

Political Science 4000
Special Topics: Misinformation and the Media
Fall 2022
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Introduction:

This course will examine prevalence of political misinformation in the U.S. political environment. This will include an examination of the causes and consequences of this phenomena in modern politics and society and its subsequent impact on our elections and civic discourse. We will examine the media's role in this phenomenon and how the changing nature of communication and information gathering influences the strength of misinformation. Finally, hopefully, we will explore potential remedies to this current circumstance.

Grading:

Projects (2) – 30%:

PowerPoint presentations on the effect of specific applications of Misinformation and Social Media. These will likely include a group project component. The specific directions and requirements are available on our course Moodle page.

Critical Analysis Papers – 50%:

Papers on our assigned readings. This will include the required texts and/or additional materials I provide via Moodle. This may also include an in-class quiz as part of each assignment. The specific directions and requirements are available on our course Moodle page.

Final Exam (20%)

The specific directions and requirements are available on our course Moodle page.

Required Reading:

Electronic copies are fine. Find them as cheaply as possible.

1. How America Lost Its Mind. The Assault on Reason That's Crippling Our Democracy
Thomas E. Patterson
ISBN: 9780806164328
2. Network Propaganda: Manipulation, Disinformation, and Radicalization in American Politics:
<https://academic.oup.com/book/26406?login=false>
Online ISBN: 9780190923662
Print ISBN: 9780190923624
3. Let them Eat Tweets. How the Right Rules in an Age of Extreme Inequality
Hacker and Pierson
ISBN: 9781631499036
4. How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them
Jason Stanley
ISBN: 9780525511830
5. On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century
Timothy Snyder
ISBN: 9780804190114
6. Various reading assignments provided via Moodle