**Description**
This seminar provides a graduate-level overview of research on political communication. It introduces students to a range of topics, from classic issues such as agenda-setting to current debates and emerging topics associated with social media and collective action. The seminar is open to graduate students regardless of discipline or subfield, though the reading chiefly addresses political communication in the U.S.

**Requirements**
Use of the GauchoSpace course management system is required for this course. Students should be sure to log in before the start of class and familiarize themselves with the course.

1. Regular attendance and participation in discussion is required and contributes 30% of the grade. As part of participation, each student is expected once to provide the class with illustrations relevant to the weekly topic from the real world of political communication. This may involve identifying short video clips, or recommending films, web sites, or other political content of a non-scholarly origin that illuminates or bears in some way on the weekly topic.

2. A very brief analytic paper of about 500 words is due twice and contributes 20% of the course grade. Each student will chose two weeks in which s/he will prepare the papers, which are due by 8pm the day before class and are to be posted for other students to read. They will be graded Not Pass, Pass, or Pass +. All students should read the weekly posts before class.

3. The final project is worth 50% of the seminar grade and is due Mar. 17. There are two options.

   **Traditional Seminar Paper Option:** Write a paper pursuing a topic or problem from the seminar in further depth, or developing one or more cross-cutting themes. The paper should advance an original theoretical claim driven by a question; they should not be organized as a literature summary or review.

   **Research Preparation Option:** Prepare a research design proposing a study in political communication. The design should state a well-formulated question, develop a theoretical position about the question along with testable hypotheses, describe a general methodological approach to obtaining evidence and testing hypotheses, and then discuss specific measures and statistical techniques that would be employed.

**Required Books for Purchase**

**Reader**
All required articles are available electronically on GauchoSpace in pdf form.
Articles and books labeled “Further Reading” are not required. These are intended as a starting point for students interested in pursuing a topic in greater depth.

SCHEDULE OF READING

Jan. 7: Week 1 - Political Communication as a Field of Research


Further Reading


Jan. 14: Week 2 - Political Discussion and Deliberation


Further Reading


Jan. 21: Week 3 - Agenda-Setting, Hostile Media Effect, Third-Person Effect


Further Reading


Jan. 28: Week 4 - Framing


Further Reading


**Feb. 4 Week 5 - Selective Exposure**


**Further Reading**


**Feb. 11: Week 6 – Overview of News and Political Commentary**


**Further Reading**


**Feb. 18 Week 7 – Social Networks and Political Behavior I**


**Feb. 25: Week 8 – Social Networks and Political Behavior II**


**Further Reading:**

Mar. 4: Week 9 – Communication and Collective Action


Further Reading


Mar. 11: Week 10 - Digital Media and Democratization


Further Reading


