

# Hagerstown Community College

## Master Syllabus

**COURSE: POL 103**

**DATE: Fall 2017**

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eric Schwartz**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Mass Media and Democracy is a political science course that examines the relationship between the news media and other institutions that support democratic governance within the United States. While acknowledging that “the media” encompasses communication such as popular music and movies, the course will focus on the news media and its role in the political system of the United States. Rapid changes in communication and the dispersion of information have had profound social, economic, and political consequences. Increasingly the very validity of information has come under scrutiny. Educators have come to recognize the increased importance of teaching students about how to evaluate the veracity and value of information sources. This course will examine how changes in the media have affected US politics and how citizens can improve their level of media literacy.

**TEXTBOOK:** *Mass Media and American Politics (10th Edition) Graber and Dunaway. Sage/CQ Press. Other Material: Lots of media. Posted scholarly papers and media analysis.*

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Understand the interaction of the news media with other democratic political institutions in the United States.
2. Develop and improve skills at assessing validity and veracity of news media information.
3. Argumentation and evaluation of narrative structures.
4. Develop written and oral presentation skills.
5. Acquire knowledge of fundamentals of democratic governance in the United States

### MINIMUM CLOCK HOURS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Direct Faculty Instruction In-Class 37.5 Hours Required</b>	<b>Student Work outside of the Classroom 75 hours required</b>
In-class “lecture”	37.5 hours	

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Direct Faculty Instruction In-Class 37.5 Hours Required</b>	<b>Student Work outside of the Classroom 75 hours required</b>
Reading chapters		15 hours
Quiz/activity for each chapter	Included in lecture time	10 hours prep
Research project		10 hours
4 lecture exams	Included in lecture time	30 hours exam prep
Cumulative final exam (Academic Testing Center)	Included in lecture time	10 hours exam prep
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>37.5 hours</b>	<b>75 hours</b>

*If the course is offered in different formats such as hybrid, on-line, face-to-face a separate "Minimum clock hours" table is required for each format.*

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** Students may receive reasonable accommodations if they have a diagnosed disability and present appropriate documentation. Students seeking accommodations are required to contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) office as early as possible. Students may contact a DSS staff member for an appointment at [dss@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:dss@hagerstowncc.edu) or at 240-500-2530.