Instructor: Etse Sikanku
Office: E333 AJB
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10-12 or by appointment
Departmental Executive Officer: Professor David Perlmutter.
Office: E301 Adler Journalism Building
Email: etse-sikanku@uiowa.edu

Course overview
The overarching goal of this course is to provide a wide ranging overview of media systems worldwide. Moving beyond Sibert, Peterson and Schramm’s Four Theories of the Press, this course addresses the structure and models of media systems using a comparative approach. The course will focus on the changing nature of communication worldwide by examining global communication/journalism theories and practices and its implications for democratic politics and society as a whole. This course will explore the nature, functions and role of the news media from a cross national perspective. Students will learn about the changing nature of an increasingly interconnected world and how different factors—social, political and economic—affect media systems or journalistic practice worldwide. Topics related to free speech, social responsibility, communication policy and civic participation will be explored through lectures, discussions and real-world cases.

Readings

Additional readings will be provided in class or through ICON.

Basic Policies and Requirements
Grades for this course will be earned. This means completing all required readings timely, preparing adequately for class, attending and participating in all class activities as required.

Class Participation & Leadership
Each student will lead class discussion with at least two prepared questions. The questions should not be Q & A type questions, but questions that will engage students to further discuss beyond the readings. You may bring print, video or audio materials which exemplify issues being discussed.
**PowerPoint Presentations**
Each student will prepare and present on a topic of international communication. This means doing extra research and coming up with questions that will engage your colleagues in discussions. Your research may also be on international media organizations. Examples include: VOA, RFI, Wikileaks, CBC, SABC, BBC, CCTV etc.

**Term Paper**
Compare the media systems in two countries of your choice. Additional guidelines will be provided. Your paper should include:

- An introduction
- Discussion of the structure and model of media system in each country
- A discussion of the similarities and variations in the press systems of the two countries
- A critical assessment of the role of the press in that country.

**Tests**
There will be two exams, which will cover the readings and the class discussion. It is your responsibility, therefore, to keep track of all class discussions and everything else that goes on concerning this course. There will be no make-up tests. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions; fill in the blanks, and short essays-type questions.

**Attendance and Professionalism**
In order to make the most out of this class, attendance is key. Late assignments or homework will have consequences. Absence will only be permitted under extenuating circumstances with ADVANCE notice and some form of documentation. There will be no makeup assignments. After two absences your overall course grade will be lowered by one-third of a grade for each subsequent absence. Being more than five minutes late, leaving class early or randomly will be counted as being absent. Failing grades will be received for plagiarized and inaccurate information. Don’t attempt.

**Changes**
This syllabus is subject to change.
Summary:

Power Point Presentation: 5%
Mid-Term Test: 30% (March 10)
Term Paper: 20% (April 21)
Final Exam: 35%
Attendance, Participation and Student Leadership: 10%

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>68-70</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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CLASS MODULE

Tuesday, January 17, 2012
Syllabus discussion and introduction

INTRODUCTION

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Thursday, January 26, 2012

Tuesday, January 31, 2012


MEDIA SYSTEMS WORLD WIDE

*Europe*

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
*Middle East and North Africa

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Tuesday, February 14, 2012
Video Quiz: *Control Room*

*Sub-Saharan Africa

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Guest Speaker: Video conference with Journalist(s) in Ghana


*Asia and Pacific

Thursday, February 23, 2012

Tuesday, February 28, 2012
Guest Speaker: Media in China

*Grounded and Comparative Research

Thursday, March 1, 2012
(I) Research
(II) Globalization

Tuesday, March 6, 2012
Framing & Agenda Setting
Test 1Review

Thursday, March 8, 2012
*Mid Term Test*

**March 10-19: Spring Break**

* *Australasia & Latin America*

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Thursday, March 22, 2012

* *North America*

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Thursday, March 29, 2012
Video Quiz: Outfoxed

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Thursday, April 5, 2012

Tuesday, April 10, 2012
Guest Speaker: Leo Eko, Comparative Free Speech


COMPARING MEDIA PERFORMANCE & END OF SEMESTER PRESENTATIONS

Thursday, April 12, 2012


Tuesday, April 17, 2012
Class Work Day/Student Conferences

Thursday, April 19, 2012 (Completed Paper due)
Student Presentations Group 1
*Hard copy of Final paper in class

Tuesday, April 24, 2012
Student Presentations Group 2

Thursday, April 26, 2012
Student Presentations Group 3

Tuesday, May 1, 2012
Student Presentations Group 4
Thursday, May 3, 2012
Student Presentations Group 5
*Test 2 review

Exam Week: May 7-11

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 instructor.

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](http://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/](http://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](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml).

**Administrative Home**
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook.

**Electronic Communication**
University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml). Scroll down to k.11.)

**Accommodations for Disabilities**
A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See [www.uiowa.edu/~sds/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/) for more information.

**Academic Honesty**
All CLAS students have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml): "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any
student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

**CLAS Final Examination Policies**
The date and time of every final examination is announced during the fifth week of the semester; each CLAS student will receive an email from the Registrar stating the dates and times of the student's final exams. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. **No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes.** All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period.

**Making a Suggestion or a Complaint**
Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

**Understanding Sexual Harassment**
Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

**Reacting Safely to Severe Weather**
In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety website.

**The Iowa Dozen**
We also comply with the Iowa Dozen:
“The Iowa Dozen”

We learn . . .
- to write correctly and clearly
- to conduct research and gather information responsibly
- to edit and evaluate carefully
- to use media technologies thoughtfully
- to apply statistical concepts appropriately

We value . . .
- First amendment principles for all individuals and groups
- a diverse global community
- creativity and independence
- truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity

We explore . . .
- mass communication theories and concepts
- media institutions and practices
- the role of media in shaping cultures