

Fall 2021
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Thursday 12:30 – 3:20 pm
ASC 207

COMM 400: MEDIA AND ACTIVISM

Section #20612R

Course Description

Although the relationship between political activism and the mass media is as old as the mass media, it is often argued that the media have taken over the public sphere to the extent that effective movements for social and political change are doomed to struggle in arenas created and controlled by mass media. This seminar will focus on the history and current forms of public combat as they are shaped by - and in reaction to - the mass media. Beginning with a consideration of the close relations between mass media and political movements in earlier centuries, we will move to such contemporary examples as environmentalism, anti-racism, and pro/anti-abortion activism, the tactical constraints facing marginal political groups, and the role of the internet in grassroots politics. The explosion of social media and other “horizontal” organizing in the era of Black Lives Matter and Q-Anon.