



School of Global Affairs
COM 316-AIX 1
Media and Conflict
202425 Fall

Course Details

Credit Hours: 3

Days: Monday, Wednesday

Time: 14:00-15:30

Prerequisites:

Instructor Information

Cole Stangler

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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 and human rights abuses. We will study the dynamics governing news media environments and structures. We will try to understand why different audiences from different cultural spheres perceive the same news in very different ways. We will examine the rich arsenal of repressive 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. We will study the disruptive effect of social media on political systems. Particular attention will be devoted to Facebook and Twitter's impact on politics.

Course Objectives

Learning Outcomes

- The student will acquire the analytical tools to understand the main issues pertaining to the role of the media in time of conflict.
- The student be able to recognize and articulate in writing the political, economic and cultural environments in which media operate.
- The student will acquire the historical background of the media's evolution during periods of conflict.

Assessment, Evaluation, and Grading

Response Papers: 25%

Midterm Evaluation: 30%

Final Examination: 35%

Class Participation: 10%

Grading System/Grade Distribution

Grading System/Grade
Distribution

U.S	ACM	French Equivalent
95-100%	A	17-20
90-94%	A -	16
88-89%	B+	15
84-87%	B	14
80-83%	B-	13

U.S	ACM	French Equivalent
78-79%	C+	12
74-77%	C	11
70-73%	C-	10
68-69%	D+	9
64-67%	D	8
60-63%	D-	7
0-59%	F	0-6

Attendance

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class; it's essential that you come to class on time, be prepared for the lesson, and be ready to participate in discussions and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Any absences can harm your final grade. It will be up to the student to manage and communicate with professors about their absences. For every absence, your final grade may be lowered by one half-letter grade (B+ to become a B, B to become B-, and so on). ACM-IAU professors are empowered to impose academic sanctions (including a lowered grade or even failure) upon students for unexcused absences, frequent tardiness, work submitted late, or any other actions or behaviors that violate ACM's academic standards and policies.

Academic Policies

All students are responsible for reading, knowing, and understanding the information pertinent to their areas of study available in the ACM Catalog. The catalog contains requirements for all degree programs, course descriptions, academic policies, and regulations that govern ACM. All parts of the catalog are subject to annual changes as university rules, policies, and curricula change. It is your responsibility to keep informed of such changes; failure to do so will not exempt you from whatever penalties you may incur. Catalogs are published from August through July.

Review the latest catalog at: <https://www.acmfrance.org/academics/catalog>

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Week 1: Sept. 4

1. Introduction

Week 2: Sept. 9, Sept. 11

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

1. Hallin, D. and Mancini, P. (2004) Comparing Media Systems Ch 5, P. 89-142 (Cambridge University Press)
2. 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
3. Chalaby JK. « Journalism as an Anglo-American Invention: A Comparison of the Development of French and Anglo-American Journalism, 1830s-1920s ». European Journal of Communication. 1996;11(3):303-326
4. Starr, Paul. "Goodbye to the Age of Newspapers" The New Republic, March 4, 2009
5. Malone, Claire. "Is The Media Prepared for an Extinction-Level Event?", The New Yorker, February 10, 2024

Week 3: Sept. 16, 18

1. Model of media systems: The Mediterranean Model

1. Gopnick, Adam. "Trial of the Century: Revisiting the Dreyfus Affair" The New Yorker, September 28, 2009
2. OPTIONAL: Hallin, D. and Mancini, P. (2004) Comparing Media Systems Ch 5, P. 89-142 (Cambridge University Press)

Week 4: Sept. 23, 25

1. History of War Reporting/Reporting WWI-WWII:

1. Rosenberg, Emily. "War and The Health of The State: The U.S. Government and the Communication Revolution during WWI" in "Selling the War" (University Press of Florida) 2010 P.48-66
2. Fine, Richard. "Snakes in our midst" American Journalism Fall 2010

Week 5: Sept. 30, Oct. 2

1. History of War Reporting/Reporting Vietnam :

1. 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

2. Pach, Chester. ed, (2010) "LBJ, the Progress Campaign, and the Vietnam War on Television" In "Selling war in a media age", ed. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, pp. 170-195.

Week 6: Oct. 7, Oct. 9

1. How Iraq changed War coverage I

1. Massing, Michael. "Now They tell Us: The American Press in Iraq" The New York Review Of Books, February 26, 2004

2. Kaiser, Robert. And Miller, Judith. Reply by Massing, Michael. "Now They Tell US: An Exchange" The New York Review of Books, March 25, 2004

3. Gerth, Jeff And Shane, Scott "U.S. Is Said to Pay to Plant Articles in Iraq Papers" The New York Times, Dec.1, 2005

Week 7: Oct. 14, 16

1. Documentary: The Control Room / the Aljazeera Phenomenon

1. Documentary: "Control Room" Director: Jihane Noujaim

2. Guest Speaker: TBD

Week 8: Oct. 21, 23

1. Review session

2. Midterm exam

Week 9: Oct. 28, 30 -----Fall Break -----

Week 10: Nov. 4, 6

1. Whistleblowers and National Security From "The Pentagon Papers" to Snowden

1. Elsberg, Daniel. « Snowden Made the Right Call » The Washington Post, July 8, 2013

2. Gladwell, Malcom. "Daniel Elsberg, Edward Snowden, and the Modern Whistleblower The New Yorker, December 19& 26, 2016

3. Abrams, Floyd. "Why Wikileaks is Unlike the Pentagon Papers" The Wall Street Journal, Dec. 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052970204527804576044020396601528>

1. War reporting: The reporters

1. Documentary: "War Zone Diary"
2. Kurtz, Howard. "In Iraq Journalist Richard Engel Sticks to the Story" Washington Post Oct. 26, 2006
3. "The principles of War Coverage" Nieman Reports Winter 2001.
4. Zachary, Pascal. "Secret finger pointing over Danny Pearl's Death" Alternet March 22, 2003

Week 11: Nov. 11, Nov. 13

1. The power of Images

1. Sontag, Susan. "Regarding the Torture of Others" New York Times, May, 2004
2. Griffin, Michael. "Images of War" Media, War & Conflict Vol 3 (1) 7-41 2010
3. Sharkey, Jacqueline. "When pictures drive foreign policy." American Journalism Review 15.10 (1993)

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

1. Strobel, Warren P. "CNN Effect" American Journalism Review May 1996
2. Livingston, Steven. "Clarifying the CNN Effect" The Shorenstein Center, Harvard University Research Paper R-18 June 1997

Week 12: Nov. 18, Nov. 20

1. Differing Perceptions/ Hate Speech: The Mohammed Cartoon controversy & Other Issues (2 Sessions)

1. Stille, Alexander "Why French Law treats Dieudonné and Charlie Hebdo differently" The New Yorker January 15, 2015
2. Cole, David. "Why we must still defend hate speech" The New York Review of Books September 28, 2017

3. Konnikova, Maria. "How Norms Change" The New Yorker October 11, 2017
4. Onishi, Norimitsu. and Méheut, Constant. "France's Hardening Defense of Cartoons of Muhammad Could Lead to 'a Trap'" The New York Times Oct. 30, 2020

Week 13: Nov. 25, Nov. 27

1. Covering Terrorism

1. Lumbaca, Sonise and Gray, David. "The Media as an Enabler for Acts of Terrorism" Global Security Studies, Winter 2011, Volume 2, Issue 1
2. OPTIONAL: Hoffman, Bruce (2017), Inside Terrorism, third ed., Introduction, p. 1-44. (Columbia University Press)
3. Adeoye, Aanu, "The Islamist insurgents threatening west Africa," Financial Times, January 21, 2024
4. Wildman, Sarah. "The Inspiration for Terrorism in New Zealand Came from France" Foreign Policy March 16, 2019

Week 14: Dec. 2, Dec. 4

1. Social Media and Politics

1. Deibert, Ronald. "The Road to Digital Unfreedom: Three Painful Truths About Social Media" Journal of Democracy, Volume 30, Number 1, January 2019, pp. 25-39
2. Stiglitz, Joseph "Facebook does not understand the marketplace of ideas" The Financial Times January 17, 2020
3. Haidt, Jonathan. "Why the past 10 years of American Life have been uniquely stupid" The Atlantic April 11, 2022
4. The Global Witness "[Algorithm of Harm: Facebook amplified Myanmar military propaganda following coup](https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/digital-threats/algorithm-harm-facebook-amplified-myanmar-military-propaganda-following-coup/)" June 23, 2021, <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/digital-threats/algorithm-harm-facebook-amplified-myanmar-military-propaganda-following-coup/>