

CMN 529:
Political Economy of Communication
Fall 2010

5:00-7:50PM Wednesday
1207 W. Oregon, Urbana
Room 105
Prof. Robert W. McChesney
rwmchesney@gmail.com

CMN 529 is an introductory graduate research seminar on the political economy of the communication, with particular emphasis on the United States. The purpose of the class is to: provide general contours of the subfield of the political economy of communication; acquaint students with McChesney's recent and current research; and assist students conceptualize, organize, research and write first-rate research papers in the political economic tradition.

The following books are assigned for the class. They are (hopefully) available at University Bookstore. ***If the bookstore does not have the book, you are expected to locate it online, or elsewhere. The ball is in your court.*** Used editions of some of the books should be available. The books are, in order of assignment:

1. Robert W. McChesney, *Communication Revolution* (New Press, 2007).
2. Robert W. McChesney & John Nichols, *The Death and Life of American Journalism* (Nation Books, 2010).
3. Paul A. Baran & Paul M. Sweezy, *Monopoly Capital* (Monthly Review Press, 1966).
4. Lewis Hyde, *Common as Air: Revolution, Art and Ownership* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010).
5. Yochai Benkler, *The Wealth of Networks* (Yale UP, 2006)
6. David Harvey, *The Enigma of Capital* (London: Profile Books, 2010).

Week 1 (A25): Introduction

Week 2 (S1): readings: McChesney, *Communication Revolution*

Week 3 (S8): readings: McChesney & Nichols, *The Death and Life of American Journalism*

Week 4 (S15): readings: Baran & Sweezy, *Monopoly Capital*

Week 5 (S22): readings: *Monthly Review* essays

Week 6 (S29): readings: Hyde

Week 7 (O6): meetings with Bob to discuss research papers

Week 8 (O13): research paper proposals due; class critique session

Week 9 (O20): readings: Benkler

Week 10 (O27): no class; work on papers—Bob available for meetings

Week 11 (N3): no class; work on papers—Bob available for meetings

Week 12 (N10): readings: Harvey

Week 13 (N17): no class; work on papers—Bob available for meetings

Week 14 (No Class: Thanksgiving):

Week 15 (D1): no class; papers due Friday December 3

Week 16 (D8): presentation of papers with respondents