078: Journalism Issues (1 credit)
Summer 2011

(T: 8:45a.m. to 10:20a.m.)
Classroom: W340 AJB

Instructor contact
Rauf Arif,
Phone: 319-335-3429
Office: E331, AJB
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30a- 11:30 a.m., or by appointment.

Course overview
078 is a weekly lecture that is based on contemporary issues in journalism. Your grade for this class is based on attendance, in-class participation, weekly quizzes and reading responses. Weekly quizzes will be based on current events. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and will also count as your attendance.

Basic Policies and Requirements
Because this course is about journalism, keeping up with top local, domestic and international news stories is a key requirement. The section will involve activities like reviewing daily news stories, quizzes, and other in-class exercises designed to improve your knowledge and skills. You should conduct yourself professionally: be early for class, be upbeat and in general be courteous. There will be a fair mix of lectures and discussions. Students are encouraged to stop by during my office hours to discuss class work and other concerns with me.

Assignments and Attendance
No late assignments or homework will be accepted. In addition, assignments will not be accepted over e-mail except otherwise noted. Absence will only be permitted under extenuating circumstances with advance notice. Failing grades will be received for plagiarized and inaccurate information. Wrong use of grammar and spelling errors will significantly affect your grades. Journalism is an important public service duty and you should be intimately concerned with your output. This means your writing should be clear and concise with utmost attention to style.

Readings for combined 078
In addition to the textbook, other relevant material/articles will be available on the ICON.
**Guest Speakers:** In order for students to benefit from a wide-range of journalistic talent and experiences, speakers will be invited to class. In some cases you will be expected to cover their presentations as you would a news story.

**Grading for 078:** (i) Attendance and participation: 50% & (ii) Quizzes and Reading Responses: 50%
Schedule for semester (Subject to change)

078: Issues in Journalism

June 07
Topic: Journalism in the 21st century
Readings due: Director’s Welcome for Undergraduates- http://www.uiowa.edu/jmc/directorswelcome.html
News Quiz

June 14
Topic: Journalism as the Fourth Estate and Speech
Readings due: Forward through Chapter 1
News Quiz

June 21
Topic: Journalism as Business: Political economy
Readings due: Chapter 2 and 3
News Quiz

June 28
Topic: Cops and Courts Reporting and Press Conference (Guest Speaker: Shawn Harmsen)
Readings due: Chapter 4 and 5
Due: Reading Response#1

July 5
Topic: Convergence and International Journalism: The role of the mass media in Africa (Guest Speaker: Etse Sikanku)
Readings due: Chapter 6 and 7
News Quiz

July 12
Topic: Investigative journalism: Watchdogs and Advocates
Readings due: Chapter 9
Due: Reading Response#2

July 19
Topic: Agenda-setting/Framing and the future
Readings due: Chapter 10 and 11
News Quiz

July 27
Topic: Careers and ifolio (Guest Speaker: Paul Jensen)
Readings due: Chapter 12 and afterward
News quiz
Other Issues

Attitude
It’s everything. We all have bad days, but we don’t need to make our own issues known to the world. If you are having troubles that you think would make their way into the classroom, please let me know. In this class, let’s support each other – and that means showing respect. Students who fail to do this will be asked to leave during that class period. Give respect. Get it.

Warning/Disclaimer
At times, conversation in the section, and in journalism as a whole, may have offensive (or uncomfortable) tones. Covering such topics is a necessary part of the journalist’s role in society. Even in PR, we must abide by some rules or goals of the organization or culture, if we wish to be employed. However, this freedom to discuss issues of a sensitive nature does not allow for sexual harassment, racism and other forms of discrimination. If you have concerns about conversations in the classroom or the content shared, please discuss them with me. If you do not feel comfortable after speaking with the course instructor, please contact the Course Supervisor.

Sexual harassment
Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the School, College or University. For definitions, assistance, and the full University policy, see http://www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/; on sexual misconduct involving students, see http://www.uiowa.edu/~our/opmanual/iv/02.htm

Administrative supervision
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as add/drop deadlines, second-grade option, and other related issues.

Academic fraud
Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is reported to the departmental DEO and to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Services who enforces the appropriate consequences. www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtm

Accommodations for disabilities
A student seeking academic accommodations should register with Student Disability Services and meet privately with the course instructor to make particular
arrangements. For more information, visit this site: 
www.uiowa.edu/~sds/. Those with learning concerns must identify these concerns with me during the first week of class.

Severe weather
If a weather event disrupts class, we will seek appropriate shelter in the building; and class will resume if possible when the event is over.

Suggestions and complaints
Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook. For procedural information, see 
http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml.

The Iowa Dozen
We also comply with the Iowa Dozen: