

COURSE SYLLABUS

International Journalism

JRN 323

Spring 2017

Mon 14:45-17:30

Lecturer: Andrew Giarelli, Ph.D.

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Office hours: Wednesdays 12-2 p.m. in Faculty Lounge, Room 4.17/18

Semester Credits	3	Language of Instruction	English
ECTS	6	Level	Intermediate
Length	15 weeks	Pre-requisites	None
Contact hours	42 hours	Course type	JC, PS, Elective

This syllabus is subject to change.

1. Course Description

This course introduces students to the history and current practice of international journalism. Students use classic as well as contemporary examples of international reporting as models for their own writing assignments. Students will also analyze coverage of a major current international news story, Russia's propaganda war.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and use international reporting and writing techniques
- Analyze coverage of a major ongoing international news story,
- Place current international journalism into historical context

3. Required Materials

Textbook: Kerrane, Kevin and Yagoda, Ben. *The Art of Fact*. New York: Scribner, 1997. **Copies are available in the library for each class member to check out for the semester. Please bring this textbook to every class unless directed otherwise.**

Online readings: These are found in "Course Materials" on the Course Director site.

Handouts: You are responsible for getting and keeping all in-class handouts and for bringing them to class when necessary.

4. Teaching methodology

Besides guiding in-class discussion, I shall lecture and ask individual students questions, and seek out questions from the class as I lecture. You are expected to actively discuss the readings. I will give short factual quizzes on them at the start of many classes.

5. Course Schedule

Week 1 (Feb. 13): Reading the Day's International Coverage from the Journalist's Viewpoint

Week 2 (Feb. 20): Pioneers

READ:

Mitchell Stephens, *A History of News*, Chapter 9, "The 'Expectation' of News" (on NEO site, "Resources")

Richard Harding Davis, "The Death of Rodriguez" (in Yagoda and Kerrane, pp. 71-75).

Ernest Hemingway, *Byline* excerpts from early 1920s reporting on Turkish revolution and refugees (on NEO site, "Resources").

Week 3 (Feb. 27): Finding Cultural Difference

READ:

George Orwell, "Marrakech" (in Yagoda & Kerrane, pp. 433-438)

Rebecca West, from *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*, (in Yagoda & Kerrane, pp. 452-457)

In-Class Quiz on Reading

Week 4 (March 6): Sex**READ:**

Rosemary Mahoney, from *Whoredom in Kimmage* (in Yagoda & Kerrane, pp. 367-383)

Iva Skoch, "Bride Kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan"; "Gay-For-Pay In Prague"; "Penis Worship in Bhutan" (on NEO site, "Resources").

Week 5 (March 13): Battle**READ:**

Michael Herr, from *Dispatches* (in Yagoda and Kerrane, pp. 494-506)

Bill Buford, from *Among the Thugs* (in Yagoda & Kerrane, pp. 354-366)

In-Class Quiz On Reading**Midterm Writing Assignment Rough Draft Due****Week 6 (March 20): War's Impact On Civilians, 1930s-1940s****READ:**

Ernest Hemingway, "War Is Reflected Vividly In Madrid" (on course website)

Martha Gellhorn, "The Third Winter" (in Yagoda & Kerrane, pp. 422-432)

John Hersey, from *Hiroshima* (in Yagoda & Kerrane, pp. 111-114)

Week 7 (March 27): War's Impact On Civilians, 1980s-1990s**READ:**

Svetlana Alexiyevich, from *Boys in Zinc* (in Yagoda & Kerrane, pp. 536-548)

Slavenka Drakulic, *Balkan Express*, pp. 49-75 (on course website)

In-Class Quiz on Reading**Week 8 (April 3)****Field Trip: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Russian Section****Midterm Writing Assignment Due****Week 9 (April 10)****Revolution****READ:**

Alan Levy, excerpt from *Rowboat To Prague*, Chaps. 12-14, pp. 307-355 (on course website)

John Simpson, "Tiananmen Square" (in Yagoda & Kerrane, pp. 347-353)

In-Class Quiz on Reading

Week 10 (April 17): NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (April 24) Russia

READ:

David Remnick, *Resurrection: The Struggle For A New Russia*, Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-83. On NEO site.

In-Class Quiz on Reading

Week 12 (May 1): NO CLASS: HOLIDAY

Week 13 (May 8): NO CLASS: HOLIDAY

Week 14 (May 15): Russia

READ: Anna Politkovskaya, *Putin's Russia: Life in A Failing Democracy*. "My Country's Army and Its Mothers," pp. 1-24; "Akaky Akakievich Putin II", pp. 230-244; "Postscript", pp. 245-255. On NEO site.

In-class quiz on reading.

Week 15 (May 22): Group Presentations

Presentations should cover some aspect of recent stories about Russian cyberwarfare, propaganda, or press freedom issues. They should present multiple viewpoints and attempt to dig more deeply into the story or stories chosen.

FINAL EXAM: POSTED ON NEO SITE MONDAY, MAY 22 AND DUE THURSDAY, MAY 25 AT 11:59 P.M.

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Student Learning Outcomes
Class Participation: Discussion, quizzes on reading assignments, short writing assignments	30	25%	Ability to discuss examples of international journalism with attention to stylistic and thematic issues; attendance
Midterm Assignment	35	20%	Ability to use stylistic techniques of master

			international journalists.
Final Project	45	30%	Participate from start to finish in and complete all assigned areas of Russian Propaganda project.
Final Exam	40	25%	Ability to compare, synthesize and analyze international journalism examples studied in class.
TOTAL	150	100%	

7. Detailed description of the assignments

- Midterm Assignment: Using at least one of our assigned journalists as a model, report and write a 1200-word story about some event or place outside your home country. Use quotes and firsthand information in your reporting.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Reporting	50
Writing	50

- Final Project. You will work pairs to research, compile, select and present coverage related to Russian propaganda and related international issues.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Group Participation	30
Reporting	30
Writing/Producing	40

- Final Exam. This will be a combination of short answers and essay questions asking you to analyze and synthesize material from the readings and lectures.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Demonstrated understanding of readings and ability to analyze them	75
Grammar, punctuation, spelling, writing clarity	25

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE NEO SITE AS INSTRUCTED. EMAILS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED EXCEPT AS EVIDENCE THAT A STORY HAS BEEN COMPLETED BY THE DUE DATE.

8. General Requirements and School Policies

- All coursework is governed by AAU academic rules, and students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work. All students are expected to be familiar with the AAU academic rules available in the Student Handbook.
- **Communication:** The university and lecturers will use only the student's university email address for communication. Students are responsible for checking their university email accounts regularly.
- **Attendance policy: You get a maximum 2 unexcused absences. Beyond those, only medically confirmed illness with approval from the Journalism Assistant Dean is excused. More than two unexcused absences — for whatever reason — will result in incremental deductions from your final grade. Thus a third unexcused absence would reduce a final A to an B, a fifth to a C, a sixth to a D, etc. Also, please note the AAU rule that missing more than 35% of a course, for whatever reason, is grounds for administrative withdrawal from that course.**
- **Mobile phones** must be off — no calling or texting during class meetings (wait until the break).
- **Laptops/Other Electronic Devices** are allowed for taking notes and referencing online readings. If I see you on social media or other non-class related sites, I will give you a 0 for participation that day.
- **Late work** will be penalized.

- **Missed exams:** A final exam make-up will only be allowed with a medical excuse signed by a doctor and approved by the Assistant Dean of Humanities.
- **Cheating and plagiarism:** AAU strictly enforces its policy against cheating and plagiarism. Full policy is available in the Student Handbook. Briefly: Cheating and plagiarism result in a failing grade for the assignment at minimum; it may lead to suspension from the university. To prevent any misunderstanding, plagiarism is defined:
PLAGIARISM – “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.”
- Taken from the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are asked to contact their lecturer as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A	95 – 100	Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A-	90 – 94	
B+	87 – 89	Good performance. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 – 86	
B-	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	Fair performance. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 – 76	
C-	70 – 72	
D+	65 – 70	Poor. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 – 64	
F	0 - 59	Fail. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

Prepared by and when: Andrew Giarelli January 2017

Approved by and when: School of Humanities and Social Sciences, January 2017