

**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.
-