

UC SANTA BARBARA

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Media Politics is Topic of UCSB Lecture by Leading Media Critic Robert McChesney

The Center for Film, Television and New Media at UC Santa Barbara will present a free public lecture by Robert McChesney, one of the nation's leading media researchers and analysts, on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 3 p.m. in the Corwin Pavilion at UCSB.

McChesney's pioneering work focuses on the history and political economy of communication, emphasizing the role media play in democratic and capitalist societies. At UCSB, he will lecture on "Media Politics in the United States Today."

A research professor at the Institute of Communications Research and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, McChesney has written or edited eight books and more than 120 journal articles on media and politics.

He has appeared on PBS on Frontline and NOW with Bill Moyers.

His most recent book, "The Problem of the Media: U.S. Communications Politics in the 21st Century," examines the decline in hard news, the growth of "info-tainment" and "advertorials," staff cuts, concentration of ownership, and the suppression of genuine debate.

It provides a comprehensive critique of journalism with a detailed analysis of contemporary media policies and practices.

Historian Howard Zinn said that McChesney in "The Problem of the Media" follows in the great tradition of Upton Sinclair, George Seldes, I. F. Stone, and Ben Bagdikian in exposing the ruthless hold of corporate power on the nation's media.

The UCSB lecture is also sponsored by the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life, the Arthur N. Rupe Chair in the Social Effects of Mass Communication, the Critical Issues in America Endowment in the College of Letters and Science, the Department of Film Studies, and the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center.

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