

JOUR 590 – International Journalism (62527) – Fall 2016  
Class meeting: Tuesday, 4:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.  
Dole HDC 2096

**1. Instructor:** Hong T. Vu, Ph.D.

Office: 207D – Stauffer-Flint Hall

Office hours: 1:00 – 2:00 Mon & Wed

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**2. What this course is about:**

This course explores print, broadcast and online media in industrialized and developing nations. It examines how government rules and restrictions affect press freedoms; the effects of technology on access to information; what version of the world is presented in the U.S. media, and; the various types of journalism/journalistic ideologies. The goal of the course is to make students aware of the effects of mass media in a globalized world.

**3. Course objectives:**

- Explore and question the role of media in different societies in the world
- Engage with diverse scholarship and issues related to the international journalism
- Develop an in-depth understanding of how journalism is practiced in different countries and regions in the world
- Produce original research that contributes to the study of international journalism

**4. Readings and Required Texts:**

This course has one required book: William A. Hachten and James F. Scotton, *The World News Prism: Digital, Social and Interactive*. 9th ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016.

You are also expected to read news on the World/International Sections of the New York Times; Washington Post and USA Today.

Other readings will be posted on Blackboard.

**5. Communication:**

I encourage you to communicate with me about the course face-to-face during office hours, or through e-mail. If you choose the later, I will do my best to respond to email messages within 24-36 hours Monday – Friday. Please be mindful of email etiquette. Compose a brief yet informative subject line. Use a greeting, such as “Hello, Dr. Vu,” at the beginning of your message. Write the body of your message using full

sentences, proper capitalization and punctuation. Explain your question or concern as completely as possible. Sign your message using your full (first and last) name.

## **6. Course Nature & Organization**

**Nature:** The course is a discussion-oriented course. It also will include a combination of lecture and activities, including student presentations and class discussions. All students are expected to take an active role in class discussions.

**Organization:** You will accomplish the above objectives through individual and group work. The course uses one textbook to help you understand the key concepts in international journalism. You will also learn to use online resources (e.g., online media publications, KU's extensive access to databases and information services). Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to meet guest speakers with expertise in different countries, cultures and fields of expertise.

## **7. How you will be evaluated:**

Research paper = 250 points

This assignment consists of three parts:

- Topic report = 30 points
- Structure paper = 50 points
- Final paper = 170 points

Media monitoring = 60 points (each media monitoring = 30 points)

Journal = 120 points (each journal = 20 points)

News presentation = 100 points

Group presentation = 100 points

Reflection paper = 20 points

Participation = 100 points

Total: 750

## **Grading Standards**

Each written assignment will be graded on

- **content:** Does the assignment serve the assigned purpose?
- **grammar:** Is the paper free of grammatical, spelling, punctuation and style errors?
- **style:** Quality writing improves your grade.
- **format:** All written work must be word processed on standard-sized paper in 12 point typeface, and pages must be doubled-spaced, numbered and stapled.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date.

**Group work:** Group work succeeds only if all members of the group actually work. Each member of the group will be asked to assess the contributions of all members, and that assessment can affect your share of the grade.

## 8. Course Policies

- You are responsible for the class materials and announcements even if you do not attend class. Please get lecture notes from your fellow students if you are absent. Also, please check your ku.edu e-mail on a daily basis.
- **This class prohibits the use of laptop and cell phone, unless it's requested by the instructor for learning purposes.** I've found the use of technology during class (e.g., Facebook browsing, Twitter updates, shopping, checking wedding photos) is a sign of showing disrespect of the instructor and student presenters in front of you. Using technology also interferes your learning and contribution in class. All mobile devices, gadgets, etc., including phones, iPods, iPads, etc. must be SILENCED and STORED during all class periods.
- **Assigned readings** should be read in advance of the class meetings.
- **Attendance:** We meet only once a week and attendance is mandatory. I will randomly take attendance a few times during the semester. How many times you are present (excluding excused absences) will determine your attendance/participation grade. Attendance could be taken in the form of a quiz. I award participation points for your significant contribution to in-class discussions or faithful attendance.
- **Absences:** Please clear absences in advance with the professor (except for medical emergencies) in writing in the form of a memo (e-mail or a hard copy). Excused absences will be granted only under highly unusual circumstances, such as documented medical emergencies, death of an immediate family member and official KU business. Family gatherings, weddings, vacations, leaving early for the break, etc. do not qualify. Official documents will be required and may be kept by the professor for a certain period of time. In addition, if any of the crucial days this semester (e.g., an exam) is a religious holiday for you and you are not able to attend class, please notify the professor in writing *by the end of the third week of this semester*. Otherwise your request will not be honored.
- **Assignments:** Each assignment has a deadline. Details of each assignment will be distributed in class or online. Written assignments can be handed in to me in person in class, or be put in my mailbox (by the Journalism Resource Center). Only typed hard copies will be accepted. No e-mail or faxes, please, unless announced by the professor. If you hand in your assignment one day late (by 5 p.m. the next day, NOT the next class; please have it date/time- stamped by a journalism resource center worker), you will receive a lower grade for that particular assignment. No work that is two days late will be accepted for any reason. A late group project means everyone

in that group will receive a lower grade. If you do not plan to be on campus the day an assignment is due, please hand it in early. If you mail or ask someone else to deliver an assignment, you are still responsible if it does not arrive on time.

- I will be happy to discuss/review your assignments with you before they are due. If you choose not to do so, and receive a grade you do not like, you cannot use excuses such as “I didn’t know what you expected” and try to argue for a higher grade later.

- **Grading:** A grade of A is reserved for outstanding achievement; B for above-average performance; C for average achievement; D for below-average work that is passing; and F for unsatisfactory performance. This means you will have to work very hard to get an A.

- **Grade Change:** A change in grade is authorized only under unusual circumstances.

- **Format:** All written assignments should be typed, single-sided, double-spaced, and stapled on the upper left corner. Use a reasonable font and size. All pages have to be numbered. There is no need for a title page unless announced otherwise. Please do not forget to include the title (such as “Assignment One”) and your name. You are encouraged to use recycled paper.

- **Extra Credit:** Do not expect extra credit in this class. If there is any, it will be announced and available to every student in the class.

- **No “private” talking** among students or other disruptive behavior (e.g., talking on your cell phone or disrespectful language) will be allowed in class. Depending on the situation, such behavior and inattention may result in a lower grade (such as receiving a zero for your participation/contribution), being asked to leave the classroom, being reported to KU authorities, or being dropped from the course.

- **An “I” (incomplete)** will be given only under very unusual circumstances, such as medical emergencies. You will be required to produce credible documents.

- Please refer to the student conduct codes and other KU publications for additional requirements and procedures, such as scholastic dishonesty. Basically, no cheating is allowed on exams, and all work must be your own and created specifically for this class, or you will fail this course. Severe cases of dishonesty or other student conduct issues will be referred to KU authorities.

- Your enrollment in this class indicates that you understand and agree to abide by the requirements stated in this syllabus.

- Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with a documented disability. Please notify the instructor of accommodations needed for the course by

the end of the third week of class. If you miss the notification deadline, your request will not be honored.

- If you miss two out of the first three classes, you will likely be automatically dropped.
- **I reserve the right to modify this syllabus. Any changes will be announced in class and/or on our Blackboard site and become official.**

### **9. KU Journalism School Policies**

KU Journalism School Policies Policy on Plagiarism and Fabrication/Falsification -- Adopted May 7, 2004:

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications does not tolerate plagiarism, fabrication of evidence and falsification of evidence.

Penalties for plagiarism, fabrication or falsification can include a failing grade for this course and expulsion from the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, please consult the professor(s) of this course.

The following definitions are from Article II, Section 6, of the University Senate Rules and Regulations, revised FY98.

### **10. Plagiarism**

Knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the information or ideas are common knowledge.

### **Fabrication and Falsification**

Unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Here's some clarification:

- If you use or attempt to use any unauthorized materials during a test, or if you give any unauthorized materials to someone else during a test, this is cheating. Unauthorized materials include written materials, such as notes. Unauthorized materials include any forms of nonverbal communication (one cough, the answer is A; two coughs, the answer is B, etc.).
- If you take someone else's ideas, thoughts, or words, and you present them as your own original work. This includes taking ideas from written sources, such as

books, as well as materials on the Internet. Cutting and pasting materials from the Internet and presenting that work as if it was your own is plagiarism. There may be times when you want to incorporate another person's ideas, opinions, and words into the papers you write, to make a point or to provide background. If you do, it is essential that you attribute that information—that you explain where the information came from and give credit where credit is due. “Recycling” past reports/assignments from previous classes/students and presenting them as your own falls into the category of plagiarism.

- If you cut and paste something then add a source, that is not enough. You'd need to rewrite it in your own words unless you treat it as a direct quote (by adding quotation marks). Otherwise, it is still plagiarism.
- Fabrication and falsification mean that you made it up. This can include making up an entire interview or embellishing a fact, quote, or statistic to make it sound better. Don't do it.

We will discuss these issues further in class. If you have any questions, please contact the professor. Violation of these rules will be reported to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, the Journalism advising office, and other KU authorities.

### **11. Students with Disabilities**

The KU office of Disability Resources coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. The office is located in 22 Strong Hall; the phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY).

Information about services can be found at <http://disability.ku.edu>. Please also contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course.

### **12. Journalism School Policy on Classroom Attendance**

- No student may add a journalism class after the 20th day of a semester.
- Students must attend their classes and laboratory periods. Instructors may take attendance into account in assessing a student's performance and may require a certain level of attendance for passing a course. Instructors may choose to drop students from a course, based on attendance, without consent.
- The School of Journalism reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of students who fail to attend the first class or laboratory meeting.
- The KU Office of Student Financial Aid is required by federal law to determine whether students who receive aid are attending each class in which they are

enrolled. Instructors are required to report to that office absences of students who have stopped attending and names of those who have enrolled but never have attended. Students who do not attend classes may be required to repay federal and/or state financial aid.

- Students who receive any form of financial aid should learn all requirements including minimum hours of enrollment and grades to qualify for and retain that aid."

**13. Inclement Weather and Special Needs** - In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel classes is made by KU officials. To determine whether snow or icy conditions have canceled classes, call 864-7669 (864-SNOW). The Office of Disability Resources (DR), 22 Strong Hall, 785-864-2620 (v/tty), coordinates accommodations and services for KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. Please also contact me privately in regard to this course.

#### **14. Copying or Recording**

Course materials prepared by the instructor, as well as content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the instructor's property. Video and audio recording of lectures without instructor consent is prohibited. On request, the instructor usually will permit students to audio-record lectures, on the condition that these audio recordings are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless the instructor gives explicit permission, recordings of lectures may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

#### **15. Class Schedule**

Week 1 – Tue, Aug. 23

- Class introduction;
- Guest speaker
- Assign the media monitoring assignment.

Week 2 – Tue, Aug. 30

- Are there different kinds of journalism?
- Reading: The four theories of the press – Posted on Blackboard
- Assigning groups

Week 3 – Tue, Sept. 6

- What is global media?
- Reading - Hachten & Scotton's chapter 1
- Presentations 3 students
- **Media monitoring 1 due**

Week 4 – Tue, Sept. 13

- Control Room;
- Topic: American journalism ideologies, ethics and practices.
- Reading: What is journalism? Brian McNair;
- Presentation: 3 students
- **Media monitoring 2 due**

Week 5 – Tue, Sept. 20

- What does the world look like to us?
- Determinants
- Reading: When faraway tragedies are ignored, it's not always the media's fault; Which countries' terrorist attacks are ignored by the U.S. media? Western media: Stop ignoring the Central African Republic crisis; Reflecting the world – Posted on Blackboard.
- Library session
- Reading: to be posted on blackboard
- **Journal 1 due**

### **Media & Conflicts**

Week 6 – Tue, Sept. 27

- Africa
- Guest speaker
- Reading: Hachten & Scotton's chapter 10.
- Presentation: 3 students
- **Group 8 presentation**
- **Topic report due**

Week 7 – Tue, Oct. 4

- The Middle East, Muslim and Terrorism in the news media & Media in Latin America
- Guest speaker
- Reading: Hachten & Scotton's Chapter 11
- Presentation: 3 students
- **Group 1 presentation**
- **Journal 2 due**

Week 8 – Tue, Oct. 11 – Fall break

Week 9 – Tue, Oct. 18

- Global press freedoms & Media in Asia
- Guest speaker
- **Group 2 presentation**

- Presentations: 3 students
- **Journal 3 due**

## **Media & Propaganda**

Week 10 – Tue, Oct. 25 (Russia - Europe)

- Reading: Hachten & Scotton's chapter 7 & 9.
- How do media regulate themselves across borders? What is the purpose of media regulation and policy?
- Presentation: 3 students
- **Group 3 presentation**
- **Journal 4 due**

Week 11 – Tue, Nov. 1

- Individual meetings

## **Media and global issues**

Week 12 – Tue, Nov. 8 - Media & Public Diplomacy

- Reading: Hachten & Scotton's chapter 14.
- Presentation: 3 students
- **Group 4 presentation**
- **Structure paper due**

Week 13 –Tue, Nov. 15

- Advocacy and development media
- Reading: Hachten & Scotton's chapter 6 & 8.
- Presentation: 3 students
- **Group 5 presentation**
- **Journal 5 due**

Week 14 - Tue, Nov. 22

- Blogging, Facebooking, Tweeting: How the internet influences global media system & What is the state of international journalism?
- Reading: Hachten & Scotton's chapter 2 & 3
- Presentations 3 students
- **Group 6 presentation**
- **Journal 6 due**

Week 15 - Tue, Nov. 29

- Global campaigns
- Corporate media
- Reading: The new global media by McChesney – posted on Blackboard
- **Group 7 presentation**

- Presentation: 4 students
- **Reflection paper due**

Week 16 – Tue, Dec. 6

- Individual consultation
- **Final Paper due Noon - Dec. 9**

## **ASSIGNMENT**

### **1. Topic Report, Structure Paper and Research Paper**

#### **Topic Report**

The topic report is designed to help students sharpen their focus for the research paper.

**Before Class 6**, students will email Professor Vu a preliminary topic report of no more than a page in length, which will contain:

- i) Title. This should take the form of a question that will spark the debate in the research paper. More information will be given on this through individual meetings.
- ii) Thesis statement. (For more information on what a statement looks like, see: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/thesis-statements/>)
- iii) Draft introductory paragraph.
- iv) Preliminary bibliography, APA style, with at least 3 entries.

The topic report will be marked according to the same grading system as the journals. Grades and feedback will be emailed to students. Late topic reports will not be graded. Students taking this class for NW (non-Western) credit need to choose a non-Western topic.

#### **Structure Paper**

Students will submit by email a structure paper for the research paper they are working on. The structure paper will be made up of the following:

- Title page
- Thesis statement (For more information on what a statement looks like, see: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/thesis-statements/>)
- A draft introductory paragraph
- A bullet point for every subsequent paragraph explaining the paragraph's angle. The structure paper will be graded as per the journals and given a score out of 100, which will be added to students' final score. Late structure papers will not be graded.

## Final Research Paper

Students' final research paper will be 8 pages of text for undergraduates or 10 pages for graduate students, with a bibliography at the end. Students should follow the APA formatting and style guide. **Deadline:** The research paper should be submitted to Professor Vu via blackboard no later than **Noon Friday, Dec. 9**. A missed deadline is a one letter-grade deduction for each day thereafter.

### 2. Media monitoring

Students are expected to monitor the news coverage in the world/international sections of two major U.S. newspapers and two other websites listed below.

1. The New York Times
2. Washington Post
3. BBC <http://www.bbc.com/news>
4. Al- Jazeera English: <http://www.aljazeera.com>

Detailed instruction, including a coding sheet and codebook, will be provided

### 3. Journal

For most classes, students will be required to submit via blackboard (single spaced).

Each entry will be **no more** than one page in length and should be submitted via Blackboard before the deadline laid down in the class schedule, which can be seen in this syllabus, or the revised deadline given in class.

Late journals will be given zero points. The web links to the relevant article(s) should be included at the end of each journal, allowing retrieval of the article. At the top of each journal, students should put their name, Journal No.# and the class date for that week.

For the body of the journal, students should type in single space using a standard serif typeface in 12pt. with one-inch margins.

Journals will comprise no more than three paragraphs: Paragraph one will summarize the class readings as laid down in the class schedule. Paragraph two will summarize an article chosen by the student that relates to the student's topic for their research paper. Paragraph three will explain in a single sentence the opinion angle taken by the article that was summarized for paragraph two.

There is no need for students to print off the article(s).

#### **4. News presentation**

For some classes, students will talk on the media system in the country of their choice.

These presentations will involve the student standing at the front and speaking without notes for at least 10 minutes, followed by a Q&A.

Students making presentations are advised to make use of the projector and use a minimum of five slides to help illustrate their points and structure their talk. Once a student has finished, the class will be allowed to ask a maximum of three questions. The presentation will be scored out of **100**.

#### **5. Group presentation – discussion leading**

In groups, students will select a major world theme from the list (provided in the assignment section on Blackboard) and discuss how various international media choose to cover the issue. These topics will be presented throughout the semester, and will serve as a catalyst for in-class discussions of the reading and relevant current events.

In this assignment, students will be assessed on their ability to identify and apply multiple perspectives pertaining to global issues through a comparative study of media coverage. They will also present how they would pursue this theme as reporters.

#### **6. Reflection paper**

Write about what you think this course should change: What activities I should keep? What I should change? There's no right or wrong. I just want your opinion. Be critical.

#### **7. Participation & Professionalism**

You are expected to attend every class and participate in class discussions to earn participation points. You also need to show up for class on time. I will randomly take attendance.