



THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COM/IR 316
3 credits (45 contact hours)

MEDIA AND CONFLICT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will provide a structured approach to address different media systems. It will explore the dynamics of news, politics, conflicts and freedom of the press. Focusing on ongoing, international crises of global importance, we will examine how various international media report on topics including armed conflicts, human rights abuses. We will study the dynamics governing news media environment and structures. We will try to understand why different audiences from different cultural spheres perceive the same news in sometimes a diametrically opposed way. We will examine the rich arsenal of repression tools used by authoritarian and even democratic regimes to suppress press freedom or spin news to their advantage. We will look at the ways and means by which courageous journalists try to circumvent these obstacles.

Given the rapidly evolving nature of the subjects studied, this syllabus is subject to change as well.

RATIONALE

(Security/Stability) Vs. (Freedom of Expression/The right of citizens to information) is the tension at the core of the relationship between governments and the media. This tension is heightened in time of conflict. Were the media and the whistleblowers who inform them, right to expose the truth about US engagement in Vietnam, Iraq, the NSA surveillance program? Weren't they demoralizing the troops and helping the enemy? Weren't they providing the public opinion with necessary information to judge and sanction the government actions to avoid bad policies and preserve the citizens' freedoms? Are Authoritarian regimes entitled to clamp down on freedom of the press in the name of stability? What tools do they use to control the media? When do media cross the line and become propagator of hatred? How should the media deal with media savvy terrorist organizations? This course is about providing a conceptual framework to think through this type of questions.

READINGS

There are no required books. Readings are book chapters and Academic journal articles that will be emailed to students at the beginning of the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- The student will acquire the analytical tools to frame the main issues pertaining to the role of the media in time of conflict.

- The student will be acquainted with the political, economic and cultural environment in which media operate.
- The student will acquire the historical background of the Media evolution in time of conflict.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	30%
Master presentation	30%
Response papers + Quizzes	10%
Class Participation/In the news Comment	10%

ASSIGNMENTS

1. “In The News” Comment: In the beginning of each session, a student will submit a brief comment (300 words) and present to the class (5 minutes) a recently published article related to the topic of the day.
2. Response Papers/Quizzes: Students will have to periodically write response papers to the readings. Quizzes will be given throughout the semester.
3. Master Presentation: TBD

Suggested Online Resources:

Committee to Protect Journalists <http://www.cpj.org>

Crimes of War Project <http://www.crimesofwar.org>

Freedom Forum “Today’s Front Page” <http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages>

Freedom House <http://www.freedomhouse.org>

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org>

Institute for War and Peace Reporting <http://www.iwpr.net>

Journalist Express: News and research portal for reporters <http://www.journalistexpress.com>

National Press Club: <https://www.press.org/>

Nieman Reports Online <http://nieman.harvard.edu/reports/contents.html>

Online Newspapers (Worldwide) <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com>

Reporters without Borders <http://www.rsf.org>

U.S. State Department Human Rights Country Reports <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/c1470.htm>

CALENDAR

Week 1:

Introduction

Week 2:

Model of media systems (I): The North Atlantic or Liberal Model

- Hallin, D. and Mancini, P. (2004) *Comparing Media Systems* Ch 7, P. 298-250 (Cambridge University Press)

Model of media systems (I): The North Atlantic or Liberal Model

- Schulhofer-Wohl, Sam. and Garrido, Miguel . “Do Newspapers Matter? Short-Run and Long-Run Evidence from the Closure of The Cincinnati Post” *NBER Working Paper* 686, April 2011
- Walton, Mary, “The Non Profit Explosion” *American Journalism Review* Sept. 2010
- Starr, Paul. “Goodbye to the Age of Newspapers” *The New Republic* March 4, 2009

Week 3:

Model of media systems (II) The Mediterranean Model

- Hallin, D. and Mancini, P. (2004) *Comparing Media Systems* Ch 5, P. 89-142 (Cambridge University Press)

Model of media system(III): The North Central European Model

- Hallin, D. and Mancini, P. (2004) *Comparing Media Systems* Ch 6, P. 143-297 (Cambridge University Press)

Week 4:

History of War Reporting/Reporting Vietnam

- Hallin, Daniel C. “The Media, The War in Vietnam and Political support: A Critique of The Thesis of An Oppositional Media” *The Journal of Politics* 46(1) 2-24, Feb. 1984

Week 5:

How Iraq changed War coverage

- Massing, Michael. “ Now They tell Us: The American Press in Iraq” *The New York Review Of Books* 2004.

Week 6:

Whistleblowers and National Security From “The Pentagon Papers” to Snowden

- Vultee, Fred “The second casualty: effects of interstate conflict and civil war on press freedom”, *Media, War & Conflict* Vol. 2(2): 111–127
- Hudson, David “The First Amendment: A Wartime Casualty?” *Freedomforum.org* (Feb 15, 2002)
- Springer, S. et al. “Leaky Geopolitics: The Ruptures and Transgressions of Wikileaks” *Geopolitics*, 17:681–711, 2012
- Nichols, John. « [Journalists Begin, Finally, to Stand Up in Defense of WikiLeaks and Freedom of Information](#) » *The Nation* Dec. 14, 2010
- Elsberg, Daniel. « [Snowden Made the Right Call](#) » *The Washington Post*, July 8, 2013
- Shoenfeld, Gabriel. “Rethinking The Pentagon Papers” *National Affairs* 4 Summer 2010 <http://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/rethinking-the-pentagon-papers>
- Abrams, Floyd. “Why Wikileaks is Unlike the Pentagon Papers” *The Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 2010 <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052970204527804576044020396601528>

Week 7:

Review For Midterm

Midterm exam

-----FALL BREAK-----

Week 8:

War reporting: The reporters

- Documentary: “War Zone Diary”
- Kurtz, Howard. “[In Iraq Journalist Richard Engel Sticks to the Story](#)” *Washington Post* Oct. 26, 2006
- “[The principles of War Coverage](#)” *Nieman Reports* Winter 2001.
- Ricchiardi, Sherry. “The Most Dangerous Place In The World For Journalists” *American Journalism Review* Winter 2012

The power of Images

- Sontag, Susan. “Regarding the Pain of Others” Ed. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2003 Entire book
- Griffin, Michael. “Images of War” *Media, War & Conflict* Vol 3 (1) 7-41 2010
- Sharkey, Jacqueline. “When pictures drive foreign policy.” *American Journalism Review* 15.10 (1993)

Week 9:

Mass Media, Public Opinion and Foreign Affairs: The CNN effect,...

- Gowing, Nick. "Time to move on: new media realities – new vulnerabilities of power » *Media, War & Conflict* Vol 4 (1) 13-19 (2001)
- Strobel, Warren P. "CNN Effect" *American Journalism Review* May 1996
- Livingston, Steven. "Clarifying the CNN Effect" *The Shorenstein Center, Harvard University Research Paper R-18* June 1997

Week 10:

Documentary: The Control Room

- Documentary: "Control Room" Director: Jihane Noujaim

The Al Jazeera Phenomenon

- Powers, Shawn. And El-Nawawy, Mohammed. "Al-Jazeera English and global news networks: clash of civilizations or cross-cultural dialogue? » *Media, War & Conflict* 2(3) 263-284, 2009.
- Zayani, Mohammed. "Al Jazeera's Palestine Papers: Middle East media politics in the post-WikiLeaks era » *Media, War & Conflict* 6(1) : 21-35, 2013.
- Fahmi, Shahira. And Johnson, Thomas J. "How Embedded Journalists in Iraq viewed the Arrest of the Al Jazeera reporter Taysir El Alouni" *Media, War & Conflict* 2(1) 47-65, 2009.
- Stelter, Brian. « Al Jazeera America Shifts Focus to U.S. News » *The New York Times* May 26, 2013

Week 11:

Covering Terrorism

- Bockstette, Carsten. "Jihadist Terrorist Use of Strategic Communication Management Techniques" *European Center for Security Studies*, Issue 20, December 2008
- Lumbaca, Sonise and Gray, David. "The Media as an Enabler for Acts of Terrorism" *Global Security Studies*, Winter 2011, Volume 2, Issue 1
- Scahill, Jeremy. "AQAP develops its own version of Reddit's AMA and Twitter's blue checkmark verification" *The Intercept* January 2015
- "The Johannesburg Principles" Article 19
- "Iakome Morocco accuses Spain's El País of inciting terrorism" *Committee to Protect Journalists* April 8, 2014

Differing Perceptions: The Mohammed Cartoon controversy

- Hussain, Ali J. "The Media's role in a clash of Misconceptions: The Case of The Danich Cartoons" *The Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*, 12(4): 112-130, 2007
- Powers, Shawn Kai. "Examining the Danish cartoon affair: mediatized cross-cultural tensions?" *Media, War & Conflict*, Vol 1(3), 2008

- Stille, Alexander “Why French Law treats Dieudonné and Charlie Hebdo differently” *The New Yorker* January 15, 2015
- Greenwald, Glenn “Charlie Hebdo: The Pen Award controversy- An exchange” *The Intercept* April 27, 2015

Week 13:

Presentations

Presentations

Week 14:

Presentations

Presentations