



University
of Victoria

POLI 323: Politics on Screen

Instructor Fall 2022: Dr. Wilfrid Greaves

Course delivery: POLI 323 will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:

As visual media are ubiquitous in the modern world, they provide valuable opportunities to examine various issues related to contemporary global politics. As popular categories of commercial, artistic, and semiotic texts, film and television can particularly affect personal and collective understandings of social and political issues in distinct ways. This course explores four distinct functions that visual media – including historical dramatization, fiction, and science fiction – can play in relation to political science and international relations: they can depict real world events, debate current issues, reflect specific political theories, or represent cultural narratives which reproduce or challenge personal and collective identities. The course examines different theoretical perspectives for understanding the political function and significance of visual media, and uses specific film and television productions/texts to explore four sets of issues related to contemporary global politics: Euro-American imperialism, United Nations peacekeeping, climate change, and interstate competition.

Prerequisites: POLI240 recommended

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Learn different theoretical perspectives on media, society, and politics
- Learn different pedagogical and teaching functions of visual media in political science
- Learn different key issues related to contemporary global politics, including key cases and examples from 20th and 21st century history
- Develop critical thinking and analysis skills related to the representation of political issues in visual media
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion

Topics may include:

Politics on film and television

Literary, constructivist, and post-structural theories of media, society, and politics

Issues related to global politics: Euro-American imperialism, United Nations peacekeeping, climate change, and interstate competition

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.