

# Media and Political Imagination

August 26, 2025



# Contents

<b>I</b>	<b>Lecture Note.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Week 1.</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1	NOTE: NO CLASS. . . . .	7
<b>2</b>	<b>Week 2.</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1	NOTE: NO CLASS. . . . .	9
<b>3</b>	<b>Week 3.</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1	Day 1; 18 August 2025. . . . .	11
3.1.1	Class Introduction & Syllabus. . . . .	11
3.1.2	Politics, and Political Science. . . . .	17
3.1.3	Power, Authority, and Legitimacy . . . . .	24
3.1.4	The State . . . . .	24
3.1.5	Political Science as a discipline . . . . .	25
3.1.6	Approaches in Political Science . . . . .	25
<b>II</b>	<b>Course Summary.</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>29</b>



**Part I**

**Lecture Note.**



# Chapter 1

## Week 1.

### 1.1 NOTE: NO CLASS.





## Chapter 2

### Week 2.

**2.1 NOTE: NO CLASS.**



## Chapter 3

### Week 3.

#### 3.1 Day 1; 18 August 2025.

##### 3.1.1 Class Introduction & Syllabus.

**Syllabus for  
2410408 Media and Political Imagination, PGS**

1. **Course Number:** 2410408
2. **Course Credits:** 3 Credits
3. **Course Title:** Media and Political Imagination
4. **Faculty/Department:** Politics and Global Studies Program, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University
5. **Semester:** First Semester
6. **Academic Year:** 2025
7. **Instructor:** Associate Professor Surat Horachaikul,  
Email: surat.horachaikul@yahoo.com
8. **Assessment Method:** Letter Grade (A, B+, B, C+, C, D+, D, F)
9. **Type of Course:** Semester Course
10. **Condition:** None
11. **Status:** Compulsory
12. **Curriculum:** Politics and Global Studies (International Program)
13. **Degree:** B.A.
14. **Hours/Week:** 3 Hours: Monday, 09:15 – 12:00 hours
15. **Room:** M Floor, Kasem Udyanin Building, Faculty of Political Science
16. **Course Description:**

Communication among political actors and institutions, and the public; roles of communication and media in politics; election and political campaign, development and public policy process, public opinion; exploration of types, organizations, structure, and process of political communication; relationship of political communication and democracy; interaction among political discourse, political communication and mass media; analysis of important problems and issues in communication and politics.

This course is designed to explore the intersection of political science and media studies, with a particular emphasis on film as a medium of political expression and communication. The content will be structured into two overarching parts:

1. **Political Science Foundations** – This component examines key themes in political communication, including the interaction between political actors, institutions, and the public; the role of communication in elections, campaigns, policy processes, and public opinion; and the relationship between political discourse, democratic development, and governance. Students will engage with theoretical frameworks and case studies to understand how political messages are constructed, disseminated, and received in diverse political contexts.
2. **Film (media) as Political Communication** – The second component focuses on film as a powerful vehicle for political narratives and public persuasion. It will analyze how films reflect, critique, or shape political realities, exploring issues such as representation, ideology, propaganda, and the role of mass media in influencing public attitudes and democratic discourse. Students will critically examine selected films to assess their impact on political understanding and collective memory.

Together, these two components provide an integrated approach, enabling students to critically analyze the dynamic relationship between politics and media and to evaluate the influence of cinematic storytelling on political consciousness and democratic processes.

**17. Course Outline:**

- 
1. *Monday, August 18, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 1)*  
Topic: (1) Politics and Political Science, (2) Theories and (3) Political Ideologies

---

  2. *Monday, August 25, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 2)*  
Topic: (4) States, (5) Rights and (6) Regimes

---

  3. *Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 13:00 – 16:00 hours (make-up) (class 3)*  
Topic: (7) Political Culture, (8) Public Opinion and (9) Political Communication

---

  4. *Monday, September 1, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 4)*  
Topic: (10) Interest Groups, (11) Parties and (12) Elections

---

  5. *Monday, September 8, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 5)*  
Topic: (13) Legislatures, (14) Executives and Bureaucracies and (15) Judiciaries

---

  6. *Monday, September 15, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 6)*  
Topic: (16) Political Economy, (17) Political Violence and (18) International Relations

---

  7. *Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 13:00 – 16:00 hours (make-up) (class 7)*  
Topic: Watching and Analyzing *Gandhi*, *Cinema Paradiso*, and *Full Metal Jacket*

---

  8. *Monday, October 6, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 8)*  
Topic: Watching and Analyzing *Gandhi*, *Cinema Paradiso*, and *Full Metal Jacket*

---

  9. *Monday, October 20, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 9)*  
Topic: Watching and Analyzing *Gandhi*, *Cinema Paradiso*, and *Full Metal Jacket*

---

  10. *Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 13:00 – 16:00 hours (make-up) (class 10)*  
Topic: Watching and Analyzing *Gandhi*, *Cinema Paradiso*, and *Full Metal Jacket*

---

  11. *Monday, October 27, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 11)*  
Topic: Watching and Analyzing *Gandhi*, *Cinema Paradiso*, and *Full Metal Jacket*

---

  12. *Monday, November 3, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 12)*  
Topic: Topic: Watching and Analyzing *Gandhi*, *Cinema Paradiso*, and *Full Metal Jacket*

---

  13. *Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 13:00 – 16:00 hours (make-up) (class 13)*  
Topic: Watching and Analyzing *Gandhi*, *Cinema Paradiso*, and *Full Metal Jacket*

---

  14. *Monday, November 10, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 14)*  
Topic: Individual Term Paper Writing Workshop

---

  15. *Monday, November 17, 2025, 09:00 – 12:00 hours (class 15)*  
Topic: Individual Term Paper Writing Workshop and Revision for the Final Exam
-

**18. Evaluation:**

- Attendance and participation: 30%
  - Individual term paper: 30%
  - Final exam: 40%
- 

**19. Grading Rubric:**

- |      |   |               |
|------|---|---------------|
| • A  | = | 80% and above |
| • B+ | = | 75% – 79%     |
| • B  | = | 70% – 74%     |
| • C+ | = | 65% – 69%     |
| • C  | = | 60% – 64%     |
| • D+ | = | 50% – 54%     |
| • F  | = | Below 50%     |
- 

**20. Details on Each Mode of Evaluation**

- Attendance and participation: 30%  
Attendance accounts for 15% of the final grade. Students who attend all scheduled classes will automatically receive the full score for this component. Absences will only be excused if valid evidence is provided; in the absence of such evidence, students must discuss the matter directly with the instructor. It is the student's sole responsibility to catch up on any missed content, and assistance may be sought from the instructor or classmates.

Class participation also accounts for 15% of the final grade. Active and meaningful engagement in discussions is expected, and students should be prepared to contribute by completing the assigned readings before each session. Students may be called upon to share their perspectives during class, and the quality of participation will be assessed based on clarity of thought, relevance to the discussion, and the ability to support arguments with appropriate references. Students are strongly encouraged to draw upon literature beyond the required readings to enrich the discussion and demonstrate deeper engagement with the subject matter.

- Individual Term Paper (30%)
  - o Each student is required to submit one individual term paper. The guiding question for the paper is:  
“What is your most admired film, and which political theory provides the most compelling framework for interpreting and understanding its themes, narratives, and political imagination?”
  - o For topic approval, students must submit a one-page proposal (A4) that includes the following: (1) Title of the chosen film, (2) Significance of the film (why it is worth studying), (3) Research question(s), (4) Main argument(s), (5) Proposed structure of the paper and (6) Political theory serving as the analytical framework
  - o Format and Length: The paper must be between 3,000- and 3,500-words excluding endnotes and bibliography, typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with standard margins and consistent citation throughout.
  - o Submission: The paper must be submitted by Thursday, December 4, 2025 in PDF format to surat.horachaikul@yahoo.com. The email should include the following:

- Email subject: Submission of Individual Term Paper for GPE
- Email body: I, [Full Name], Student ID [Number], would like to submit the individual term paper for Global Political Economy.
- o Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. Any individual term paper submitted after the deadline will receive a score of zero for this component of the course evaluation.
- o Quality and Research Expectations: The paper must be analytical in nature, with factual material used to support analysis rather than replace it. Arguments must be supported by clear reasoning, evidence, examples, and full academic references. Reliance solely on course readings is insufficient; students are expected to draw on additional scholarly sources. Students are encouraged to seek guidance from the instructor at any stage of the research and writing process.
- o Academic Integrity: Chulalongkorn University's Zero Tolerance Policy on plagiarism applies. Any plagiarism will result, at minimum, in an F for the entire course. The use of artificial intelligence or other automated writing tools to generate or compose any part of the paper is strictly prohibited. Students found using artificial intelligence to generate any part of the paper will receive, at minimum, an F for the entire course.
- o The rubrics for individual term paper are:
  - (1) Topic & Research Question (10%)
    - Clarity and originality of the topic
    - Relevance to the course theme
    - Precision and feasibility of the research question
  - (2) Argument & Thesis (20%)
    - Presence of a clear central argument or thesis
    - Consistency and persuasiveness of the argument
    - Critical engagement with different perspectives
  - (3) Evidence & Research (20%)
    - Use of appropriate and sufficient scholarly sources
    - Balance between theoretical and empirical material
    - Integration of course readings with outside research
  - (4) Analysis & Critical Thinking (20%)
    - Depth of analysis beyond mere description
    - Ability to evaluate evidence and competing arguments
    - Original insights and critical reflections
  - (5) Structure & Organization (10%)
    - Logical flow of introduction, body, and conclusion
    - Clear paragraphing and transitions
    - Coherent structure supporting the argument
  - (6) Writing Style & Language (10%)
    - Precision, clarity, and formal academic tone
    - Proper grammar, spelling, and vocabulary
  - (7) Referencing & Academic Integrity (10%)
    - Consistency in citation style (Chicago)
    - Proper bibliography/works cited
- Final exam (40%)

The final examination will be conducted as a closed-book exam, meaning that students are not permitted to bring any learning materials into the examination

room. The questions will be drawn from all lecture topics covered by the instructor throughout the course. In the final few class sessions, the instructor will provide guidance and hints to help students prepare for the examination.

## **21. Reading List**

### Core Reading

This course will use a single core text: Michael G. Roskin, Robert L. Cord, James A. Medeiros and Walter S. Jones, *Political Science: An Introduction Global Political Economy*, Boston: Longman, 2012. Each lecture topic corresponds directly to a specific chapter in this book, and students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to class.

### Supplementary Readings

The supplementary reading list is organized into two categories:

1. **Lecture-Specific Readings:** Additional materials provided by the instructor during or after each lecture to enhance understanding of the topic.
  2. **Individual Term Paper Readings:** Resources recommended for each approved term paper topic to support research and strengthen the analytical framework.
-



3.1. *DAY 1; 18 AUGUST 2025.*

17

**3.1.2 Politics, and Political Science.**

## **Chapter 1: Politics and Political Science**

### **1. Opening: What is Politics?**

- When most people hear “politics,” they think of elections, campaigns, or corruption.
- But as scholars, we must think more broadly: politics exists wherever decisions are made that affect a group of people.
- Harold Lasswell defined politics as “who gets what, when, and how.” → short, powerful, and captures the essence of distribution of resources and power.
- David Easton went further, calling politics “the authoritative allocation of values for a society.” → values, not just material resources, are distributed.
- Transition: So, politics is not confined to parliaments or governments. It happens in universities, families, even workplaces — anywhere decisions are made collectively.

### **2. Power, Authority, and Legitimacy**

- **Power:** at its simplest, the ability to make others do what they otherwise would not.
  - Example: a government imposing taxes, a teacher enforcing a deadline.
  - Joseph Nye distinguished between hard power (coercion, force, money) and soft power (persuasion, cultural attraction).
- **Authority:** when power is seen as legitimate and rightful.  
Weber gave us three types:
  1. *Traditional* — rooted in custom (monarchies, dynasties).
  2. *Charismatic* — rooted in personality (Gandhi, Mandela, or even Hitler).
  3. *Legal-rational* — based on rules, laws, and bureaucracy (modern democracies).
- **Legitimacy:** crucial. Without it, governments must rely on force, which is costly and unstable.
- Transition: This leads us to the state — the primary arena where authority and legitimacy operate.

### **3. The State**

- A **state** is not just “government.” It is a permanent political-legal entity with:
  - Population
  - Territory
  - Government
  - Sovereignty (both internal and recognition by other states).
- Important distinction: Nation vs. State.
  - Nation: a community with shared culture, history, or identity (e.g., the Kurds, Palestinians).
  - State: the political structure exercising sovereignty.
  - Some nations have no state (Kurds). Some states contain multiple nations (India, UK).
- Transition: Now, how do we study the state and politics scientifically? That brings us to political science as a discipline.

#### 4. Political Science as a Discipline

- Originally, political science focused on institutions: constitutions, parliaments, courts.
- Post-WWII, scholars wanted a more scientific approach → behavioral revolution.
  - Focus shifted to political behavior: voting, protest, opinion surveys.
- Today, political science spans:
  - Political theory and philosophy (what justice and democracy ought to be).
  - Comparative politics (how systems differ).
  - International relations (war, diplomacy, globalization).
  - Public policy and administration.
- Transition: But how do we approach political science? Do we focus on values, on facts, or both?

#### 5. Approaches in Political Science

- **Normative:** “what ought to be” (justice, rights, ideal government).
- **Empirical:** “what is” (measuring voting behavior, party systems).
- **Behavioralism** (1950s–60s): adopted psychology and statistics; emphasized observable behavior.
- **Post-behavioralism** (1970s): reacted to behavioralism’s cold empiricism, demanding research be relevant to human problems.
- Transition: Once we understand these approaches, we can explore *theories* that structure our understanding.

## **Chapter 2: Theories**

### **1. Why Do We Need Theory?**

- Without theory, political science would be a list of events: who won which election, who passed what law.
- Theory helps us:
  - Connect events.
  - Predict behavior.
  - Ask deeper questions about cause and effect.
- Example: Instead of simply noting that some countries are democracies and others are authoritarian, theory asks: Why? What conditions make democracy possible?

### **2. Systems Theory (Easton)**

- Politics as a living system: inputs, conversion, outputs.
- Inputs: demands and support from citizens.
- Conversion: political institutions filter and process these.
- Outputs: policies, decisions.
- Feedback loop: society reacts, influencing the next cycle.
- Example: protests about rising tuition → government policy on subsidies → student reaction → new demands.
- Limitation: Very abstract, sometimes hard to apply.
- Transition: Another perspective is to focus on functions rather than systems.

### **3. Structural-Functionalism**

- Every political system performs certain functions to survive:
  - Rule-making (legislature).
  - Rule-application (executive).
  - Rule-adjudication (courts).
- Advantage: allows cross-country comparison. Even tribal councils and parliaments perform similar roles.
- Limitation: can be too rigid, ignores conflict and change.
- Transition: But politics is not only about institutions — it is also about choices.

### **4. Rational Choice Theory**

- Assumes individuals are rational, self-interested actors.
- Useful in explaining:
  - Why people vote (Anthony Downs: they calculate costs vs. benefits).
  - Why politicians form coalitions (Riker: minimum winning size).
- Criticism: Too narrow; ignores culture, emotions, ideology.
- Transition: To balance this, other theories emphasize values and culture.

### **5. Political Culture**

- *Almond & Verba (1963): The Civic Culture.*
- Types of political culture:
  - *Parochial*: little awareness of politics.
  - *Subject*: aware but passive.
  - *Participant*: active citizens in democracy.
- Example: U.S. high participation vs. traditional monarchies where people are passive.
- Transition: Another set of theories links politics to economic development.

**6. Modernization Theory**

- Argument: as societies industrialize, literacy rises, urbanization increases, middle classes demand democracy.
- Example: South Korea, Taiwan democratized as they developed economically.
- Criticism: assumes Western path is universal; ignores cases like China.
- Transition: Marxists argue instead that economics drives politics in a very different way.

**7. Marxist and Critical Theories**

- Marx: politics is a superstructure reflecting the economic base.
- The state = an instrument of class domination.
- Later Marxists (Gramsci): stressed ideology and “hegemony” — ruling ideas dominate consent.
- Critical theory (Habermas, Frankfurt School): asks how rationality and institutions can serve liberation, not domination.
- Transition: Theories help us analyze politics, but ideologies motivate people to act.

### **Chapter 3: Political Ideologies**

#### **1. What is an Ideology?**

- An ideology is like a roadmap:
  - Explains how society works.
  - Identifies what is wrong.
  - Offers a prescription for change.
- Example: Environmentalism identifies climate change as the problem and prescribes sustainability.

#### **2. Liberalism**

- Core belief: individual liberty.
- Classical liberalism (Locke, Smith): small state, free markets, property rights.
- Modern liberalism (Rawls, Keynes): welfare state, redistribution, social rights.
- Example: U.S. New Deal, UK's NHS.

#### **3. Conservatism**

- Values: tradition, order, continuity.
- Burke: society is an organism; change must be slow and cautious.
- Modern conservatism: free market economics + traditional family/religious values.
- Example: Reagan, Thatcher.

#### **4. Socialism**

- Goal: equality and social justice.
- Democratic socialism: welfare states in Scandinavia.
- Communism: abolition of private property (Marx, Engels).
- Criticism: can stifle innovation, risk authoritarianism.

#### **5. Nationalism**

- Deep emotional attachment to nation.
- Civic nationalism: shared values, citizenship.
- Ethnic nationalism: blood, language, ethnicity.
- Example: Gandhi's Indian nationalism (civic), Nazi Germany (ethnic).

#### **6. Fascism**

- Ultra-nationalist, militaristic, anti-democratic.
- Leader cult, rejection of liberalism.
- Example: Mussolini's Italy, Hitler's Germany.

#### **7. Environmentalism / Green Politics**

- Core concern: climate, sustainability.
- Critiques growth-driven capitalism.
- Now institutionalized in Green parties worldwide.

#### **8. Feminism**

- Liberal feminism: equal rights, equal pay.
- Radical feminism: patriarchy as structural oppression.
- Intersectional feminism: multiple oppressions (gender + race + class).

**9. Contemporary Trends**

- Blurring of left and right (“Third Way” under Tony Blair).
- Rise of populism — both left-wing (Latin America) and right-wing (Trump, Modi, Orbán).
- Identity politics increasingly driving mobilization.

### What the FUCK is politics?

- As scholars, we must think that politics exists where ever decisions are made that affect a group of people.
- Harold Lasswell defined politics as “

### 3.1.3 Power, Authority, and Legitimacy

- Power is the simplest ability to make others do what they otherwise would not.
  - Example: a government imposing taxes, a teacher enforcing a deadline.
  - Joseph Nye distinguished between hard power (coercion, force, money) & soft power (persuasion, cultural attraction)
- Authority: when power is seen as legitimate and rightful.  
Weber gave us three types:
  - Traditional — rooted in custom (monarchies, dynasties).
  - Charismatic — rooted in personality (*Gandhi, Mandela, or **Hitler***)
  - Legal-rational — based on rules, laws, and bureaucracy (modern democracy)
- Legitimacy: **crucial**. without it governments must rely on force, which is costly and unstable.

### 3.1.4 The State

- A state is not just a ”government.” It is a permanent political-legal entity with:
  - population
  - territory
  - government
  - sovereignty (both internal and recognition by other states)
- Important distinction: Nation vs State.
  - Nation: a community with shared culture, history, or identity (e.g., The Kurds, Palestinians).
  - State: the political structure exercising sovereignty.



### 3.1.5 Political Science as a discipline

- Originally, focusing on institution: constitution, parliaments, and courts
- Post-WWII, become more specific approach — behavioral revolution
  - Political behavior: voting, protest, opinion surveys.
- Today, political science spans:
  - Political theory and philosophy —what justice and democracy ought to be
  - Comparative politics —how systems differ
  - International relations —war, diplomacy, globalization
  - Public policy and administration

### 3.1.6 Approaches in Political Science

- Normative: “what ought to be”
- Empirical: “what is”
- Behavioralism (1950s-60s): adopted psychology and statistics; highlighted observable behavior.
- Post-behavioralism (1970s): behavioralisms cold empiricism sparked a demand for research relevant to human problems.



**Part II**

**Course Summary.**



## Chapter 4

## Topic