

The Press, the Public and Politics
Final Exam Study Guide

Our final is scheduled for Friday, 19 December at 10:30 am. You may also take the exam at the following times:

Monday 15 December 8:00 am K-114
Monday 15 December 1:00 pm K-116
Tuesday 16 December 8:00 am K-114
Friday 19 December 10:30 am K-114 <-- official time

Some of the questions below have a reasonable chance of appearing on the final exam.

1. Looking back at the 2008 presidential election, how would you rate the media's performance in the election?
2. This past week, the Tribune Company (owner of the LA Times, the Chicago Tribune, among other newspapers) filed for bankruptcy. While the newspaper industry seems to be on life support, internet news sources seem to be poised to fill the gap. As more of us come to rely on on-line sources for information, do you see this as a positive development for American politics?
3. Does the increased concentration of media ownership within a relatively few number of corporations impact American politics for better or worse?
4. Of the various theories on media influence we've discussed in class, which did you find most persuasive and why?
5. Describe your vision for the ideal role of the media in political democracy and assess the extent to which the current media conform to that vision.