

**JOUR 4750-- Perspectives on International Media
SPRING 2015**

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Office Hours: (There is a sign-up sheet for office hours on my office door, but you can also just show up if you are willing to take the chance that you might have to wait)

Monday, 9 to 11 a.m.
Tuesday, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, 9 to 11 a.m.
And by appointment

Course Goals:

This course gives us an opportunity to explore how the American press system fits into the larger global media environment. To achieve that end, we will explore how media systems differ, how other media systems function, and how American media interact with the rest of the world. For the most part, we will concentrate on issues directly concerned with how media systems deal with journalism issues and issues that provide a context for better understanding of press systems.

When we finish the class, you will know more about other countries in the world, be more sensitive to how differently people in other countries view press issues, and be a more educated consumer of American news coverage of the rest of the world.

While the texts for the class concentrate on the views of American scholars and journalists who are concerned with mainstream international press issues, effort will be made throughout to heed the views of people in the U.S. and in other countries who take different perspectives as the result of diverse ethnic, racial or political perspectives.

Learning outcomes:

By the time we finish the semester, you should know more about the world beyond the United States than you did when you started the course. In addition, you should go away with a better understanding of the dynamics that affect how US media cover global news stories, for better and worse. By researching, reading, writing and blogging about international media topics, you will develop some lasting knowledge and establish some personal research skills that will stand you in good stead wherever you end up as you go on in your education and profession. You will have a chance to explore topics that were beyond your knowledge before we started the class, and

perhaps you will even share some of what you learn with others. Finally, the semester will give you a chance to develop blogging skills that are now expected by employers in journalism and many other information fields. If you were an experienced blogger entering this class, you will get the time and support to exercise your skills exploring a serious topic that will give you a chance to demonstrate your abilities to prospective employers or graduate school admissions committees.

Required Texts:

Readings assigned for class should be completed before that class begins because discussion and activities in class will be based on the materials covered by the readings. These required texts are available from the BGSU Bookstore and where possible are already on reserve at the library, or are available via OhioLINK. Other readings will be made available online on the class Canvas site. (This includes the books included on the list of options for the book report.)

William Hachten and James Scotton, *World News Prism: Challenges of Digital Communication*, ISBN 1444338587, Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Mort Rosenblum, *Little Bunch of Madmen: Elements of Global Reporting*, 2010, ISBN 0982590822, de. Mo Design Limited.

Dunsky, Marda. Pens and Swords: How the American Mainstream Media Report the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. ..

An additional book of your choosing from the list under "book report" below.

In the past the *New York Times* was available in residence halls free of charge, at the bookstore at the Union for a reduced cost for the semester, and *on-line* for no charge. Now you can still read it at the library for free, and you can get so many stories a month free online, and after that you have to pay, BUT there are ways around that - so we will talk. Updated international news coverage can also be found if you visit the blog I am keeping for the class at <http://jour4750.blogspot.com/> -- your blogs will all feed into this page so you will also be helping each other.

Course Grade:

Your final grade for the course will be arrived at according to the following formula:

Country report	15 percent
Attendance & performance	15 percent
Book report	15 percent
Research project	15 percent
Tests	20 percent
Blogging	20 percent
Current Events Quizzes	Bonus Credit

Grading Guidelines:

All written assignments (whether on paper or online) will be graded for content, as well as for grammar, spelling and style. They should be clearly written, well organized, and comply with basic rules of grammar and style.

All written assignments turned in on paper should be typed, double-spaced, and turned in on time. Late assignments will be docked at least a grade. You should refer to Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations* for guidance on how to handle citations, bibliography, etc. You can find these guidelines on line as the Chicago/Turabian style.

All blog assignments need to be well written, grammatical and follow the conventions for good writing on the web. (There will be instructions available online for you to refer to.)

Though I may decide to drop a grade or two at the end, you must complete all the assignments and take all the tests to have any grades dropped. You will be allowed to rewrite the country report and/or the book report, but rewrites must be turned in by April 25 in order to count. You must complete all assignments and take all three the tests in order to pass the class.

Attendance and Preparation:

You are expected to attend every class and to arrive in class prepared to discuss the assigned readings -- whether orally or on paper. Fifteen percent of the course grade will be based on your attendance and informed participation.

Office hours provide an opportunity for you to discuss any problems that may arise as you tackle the both the readings and the written assignments.

Exams and Quizzes:

There will be three exams. The exams will cover 1) the material you read for class, 2) the material covered in class sessions I run, and, 3) material covered during videos, material in presentations made by guests, or those made by members of the class. The first two tests will be a combination of short identification questions, fill-in-the-blanks, and essays questions. The third test will take a different format. While all of them will build on knowledge learned throughout the semester, none of them are cumulative *per se*.

Tests will take place on February 25, March 25, and May 7 during the final exam period. Make-up exams will be all essay questions and will be given ONLY if you notified me before the test about why you couldn't attend class that day and I agreed that your excuse was valid.

Current Events Quizzes:

Current events quizzes will take place at the start of class each Wednesday and will cover the international news content of the *New York Times* and whatever else is happening in the world. (You will find that listening to the news on public radio or watching television news regularly will also help you stay on top of what's happening in the world. You can also check the news feeds on my blog!) In class we will talk about how to read the paper and what sections of the paper you will want to read regularly.

The purpose of the current events quizzes is to get you up-to-date on what's happening in the world and also to get you in the habit of paying attention to international news, both particularly important goals for the duration of this class.

The *New York Times* is available at a discount for you because you are students. Check it out at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/subscriptions/edu/lp1999.html?campaignId=38Y76>

Since the current event quizzes are worth bonus credit, they can add to your final grade but not deduct from it.

Country Report:

The country report will be turned in *via canvas* but you will also need to bring a paper copy to class with you. It is due by noon on Feb. 11. The written report should be at least 5 pages and no more than 10 pages long.

The purpose of the report is for you to get to know another country. In addition, because you will share your report with your classmates, you will be helping them expand their knowledge of other parts of the world.

Your job is to write a paper that would provide a brief but invaluable tool for an editor faced with coordinating deadline coverage of a major event in your country, that a public relations officer might use to brief a client interested in doing business there, or that might help a journalist heading off to cover a big story there.

You will share your findings with your classmates. **Detailed Instructions for the assignment can be found in the "assignments" section of the class canvas site.**

Book Report:

You will read a book of your choosing and write a report that will be due by noon on April 8. You will turn it in *via canvas*. More detailed instructions will be handed out in class, but the report will be 5 to 8 pages long, and should address several points, including: what the book was about, how it relates to what we've talked about in class, what you learned from reading it, and whether or not you would recommend it to someone else to read.

By March 11 you will need to turn in a short proposal of what book your plan to read. If you think you would like to read a book other than those on this list, you should discuss it with me before you turn in the proposal.

Detailed instructions for the assignment can be found in the "assignments" section of the class canvas site.

You may choose from among the following list of books. I would be glad to talk to you about your interests and make a recommendation or two. Many of them will be on reserve at Jerome Library. Some of those in print have been ordered in limited number by the BGSU bookstore. You can also borrow books from OhioLink or find out of print books through Amazon.com, abebooks.com, or one of the other on-line sources.

Maziar Bahari, *And Then They Came For Me*, Random House, 2011.

Jon Lee Anderson, *The Lion's Grave: Dispatches from Afghanistan*, Grove, 2003.

Richard Engel, *War Journal: My Five Years in Iraq*, Simon & Schuster, 2011.

Dexter Filkins, *The Forever War*, Vintage, 2009.

Herbert N. Foerstel, *Killing the Messenger; Journalists at Risk in Modern Warfare*, Praeger, 2006.

Anne Garrels, *Naked in Baghdad*, Picador, 2004.

Philip Howard and Muzammil Hussain, *Democracy's Fourth Wave? Digital Media and the Arab Spring*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

Mike Hoyt. *Reporting Iraq: An Oral History of the War by the Journalists Who Covered it*. Melville House, 2007.

Neil MacFarquhar, *The Media Relations Department of Hizbollah Wishes You a Happy Birthday*, PublicAffairs, 2009.

Donald Matheson and Stuart Allen, *Digital War Reporting*, Polity, 2009

Brigitte Nacos, *Selling Fear: Counterterrorism, the Media, and Public Opinion*, University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Anna Politkovskaya, *A Small Corner of Hell: Dispatches from Chechnya*, Univ. of Chicago, 2007.

Anthony Shadid, *Night Draws Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War*, Holt, 2005.

Meagan Stack, *Every Man in this Village is a Liar: An Education in War*. Anchor, 2011.

Jamie Tarabay, *A Crazy Occupation: Eyewitness to the Intifada*, Allen & Unwin, 2005.

Blogging:

Blogging is important for this class because international news has developed a second-life on the web, particularly on blogs, where reporters share details of breaking news and also what is called the “backstory” to their reporting—their experiences on the ground, as well as the human interest and other aspects of the news that might not fit their stories.

Given the growing importance of blogging, I want you to pay attention to the blogging done in connection to international news and think and write

about it yourself. Thus, I will ask that you set up your own blog and that you periodically look in on your classmates' work.

There will be several small assignments to get us warmed up--thinking about blogs and finding topics, styles, and confidence. You must provide me with a blog address by start of the second week of classes. There are five additional small assignments—while they need to be cogent and to the point, none needs to be long: 1) find blog authored by a journalist or about journalism (an international correspondent, a war correspondent, a photographer, a videographer, the Committee to Protect Journalists all and more produce blogs) and analyze what makes the blog different from journalism itself (at least 150 words, submitted via canvas) due by Jan. 18 ; 2) identify a topic for your own blog, set up a blog and write a sample post to share with your classmates, due by Jan 28- post a copy on canvas for me but bring several copies to share with classmates; 3) by Feb 8, you should have a report on your efforts to post on your own blog and reply to your classmates' blog posts; 4: a progress report on your blogging activities, due March 29; 5) a final assessment of your blogging efforts, due April 26.

We may decide as a class that you want to post your country reports, book reports and research reports on the blogs so that your classmates and other can read them.

We will talk in class about the specifics of assignment; but while I don't require you to take up a new life as a blogger on international news topics, I want you pay attention to the blogging as well as the hard news coverage coming from those correspondents, etc. At three points in the semester I will review your blogging for content and writing, unless otherwise noted those points will come around Jan. 30, Feb. 28, March 31, and May 1.

Research Project:

Your research project is due *via canvas* by noon on April 17 but you should also plan to present your findings to your colleagues so you will want to bring a paper copy with you to class.

The topic of the final projects will arrived at through a process of discussion and negotiation - you will come up with an idea and run it by me for approval. Where necessary we will focus, expand or alter the topic so that it is doable within the time available to you and with the resources available at BGSU. *A brief proposal for your final project is due on March 18.*

Topics may range from explorations of particular international journalism issues to examinations of a particular foreign correspondent's work to discussion of the issues involved in covering a particular international event or a type of international reporting.

You may choose to work on your own or you may opt to work with one or two classmates. If choose to work together your project needs to be larger than what an individual would do. In addition, it must be easily divided into areas of separate responsibility so that each group member can be graded on his or her contribution.

Detailed Instructions for the assignment can be found in the “assignments” section of the class Canvas site.

You will share your research findings with your classmates in class during the last meetings of the class. While a bad presentation cannot hurt your grade; a good presentation may very well help you.

Academic Honesty:

You are expected to be aware of the rules of academic conduct and act accordingly.

This means that all the work you turn in for this class should be your own. This means that where the works of other people have helped you arrive at your ideas you have cited them correctly; and, that where you are quoting or paraphrasing the words of others – whether spoken or written you have given them credit. I am always much more interested in your own ideas than in the ideas of some expert that you might “borrow.”

The fact that we will be blogging will make it even more important that we provide information about where we find our information, photos, etc.

Citing other people’s work correctly can get complicated, particularly when you are drawing on references from the World Wide Web. Knowing how to do it whether you are citing an idea from a book or a web page is easier to do correctly if you know how. If you need help you will find it in Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. In addition, you should always feel free to come by during office hours to get help.

You can find further information on academic honesty and plagiarism in the student code. Here is the Department of Journalism policy regarding plagiarism shows up at the end of this syllabus.

Class Readings & Assignment Schedule:

All readings should be done by the class for which they are assigned because they provide the context for the in-class lectures, discussions and other activities.

Jan. 12 - Course Introduction

PART I - News and Global Media

Jan. 12 - Hachten, Chapter 1

Jan. 14 - Hachten, Chapter 2

COUNTRY REQUEST

DUE

Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Jan. 21 - Hachten, Chapter 7

Jan. 26 - Hachten, Chapter 8

Jan. 28 - Hachten, Chapter 9

Feb. 2 - Hachten, Chapter 3

Feb. 4 - Hachten, Chapter 4

Feb. 9 - Hachten, Chapter 5

Feb. 11 - **Country Report Presentations**

COUNTRY

REPORTS DUE

Feb. 16 - **Country Report Presentations**

Feb. 18 - **Country Report Presentations**

Feb. 23 - Review

Feb. 25 - **Test 1**

Part II -- Covering the World for America

March 2 - Rosenblum, pp. 6-29

March 4 - Rosenblum, pp. 30-65

March 9 & 11 - Spring Break

March 16 - Rosenblum, 66-153

March 18 - Rosenblum, 154-251

RESEARCH PROJECT

PROPOSALS DUE

March 23 - Guest Speaker

March 25 - Debriefing on speaker

Part III – Media & News of the Middle East

March 30– Hachten, Chapter 5 **Video “Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think”**

April 1 – Hachten, 11; Dunsky, Intro & Chapter 1

April 6 – Take-home 2 due

April 8 – Dunsky, Chapter 2

April 13 – Dunsky, Chapter 3

BOOK REPORT DUE

April 15 – Dunsky, Chapter 4 & 5

April 20 – Dunsky, Chapter 6 & 7

April 22 – **RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

April 27 – **RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

April 29 – **RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

RESEARCH

PROJECT DUE

Final Exam Period: Thursday, May 7 -- 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM & PUBLIC RELATIONS
POLICY ON PLAGIARISM**

August 15, 1986

1. BGSU STUDENT CODE: This statement supplements the BGSU student code; it is not intended to exclude any requirement appearing in the Student Code, not to exclude other reasonable expectations for honest behavior. Journalism students are responsible for knowing what is in the Student Code (which is published by the Vice President for Student Affairs) and the Department of Journalism and Public Relations' Policy on Plagiarism.

2. DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM: This department subscribes to the following statement, adapted from that of another university (Montana), which states: "Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden."

At BGSU, students who plagiarize are subject to penalties described in the Student Code, ranging from failure on the assignment to dismissal from the university.

"Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgement [in student academic work] of whatever is not one's own work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one's own original work is plagiarism."

3. APPLICATIONS: The following are specific applications of the plagiarism definition to practice in the Department of Journalism and Public Relations:

- a. Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor, a student shall not submit as his/her original work in any class any work which wholly or in part was performed by another person. Any material taken from another person, whether in an interview or published form, must be quoted or paraphrased accurately and fairly, and the source must be accorded full and clear attribution.

Furthermore, a student shall not submit any work which the student himself/herself performed for any other purpose, such as another class, an extracurricular activity (such as The BG News, Miscellany, The Key, and so on), or an internship or employment situation. Any exceptions to this rule must be clearly and explicitly stated in advance for each assignment, by the instructor.

- b. Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor, students must work independently on take-home examinations. Consultation with each other or other individuals is forbidden.
- c. Use of professional term paper services - sometimes known as "research services" - is always forbidden.

4. ENFORCEMENT: *The Department of Journalism and Public Relations regards ethical behavior to be a cornerstone of professional practice in mass communication. The department will actively enforce this policy*

5. **REVISION: This policy is subject to periodic revisions, which will be posted for viewing in the Department of Journalism and Public Relations.**