

JCOM 648.02/Winter Quarter 2004/History of American Newspaper Political Cartoons
Monday/Wednesday 10:30 am-12:18 pm. 5 U/G credits

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JCOM 648.02 is taught as a seminar for upper level undergraduates and graduate students that meets twice weekly. In this class the history, purpose, form, and spirit of American newspaper political cartoons will be examined. Students are expected to be familiar with and interested in American newspaper political cartoons.

Course Objectives

To provide an introductory survey of the history and development of political cartooning in American newspapers.

To examine the role and functions of political cartoons in newspaper journalism.

To evaluate the impact of political cartoons on readers.

To discuss styles and techniques of cartooning.

To consider the cartoonist's worldview and its relationship to his or her art.

To develop critical judgment and analytical skills.

To strengthen research competence.

Assignments

All readings listed in the syllabus are required. JCOM 648.02 has one textbook: *Drawn and Quartered* by Hess and Northrup (Elliott & Clark, 1996). Other readings (except those that are distributed in class) are on closed reserve in the Fine Arts Library (FIN).

Students are expected to read every assignment prior to class on the day it is listed and to participate in the discussion of all reading assignments. On days when readings are assigned, class members are each required to hand in one written discussion question about some aspect of the day's readings. Questions are due at the beginning of class and must not duplicate questions in the syllabus. Each student should be prepared to ask her/his question in class and lead discussion related to it.

All assignments are to be completed on the date listed in the syllabus.

Grading and Course Requirements

Course grades will be weighted as follows:

Class participation	20% (includes questions on readings)
Tests (2)	30%
Short papers (2)	20%
Research paper	30%

Students are required to attend class, read assignments, participate in discussions, and meet deadlines for handing in assigned work.

Late papers will have one letter grade deducted from the grade of the paper for each day the paper is overdue. Papers may not be submitted electronically.

Each test will consist of ten objective questions (both true/false and multiple choice) and one essay question. In their answers to essay questions, students are expected to synthesize information from readings and classroom presentations into organized and coherent responses. Make-up tests are not offered except in extenuating circumstances.

Research papers must be written on a topic related to the history of American newspaper political cartoons. Specific instructions are given in the handout "JCOM 648.02 Research Papers." Recommended lengths are 10-12 pages for undergraduates and 20 pages for graduate students. After the submission of the required outline, the topic of the paper may not be changed without the permission of the instructor. *Graduate students are required to use primary source materials for their research.*

Students are required to turn in a draft version of their papers. The draft will be graded and returned for possible revision and resubmission. The graded draft must be handed in with the final paper. Neither the draft nor the final version of the research paper may be submitted electronically.

Week 1/M January 5

Introduction to JCOM 648.02

Week 1/W January 7

- "Tammany Tiger Loose" from *The Power of the Press* by Thomas C. Leonard (Oxford: 1986), 97-131
- "Family Tree" by V. C. Rogers from *Hogan's Alley* 6 [handout in class]
- Thomas Nast: Read introduction, biography, timeline, and cartoon portfolio at <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/cgaweb/nast/> Be sure to click on links (for example, the link for wood engraving).

Introduction to the Cartoon Research Library

Week 2/M January 12

- "Practices of Looking: Images, Power and Politics" from *Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture* by Marita Sturken and Lisa Cartwright (Oxford University Press: 2001), 10-43.
- Daniel Riffe et al, "Deciding the Limits of Taste in Editorial Cartooning," *Journalism Quarterly* 64:3 (Summer 1987), 607-610.
- "Feds Target Ramirez," *Notebook of the AAEC* (September 2003). [handout in class]

Slide lecture on political cartoons.

Week 2/W January 14

- Martin J. Medhurst and Michael A. DeSousa, "Political Cartoons as Rhetorical Form: A Taxonomy of Graphic Discourse," *Communication Monographs* 48:3 (September 1981),

197-236.

Bring to class a copy of one editorial cartoon that was produced within the previous two weeks to share using the questions distributed by the instructor. The cartoon can be on any topic that interests you. Cartoons clipped from newspapers or printed from the Web are acceptable. Web sources include the following sites:

Copley: <http://www.copleynews.com/>

Creators: <http://www.creators.com/editorialcartoons.html>

King Features: <http://www.kingfeatures.com/features/edcar/edcar.htm>

United Media/NEA:

<http://www.unitedfeatures.com/ufsapp/viewFeatureList.do?typeId=3>

Universal Press Syndicate: <http://www.amuniversal.com/ups/features/features.htm>.

Daryl Cagle's Professional Cartoonists Index: <http://cagle.slate.msn.com/>

“JCOM 648.02 Research Papers” distributed and discussed.

Sign-up for class presentations on January 21.

Week 3/M January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. No class.

Week 3/W January 21

- Hess & Northrup, 1-51.

Five-minute presentations on cartoonists: Choose a political cartoonist from the following list: Clifford Berryman, Oscar Cesare, Jay Norwood (Ding) Darling, Homer Davenport, Edmund Duffy, Edwina Dumm, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Billy Ireland, Joseph Keppler, Sr., Rollin Kirby, John T. McCutcheon, Robert Minor, Charles Nelan, Frederick Burr Opper, Carey Orr, Joseph Parrish, Art Young, Eugene Zimmerman or any Pulitzer Prize-winner prior to 1950 except Block and Mauldin [see *The Pulitzer Prize Archive: Editorial Cartoon Awards 1922-1997* (AS911.P48P85 1987 on the reference shelf in CGA for a list and information or <http://www.pulitzer.org/> for a chronology of the prizes that lists winners].

Prepare an informal five-minute presentation about your cartoonist that includes biographical information and a summary of the importance of his/her work. Some of these people are also comic strip cartoonists. Do not discuss this aspect of their careers in your presentation.

Week 4/M January 26

- Hess & Northrup, 52-103.

Week 4/W January 28

- Ethnicity and stereotyping file [6 articles: John J. Appel, “Ethnicity in Cartoon Art,” from *Cartoons and Ethnicity*, 13-50;”Sacramento Bee . . .” *Notebook of the AAEC* (Winter

1994); “A PC Debate” by Paul Szep and Dan Wasserman from *Notebook of the AAEC* (spring 1994); “A Bridge that Didn’t Stop Burning” from *Notebook of the AAEC* (September 2003); “The Perils of Imagery” from *Notebook of the AAEC* (September 2003); “Anti-Sharon Political Cartoon Denounced...” from *Forward* (December 2003)].

Slide lecture on ethnicity and stereotyping in political cartoons.

Week 5/M February 2

- Michael A. DeSousa, “Symbolic Action and Pretended Insight: The Ayatollah Khomeini in U.S. Editorial Cartoons” from *Rhetorical Dimensions in Media*, 216-243.

Video in class: *Drawing Conclusions: Editorial Cartoonists Consider Hillary Rodham Clinton* (First Run/Icarus, 1998).

Assignment: Write a brief (maximum length two pages) essay on the use of stereotypes and symbols in political cartoons. Be sure to state convincingly whether or not stereotypes and symbols are necessary components of political cartoons. Are stereotypes and symbols the same things? Why or why not?

Week 5/W February 4

QUIZ: The test will cover classroom presentations plus all reading assignments through February 2.

Sign-up for class presentations on February 11.

Video in class: Jeff MacNelly

Week 6/M February 9

- Hess & Northrup, 104-153.

Turn in a one-page outline of your research paper giving complete bibliographic citations for at least three sources in addition to your textbook.

Video in class: Joel Pett

Week 6/W February 11

Five-minute presentations on cartoonists: Choose a political cartoonist from the following list: Tony Auth, Steve Benson, Herbert Block, Paul Conrad, Jeff Danziger, Jules Feiffer, John Fischetti, George Fisher, Etta Hulme, David Levine, David Low, Mike Luckovich, Doug Marlette, Bill Mauldin, Pat Oliphant, Kate Salley Palmer, Joel Pett, Ted Rall, Mike Ramirez, Ben Sargent, Jeff Stahler, Ann Telnaes, Tom Toles, Signe Wilkinson or any Pulitzer Prize-winner

after 1950 [see *The Pulitzer Prize Archive: Editorial Cartoon Awards 1922-1997* (AS911.P48P85 1987 on the reference shelf in CGA for a list and information or <http://www.pulitzer.org/> for a chronology of the prizes that lists winners].

Prepare an informal five-minute presentation about your cartoonist that includes biographical information and a summary of the importance of his/her work. Some of these people are also comic strip cartoonists. Do not discuss this aspect of their careers in your presentation.

Week 7/M February 16

- Roger A. Fischer, "Cartoon Culture" from *Them Damned Pictures: Explorations in American Political Cartoon Art* by (Archon: 1996), 122-147.
- Denise M. Bostdorff, "Making Light of James Watt: A Burkean Approach to the Form and Attitude of Political Cartoons" from *Rhetorical Dimensions in Media, 196-215*.
- September 11, 2001 file

Week 7/W February 18

- Libel file [3 articles--2 by Chris Lamb: "Drawing the Line: An Absolute Defense for Political Cartoons" and "Bad Times for Cartoonists: 10 Years After the Falwell Decision"; and "Cartoonists and the Law" by Richard Samuel West]

Video in class: *Naji Al-Ali: Artist with a Vision* (First Run/Icarus Films: 1999)

Week 8/M February 23

- Del Brinkman, "Do Editorial Cartoons...Change Opinions?" *Journalism Quarterly* 45:4 (Winter 1968), 724-726.
- LeRoy Carl, "Editorial Cartoons Fail to Reach Many Readers," *Journalism Quarterly* 45:3(Autumn 1968), 533-535.
- Matthew C. Morrison, "The Role of the Political Cartoonist in Image Making," *Central States Speech Journal* (winter 1969), 252-260.

Bring to class a copy of one editorial cartoon related to the 2004 Presidential primaries that was produced within the previous two week. Cartoons clipped from newspapers or printed from the Web are acceptable. See January 14 for a list of Web sources. Be prepared to discuss the cartoon in terms of the three articles assigned for today.

Week 8/W February 25

- Alan Prendergast, "Penguins and Pulitzers," *Washington Journalism Review* 9:8 (spring 1987), 19-25.
- *Hoo-Boy: Morrie Brickman's The Small Society* [handout in class]

Video in class: Garry Trudeau

Week 9/M March 1

Write a brief (maximum length two pages) essay on the role and function of contemporary political cartoons. Why do newspapers print them? Are features such as “The Small Society” and “Doonesbury” political cartoons? Be specific in your comments. Be prepared to discuss your ideas in class.

Video in class: Pat Oliphant

Week 9/W March 3 No class.

First drafts of research papers due at the instructor’s office no later than 5 p.m. today.

Week 10/M March 8

Oral presentations on research papers.

Week 10/W March 10

QUIZ: The test will cover classroom presentations and all reading assignments since February 4.

Graded drafts of research papers returned.

Guest lecture: James Larrick, political cartoonist, *Columbus Dispatch*, and former president of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists

Week 10/F March 12

Graded quizzes may be picked up at the Cartoon Research Library desk between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Exam week/M March 15

Research papers due at the instructor’s office by 5 p.m. Draft versions must be handed in with the final versions. You may pick up your graded research paper at the Cartoon Research Library desk on or after the first day of Spring Quarter classes.

This syllabus can be made available upon request to students who need it in alternative formats. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and for seeking available assistance in a timely manner.