Welcome Week 2019
[micro]SEMINARS

Trump, Fake News and the Image of the News Media in Popular Culture

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Abstract
In the age of Trump, where does the consumer find reliable, accurate and fair news and information if the public does not trust the news media and believes that mainstream journalists deal in “fake” news that is corrupted and not to be believed? The image of the news media and journalists in popular culture is one way to navigate through the muddy waters of how the public is informed in the 21st century. By looking at the image of the journalist in movies, television, novels and other aspects of popular culture, we can see how and why the public bases its impressions and understanding of what the news media are and how they function. The micro-seminar will explore all of this with video clips and open discussion.

SYLLABUS: Part One: Thursday, August 22, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Introduction to the image of the news media as depicted in movies and on television and what these images mean to our American democracy. Analysis of the image of the journalist and discussion. Where does your concept of the news media come from? Part Two: Friday, August 23, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. The division in America over who to believe when it comes to news and information. “Fake News.” What happens if the public does not trust the mainstream media? What are the other sources of information? What are YOUR sources of information? What news media do you trust and why?

Faculty Biography
Joe Saltzman, the director of the Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture (IJPC) and the author of "Heroes and Scoundrels: The Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture" and "Frank Capra and the Image of the Journalist in American Film," is an award-winning journalist and professor of journalism and communication at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California. He has just completed his 51st consecutive year of teaching at USC Annenberg and is winner of the national Scripps-Howard Journalism and Mass Communication Professor of the Year.