Sociology of Media
Prof. Dr. Joost van Loon
Fridays, 10.00 – 11.30 am
KGA-103

Summary of the course:
With the advent of modern industrial societies in the 19th century, media have really become an all pervasive-social force. First in the form of transport (in particular the steam engine) and soon followed by communication media, such as the telegraph and telephone, industrial society in Western Europe and North America took shape as a world of high mobility of goods and (some) people, as well as increasingly wide-ranging and accelerating forms of communication (e.g. Giddens, 1990; Harvey, 1989). With the advent of radio and television alongside newspapers, one could argue, mass media emerged as a set of technologies capable not only of facilitating the communication between people across wider distances in shorter time, but also the broadcasting of information from very few to very many people. In particular since the Second World War, modern societies across the globe have been caught up in this process of mediatization. The aims of the course are as follows: (1) To show how mediated communication affects the world we inhabit. (2) To show how abstractions such as politics and culture are communicatively realized through the deployment of media technologies

Key Readings: