**Final Paper (first semester) for the Year-long Course “Communication, Society, and Politics”**

Department of Communication

Dr. Bina Nir

The paper must be submitted as a Word file sent in a personal email to the lecturer: binan@yvc.ac.il. Please indicate the names of the submitters in the file name. **The deadline for submission is up to four weeks after the last lesson in the course that takes place on 15.2.2021**.

Students submitting individually must choose three of the following seven assignments; those submitting in pairs must choose four of the seven.

Students may refer to all the material studied during the semester. In addition to proficiency and understanding, students will be tested on critical thinking, richness of examples, and originality. It is also important for students to base their answers on reading material assigned in class where relevant.

Each assignment should take up no more than 1-2 pages, preferably in 12-point David font with 1.5 line spacing.

1. In his book *1984* George Orwell describes the methods of totalitarianism: technological control, control of language, history, war, etc. Introduce key ideas in this book and the role that mass media plays in this book. Describe the extent to which you think Orwellian mechanisms of control currently exist in today’s “free” societies. Explain your answer, giving current examples.
2. Present, in general terms, the neo-Marxist doctrine of Herbert Marcuse in his book *The One-Dimensional Man*. Express your personal opinion and provide current examples.
3. If you were the editor of a newspaper or television newscast operating in a liberal democratic state, do you think you would be able to function in accordance with the ideal Platonic regime described in Plato’s *Republic* (Politeia)? Justify and explain your answer.
4. Describe what the relationship between the government and mass media systems might look like if the modern government acted on Machiavelli's advice.
5. Present key ideas in Frantz Fanon’s thinking. Which of these ideas do you think accurately reflects the current socio-political reality in Israel or in the world? With which ideas do you disagree? In light of his thinking, how do you think it is possible to work towards changing this socio-political reality, in relation to minority groups?
6. Choose two approaches from those we learned in our study of leadership, and use them to explain the current political reality in the State of Israel.
7. Chomsky points an accusing finger at Western intellectuals and claims that they have an inherent responsibility over their writing and other creative endeavors. Do you agree with his claims? What does he mean by responsibility? Illustrate your answer with current examples.

I am available to answer your questions. Good luck. I hope that the second half of the course will be taught on campus.

Bina