From World War II to the Cold War. From the September 11 attacks through Afghanistan and the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and through many global events small and large in between, governments have exercised their power over media to influence public opinion, both at home and abroad.

This short course will explore through examples how propaganda is created and why it is effective, who uses it - and why. We’ll see how "news" media become collaborators in influence campaigns and how media sometimes resist.

Topics will include Nazi propaganda masters, The Pentagon Channel, the politics of war-making, contemporary social media and internet campaigns and the role played by diplomats and by Hollywood in supporting their own countries.

This course will include some disturbing - but real world - content. Although primarily lecture format, some discussion may be possible, depending on the size of the class.

Presented by emeritus UD professor and former CNN journalist Ralph Begleiter.