, and their effect on public opinion, elections, and governing. |
| **Schedule** | **1,** Media Discretion and Media Power  **2.** Entertainment Media  **3.** A History of the American Mass Media  **4.** The Contemporary Media System  **5.** Media and the Law  **6.** The Audience: How People Get Their News  **7.** Explaining Media Outcomes: Ideology  **8.** Explaining Media Outcomes: Economics  **9.** Explaining Media Outcomes: Organization  **10.** Media and Public Opinion  **11.** Media and Governing  **12.** Media and Elections |
| **Materials/Recommended readings** | Most of the reading for this course will be posted on canvas.  The only required text is Doris Graber and Johanna Dunaway, *Mass Media and American Politics*, 10th ed. |
| **Assessment/Exam** | There will be a midterm and a final exam. Students will also have the option of writing a paper, but the topic must be approved in advance by Prof. Mayer. |