

SMPA 710.MV: Media, Democracy and The Development of Culture(s)

Social and Behavioral Sciences GCR
In ACAD 329, W 9:30 to 12:00
CRN: 36252
(freshmen only)

Critics blame the American mass media for being too liberal, too conservative, too biased, too invasive, too irresponsible and too passive. So which is it? Do the media create our culture or simply mirror it? Do they control political elections or facilitate them? What influence, if any, does the public have on the content of the mass media, and how do the media affect people's lives? Do we get the information we need to make informed decisions and work towards a better society, or are we all just victims of Hollywood and Madison Avenue? These are just a few of the questions we'll discuss in "Information, Democracy and Culture". Whether you intend to create media products or just consume them – you'll never look at news stories, sitcoms, crime dramas, Internet sites, talk shows or any other media product in the same way again.

Patricia Phalen has been at George Washington University for four years. She is an Assistant Professor of Media and Public Affairs and the Director of Graduate Studies. She teaches in the undergraduate and graduate programs in SMPA, and will teach two freshmen seminars in the fall.