Course description

Did you know you could be paying more for soup or salad here in Iowa if pepper crops fail in another part of the world? Or that millions of livelihoods outside the US depend on making tee shirts for the American market? Are you aware that daily, countries across the world are struggling to establish democratically elected governments, something we take for granted here?

One place where you can learn about what is happening in the world today 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, we will learn about problems and triumphs important to all of us today, and especially for people in poorer parts of the world.

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/
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.

**GRADING:**

Letter grades for the course will be based on:

Attendance and participation
In-class and other short assignments as and when they might arise
Project: Report
Presentation

“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 take-home 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 like death in the family, 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).

GROUP PROJECT – PRESENTATION AND REPORT
The major assignment for this course involves a group project, where students will be tracking a topic of global importance, involving developing countries, on selected media. I will provide a list of topics from which each group can select one. The assignment has two components – a report and a presentation. Guidelines will be given and periodic updates about its progress will be required in class. 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.
**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.
Complaints and grievances
If you have problems with any aspect of the course, please bring them to my attention at the earliest. Talk to me during office hours. I can then take appropriate measures to address the situation. If the problem is not resolved to your satisfaction, you can contact Professor Julie Andsager, Director, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, at E305 AJB (319/ 335-3486) or julie-andsager@uiowa.edu and pursue the matter further. For policies and procedures, you can consult the Student Academic Handbook at [http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/index.shtml].

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Important Policies and Procedures

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 correspondence (Operations Manual, III.15.2. 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/ for more information.

Academic Honesty
All students taking CLAS courses 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 date and time of every final examination is announced by the Registrar generally by the tenth day of classes. 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. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of the 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 Public Safety website.

COURSE CALENDAR

Note: The calendar provides a general plan of materials for the course; deviations may 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.

August 28
People introductions
Syllabus, ICON, logistics
Course introduction

September 4
Chapter 3 from McPhail (discussion)
Preliminary discussion of project and groups

September 11
Chapter from van Ginneken (ICON)
Topic selection and discussion for group projects

September 18
Guest presentation by International Bibliographer Dr. Edward Miner

September 25
Guest presentation by distinguished scholar of international communication, Professor Chin Chuan Lee, Director of the Department of Media and Journalism, City University of Hong Kong

October 2
Chapter from van Ginneken (ICON) - discussion
Project updates

October 9
Guest presentation by Charles Munro, former newsroom director and international consultant to the BBC Northern Ireland
October 16
Project updates, group work

October 23
Student presentations

October 30
Student presentations
Post-presentation discussions

Have a good Thanksgiving break!