Course description

Consider the following scenarios: You could be paying more for soup or salad here in Iowa if pepper crops fail in another part of the world. Millions of livelihoods outside the US depend on making tee shirts for the American market. Daily, countries across the world are struggling to establish democratically elected governments (something we take for granted here) and their struggles often go viral. What does this tell us about our globally interconnected world? How do we make sense of these new (and in some cases, older) global flows? And what are their implications for the BOP (Bottom of the Pyramid) population in the world?

One place where you can learn about these issues in non-technical yet intelligent and informative ways is international news. In this course we will “watch the world” by tracking hot topics in international news in selected global news outlets. Focusing on subjects like climate change, sustainable and resilient communities, poverty reduction, and food security, and others we will learn about problems and triumphs important to all of us today, and especially for people in the “global South.”

Our objectives in this course will be to:

1. Familiarize ourselves with major global news outlets most popularly used around the world, and in the most popularly used social media today,
2. Learn to follow the development of important international issues over time, with a focus on the “global South,” and
3. Present in a coherent and interesting way this knowledge learned through media.

Readings for the course will be made available on ICON. There will be at least three guest presentations, and sessions devoted to the group project. There is no textbook for the course.

Using ICON

ICON (Iowa Courses Online) is the Web space used for the course. It will be used to upload all relevant documents and readings for the course. Events will be announced on ICON. ICON will also be used to post grades.

How to use ICON: will be explained and demonstrated in class. You will have to familiarize yourself with it on your own time. Help is available at:

The Student Guide to ICON - http://icon.uiowa.edu/support/onlinehelp/students/guide/

Resources for Students

Students will find the Writing Center and the Speaking Center very useful for this course; the Tutor Iowa site is also very valuable for students seeking extra help:
Writing Center: http://www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/
Speaking Center: http://clas.uiowa.edu/rhetoric/for-students/speaking-center
Tutor Iowa: http://tutor.uiowa.edu/

**GRADING:**

Grades for the course will be based on:

- Attendance and participation – 20 points
- In-class and other short assignments as and when they might arise – 20 points
- Global news of the day – 15 points
- Project: Report: 30 points
- Presentation: 15 points

“**A**” range: The work is thorough, thoughtful, and well-written. It shows an excellent understanding of the subject matter.

“**B**” range: The work shows good efforts to understand the material and attempts to write well. Ideas could be better-developed, and in general, performance can be improved.

“**C**” range: Acceptable work, basic points are present. Considerably more thought and development of ideas needed.

“**D**” range: Barely passing material.

“**F:**” Failing grade.

**Grade of Incomplete:** As a policy, I do not give a grade of “Incomplete” except under extenuating circumstances, which I will first have to evaluate.

**Extra credit assignments:** There are no extra-credit assignments for the course.

**CLASS FORMAT**

Discussion of readings, assignments, where available video viewings and guest lectures, in-class team and individual work, and occasionally, if needed, short homework assignments.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Attendance in all sessions is required, as is participation in class. For absences, you should notify me well in advance except in emergencies, in which case you should notify me and explain the nature of the “emergency” at the earliest after the absence. Appropriate documentation has to be provided for all absences within a time limit determined by the instructor. You can meet me during office hours or by appointment to discuss an absence.

Participation means actively discussing the subject matter for the day, in-class, in an informed way (this will require reading the assigned class materials prior to coming to class). You will have to contribute in-class toward both discussions as well as other activities to earn a participation grade.
GLOBAL NEWS OF THE DAY ASSIGNMENT

From week 2 onwards for five weeks we will begin the session with student presentations on global news of the day. This assignment will be explained in the first class meeting.

GROUP PROJECT – PRESENTATION AND REPORT

The main assignment for this course involves a group project, where students will be tracking a topic of global importance, involving developing countries, on selected media. The assignment has two components – a report and a presentation. Guidelines will be given in week 4. Occasionally, brief assignments may be due either at the end of class or the next class period.

A Note on Collaboration

Your final research project is collaborative. Each student on a research team is expected to complete a similar amount of work and to contribute equally to the final project. Each student will complete a peer evaluation, describing this equality or the lack of it during the group’s work. For more information, see the assignment guidelines and the peer evaluation form. Students who misrepresent themselves as equal partners in this collaborative project but who are actually letting others do the bulk of the work will be reported to the College for academic dishonesty. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask them.

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

For weeks where there are assigned readings, they must be completed before coming to class, else it will be very difficult to follow class discussions and contribute to them. Set aside approximately twice the class hours for preparation outside the class – for a 1 credit course, preparation time will require approximately 2 hours, on average. Group work may require approximately two more hours during the week.

Late submission and other policies on assignments:

Assignments must be submitted on time. Late assignments will have a half-letter grade penalty per working day. This means if you earn 9 points on a total of 10 for an assignment,

Academic misconduct:

Plagiarism, unattributed duplication (know the difference between quotations and paraphrasing, cite work from sources other than your own), and fabrication are serious violations of academic honesty. The instructor is required to report any instance of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty will automatically lead to an “F” grade in the assignment, followed by further action by the instructor. To ensure that you do not engage in academic dishonesty even inadvertently (not considered an excuse), please refer the information at http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml (there is an “underscore” between the words academic and handbook in the URL). If you have questions about academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, duplication, or fabrication, it is your responsibility to ensure that you ask me prior to the assignment due date. If this is not done, then the submitted work with the plagiarized material will automatically be marked an “F” grade and further action will be taken.
Classroom conduct

It is assumed that you will adopt a courteous and tolerant attitude toward your classmates and the instructor and be respectful of the diverse viewpoints necessary for a course of this nature. In addition to active and constructive participation, serve as an attentive and engaged audience for your classmates and instructor. Ensure that you come prepared (readings completed before class, assignments ready at beginning of class on due dates). Be on time and remain in class till the end of the class period. Avoid walking in and out of class frequently as this is disruptive of the concentration for both students and the instructor.

Course policy for use of cell phones, Facebook, E-mail, etc., in class

It is course policy that pagers, cell phones, and other personal electronic communication devices remain turned off when class is in session. Avoid Facebook and e-mail communication when the class is in session.

Other

Depending upon the circumstances (pace and progress of the course, emergencies, unexpected guest lectures, etc.), I may modify the course calendar. If there are changes, they will be announced in class and also on ICON. Please check ICON regularly.

Special needs

I would like to hear from anyone who has a disability which may require seating modifications or testing accommodations or accommodations of other class requirements, so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please contact me during my office hours. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Meetings and consultations with the instructor

I check e-mail frequently, and especially during office hours. E-mail is the best way to reach me; my phone during office hours is the next best. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding any aspect of the course—syllabus, term assignments, ideas for assignments, exams, what constitutes academic dishonesty, or any other issue related to the course. Depending upon the nature of the question or problem, I may do one or more of three things—ask you to check back with the syllabus (so consult it first before approaching me), discuss over e-mail, or indicate that a meeting during office hours or by appointment may be best.
COURSE CALENDAR

Note: The calendar provides a general plan of materials for the course; deviations may be necessary depending upon the timing of the arrival of brand new material, pace of the class, and guest lectures and videos when the opportunity presents itself. Keep yourself informed of the correct schedule. All indicated readings and articles will be posted on the course ICON.

August 27 – Introduction, Exploring the concept of international news flow – how information about the world gets distributed in world media

People introductions
Syllabus, ICON, logistics
Course introduction
Global news of the day assignment
Kim and Barnett article, related information

September 3 – Whither news flow in the digital/online era? Changes and continuities in information dissemination among national and global news institutions

Global news of the day
Berger article on Internet and international news
Chang et al article on global news flow in the online era

September 10 – International news institutions and the status of foreign correspondence – players in global dissemination of news

Global news of the day
Chapter on news institutions
Chapter on foreign correspondence

September 17 – Country case – Examples of in-country developments and trends; group projects assignment and discussion

Guest presentation on Chinese journalism and journalists
Global news of the day
Group project assignment and discussion
Guest presentation by International Bibliographer Dr. Edward Miner on country profiles

September 24 - Country cases II – Examples of in-country developments and trends

Global news of the day
Video – News media in India
BBC UK – guest lecture
October 1 – How to “read” world news – cultivating media literacy by learning to analyze world news

Global news of the day
Van Ginneken chapters on how to analyze global news
Discussion on application of the rubric to the group project

October 8
Project preparation day, no in-class session, instructor consultations

October 15
Project presentations (submit final report)

Have a good Thanksgiving break and rest of the semester!
The Iowa Dozen Reminder: We will strive for all of the standards in the Iowa Dozen (uniquely developed for the UI School of Journalism and Mass Communication) applicable to this course. The complete list is given below and the standards applicable to this course are presented in **bold** font:

We learn to

1. Write correctly, clearly and well.
2. **Conduct research and gather information responsibly.**
3. Edit and evaluate carefully.
4. **Use media technologies thoughtfully.**
5. Apply statistical concepts accurately

We value

6. Free speech and First Amendment principles for all individuals and groups.
7. **A diverse global community.**
8. **Creativity and independence.**

We explore

10. Theories and concepts.
11. The history, structure and economy of media institutions
12. The role of media in shaping cultures.
Administrative Policies and Notifications

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 at http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook.

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/ for more information.

Academic Honesty
All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College’s Code of Academic Honesty: "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 final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the tenth day of classes. 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. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar’s web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

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 Department of Public Safety website.