

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

432.21 Principles of Journalism

3 credit hours

Winter 2012

Dr. Nicholas P. Greco

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Tuesday, 12:40-1:55; Thursday, 12:40-1:55.

Office Hours: Wednesday, 8:30-11:30, or by appointment.

SYLLABUS

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces major philosophical, problematic and controversial issues in global journalism. It begins by outlining theoretical concepts in Western journalism and continues to discuss global journalistic flows. An important element of the course is the exploration of journalistic ethics. Although this course is global in scope, particular attention will be given to the journalistic context in Canada.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through participation in lectures, classroom discussion and completion of the course requirements:

1. The student will have a greater understanding of the changing face of global journalism;
2. The student will begin to understand the complexities of an ethical journalism in a diverse and globalized context;
3. The student will become familiar with the current challenges and issues prevalent in a global journalistic context.

C. COURSE TEXT

De Beer, Arnold S. & John C. Merrill. *Global Journalism: Topical Issues and Media Systems*. Fifth Edition. Boston: Pearson. 2009.

D. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance, participation and reading of the course text: It is only in the best interest of the student if he or she attends each class and, in fact, consistent attendance is required (please see the Class Attendance Policy below). Each student is expected to read the assigned course text and be prepared to contribute meaningfully to the discussion based on those readings. It is on this participation that a portion of the final grade is based. Each student is expected to arrive to class promptly for its beginning.

2. Participant Observation (**DUE 13 MARCH**): The student is required to write a journalistic account of an event or activity in which he or she is also a participant. The student must decide how to interact with the story, and must also consider the ethical dimensions of observing an activity from within and reporting on it. This account must be 5 pages long and the event on which it is based must occur within this semester.

3. Readings Quizzes: There will be unannounced quizzes throughout the semester, consisting of short answer and multiple choice questions. These quizzes will be based on the readings. A student will receive no marks for quizzes missed, nor will they be able to write them at a later date.

4. Presentation (**DUE 5 & 10 APRIL**): The student, as part of a group, is required to choose a geographical area as outlined in the textbook and present a 15 minute oral summary of that section. In its presentation, the group should consider distinctive journalistic practices in that region, among other things, and present 2 discussion questions for the class to consider. The group must also submit a paper which outlines what was presented. Note that content from these presentations will be covered on the final exam.

5. Final Exam: This exam will cover material from the entire course.

E. GRADING SUMMARY

Attendance/Participation:	10%
Participant Observation:	20%
Readings Quizzes:	15%
Presentation:	25%
Final Exam:	30%

Excellent	A+	4.0	91-100	Satisfactory	C+	2.5	67-69
	A		85-90	Adequate	C	2.0	63-66
	A-		80-84		C-		60-62
Very Good	B+	3.5	77-79	Marginal	D+	1.0	57-59
Good	B	3.0	73-76		D		53-56
	B-		70-72		D-		50-52
				Failure	F	0.0	<50

F. COURSE POLICIES

1. Class Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. The student will lose up to 2% of his or her total mark for the course for every single absence. Missing more than 5 classes **for any reason** may result in a failing grade in the course.

2. Late Assignment Policy: Assignments are due immediately at the beginning of class on the date on which they are due. Assignments not remitted at that time will be accepted by hand or in my mailbox with a 10% penalty only until 4:30pm on the day that the assignment is due. Any assignments turned in after 4:30pm of the due day will be accepted but will receive a grade of 0. As there will be no extensions granted for any assignments, please note their due dates.

3. Written Assignment Format Policy: All formal written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman font (12-point only), with 1-inch margins on all four sides of the page, and include proper pagination. In addition, the text must be left-justified. If the paper requires citation, it must follow Turabian style. Assignments may be double-sided. The text must also be free of errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling. The paper should be stapled together at the top left corner, without any type of plastic or paper binding. **Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a loss of marks. Papers without a proper bibliography or any proper citations will receive a mark of 0, unless otherwise exempted by the professor.**

4. Final Exam Policy: All requests to have a final exam rescheduled must be approved by the Academic Committee in accordance with the Early Leave Policy (available in the College Academic Calendar http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/).

5. Use of gender-inclusive language: Students must use gender-inclusive language in class discussion and in submitted work. Failure to do so will result in a loss of marks.

6. Plagiarism: Students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity in all its various forms, and will be held accountable for doing so by the policy on Academic Conduct in

the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/). One particularly problematic breach of academic integrity is plagiarism, which is stealing from the ideas and writings of another person and passing them off as one's own. For an elaboration of the nature, types, and prevention of plagiarism, see the Providence College document entitled "Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing," in the Providence College Academic Formation Guide available in the Bookstore.

7. Information and Communication Technologies in the Classroom: **Student use of information and communication technologies for purposes other than class note-taking is not allowed in the classroom, as students are expected to give their total attention to class activities.** Use of cell-phones or iPods is never appropriate in the classroom, and use of laptop computers to play games, chat with others, browse the internet, or engage material not related to the class is always distracting to classmates and disrespectful to the instructor. Unlike some other post-secondary institutions, Providence has not yet found it necessary to ban laptops from the classroom, or prevent wireless internet access in classrooms. Only judicious use of them will keep it that way.

This is a Communications and Media class. As such, the exploration of new communication technologies is encouraged. However, unauthorized use of laptops and other information and communication technologies in this class will not be tolerated.

G. COURSE OUTLINE

January 10: Introduction

January 12: Introduction to Journalism Theory
Read Ch.1

January 17: Introduction to Journalism Theory (cont'd)

January 19: Press Philosophies
Read Ch.2

January 24: **Day of Prayer**

January 26: News Agencies
Read Ch.3

January 31: News Agencies (cont'd)

February 2: **Missio Dei**

February 7: Barriers

- February 9: Read Ch. 4
Barriers (cont'd)
- February 14: Freedom of the Press
Read Ch.5
- February 16: Freedom of the Press (cont'd)
- February 21: Ethics
Read Ch.6
- February 23: Ethics (cont'd)
- February 28: Advertising
Read Ch.7
- March 1: Media Controversies
Read Ch.8
- March 6: **Reading Break**
- March 8: **Reading Break**
- March 13: Media Controversies (cont'd)
Participant Observation DUE.
- March 15: Journalism Education
Read Ch.9
- March 20: Journalists
Read Ch.10
- March 22: Foreign Journalism
Read Ch.11
- March 27: Global News
Read Ch.12
- March 29: Canada and the United States
Read Ch.20
- April 3: Canada and the United States (cont'd)

- April 5: **Group Presentations**
- April 10: **Group Presentations** (cont'd)
- April 12: Conclusions