What is going on out there? Understanding the world through global news media

JMC:1000:0005
First Year Seminar
Fall 2018 (August 22 – October 25)

Professor: Sujatha Sosale
Office: W329 AJB
Phone: 319-335-3428
E-mail: sujatha-sosale@uiowa.edu
Room: E254 AJB
Time: W 9:30-10:45 AM
Office hours: Tues. 2 – 5 PM

DEO: Dr. David Ryfe, David-ryfe@uiowa.edu, E305 Adler Journalism Building

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. What happens in the world at large affects us in many ways, and decisions made here affect people and communities elsewhere in the world.

In this course we will develop a literacy about our interdependent world through journalism – an area and a source that grapples daily with such issues. We will focus on the economically poorer parts of the world and learn about the urgent problems they face today, problems that are often attributed to contemporary, fast-paced globalization. We will learn about food security, water, environment and health, youth development, girls’ education, and other topics using a variety of sources like news articles, related online and social media content, video/film, other readings, and guest presentations.

Our objectives in this course will be to:

1. Learn to use news and other information sources systematically to build a basic familiarity with, and a preliminary knowledge base about topics and issues that will affect your future as a global citizen,
2. Learn to follow the development of important international issues in journalism and related information sources over time, and
3. Learn to present your findings based on investigation of these information sources.

JMC Learning Outcomes:

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is committed to your academic and professional success. In line with this commitment, we have identified particular learning outcomes that every student should obtain when taking a JMC course.

Broadly speaking, the following outcomes apply to this course:

Multiculturalism:
- Students will demonstrate sensitivity to and understanding of the cultures and perspectives emerging from various local, national, and regional contexts, and their shaping of media practices, products, organizations, and flow.

Media literacy:
- Students will develop critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret media cultures through an understanding of media practices and institutions.
Readings and other materials and sources

There is no assigned textbook for the course, but we will draw extensively from William Hachten and James Scotton, *World News Prism* (10th Ed), 2016, New York: Wiley. It is available as an e-book through the University of Iowa Library and can be read on-screen or downloaded by chapter. There are limitations to downloading per day/session – check with the librarian. We will read from various other sources as well, both academic and popular, view video where appropriate, and listen to guest lectures when possible.

Course policies

Electronic Communication

As per university policy, you are responsible for all official correspondences sent to your @uiowa.edu email. Please check regularly for emails from me. ICON announcements and discussion boards will also be used as the official communication medium for this class. You will need to check regularly and keep up to date with course changes and developments. You will need to submit ICON for submission of assignments. Assignments should be submitted and will be accepted as Microsoft Word documents only. I will not accept assignments via e-mail.

If you need to get in touch with me by e-mail send it directly to me at sujatha-sosale@uiowa.edu, and not through ICON. I will communicate individually with you through your uiowa.edu address. Occasionally I may use the group e-mail on ICON to make some announcements. Announcements are posted in the Announcements page on the course ICON.

No-screen policy

Unless used for a specific in-class assignment, students should turn off screens and use pen/pencil and paper for taking notes. Research has shown that this traditional form of notetaking is still the most effective one for learning. Parallelly, research has shown that use of laptop, tablet, and cell phone in the classroom when class is in session results in lower grades because these devices become barriers to interacting with the material, the instructor, and other factors that enhance learning in the classroom.

Classroom policy

In this class, we will be discussing a variety of political and cultural topics involving nations, regions, and various subcultures therein from a variety of perspectives. We will support the open discussion of viewpoints, even those we don’t like or disagree with, and we will also be respectful of others’ ideas. This course is a place to explore the complexities of our globally connected existence today, occurring most frequently through various media.

Attendance Policy

This course runs for 10 weeks and meets once a week. You are allowed on grace absence. For excused absences you will need to contact me and provide documentation prior to the absence date if it is university-related business. In case of illness, inform me as soon as possible. Documentation will have to be provided within a week of absence. Anything longer will mean the documentation does not count. Unexcused absences will result in a penalty of 5 points per absence from the course total.

Participation

You are expected to engage in class activities and participate actively, contributing thoughtfully that will add value to class discussions.

Resources for Students

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 = 40%
Global news of the day – 15% (Guidelines and calendar will be provided)
Project: Report: 30% (Guidelines will be provided)
Presentation: 15% (Guidelines will be provided)

“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.

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 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.

Academic Misconduct

According to the University of Iowa Academic Policies, academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Using direct quotations without quotation marks and/or without crediting the source
• Paraphrasing information and ideas from sources without crediting the source
• Failing to provide adequate citations for material obtained through electronic research
• Downloading and submitting work from electronic databases without citation
• Submitting material created/written by someone else as one’s own, including purchased papers, artistic works, photography, and electronic media.

In short, plagiarism occurs whenever someone else’s work or idea is presented as your own. Students are responsible for understanding this policy. If you have questions, please ask me for clarification.

If you need assistance on your work, please meet with me. Clear evidence of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade for the assignment/exam and possibly the course. Per college policy, we are required to report academic misconduct the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.
COURSE CALENDAR
Readings and guidelines are available on ICON

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.

Weeks and topics

Week 1 (Aug. 23)
Course introduction

Week 2 (Aug. 30)
News and information needs for the contemporary world

Week 3 (Sept. 6)
Game changers – social media

Week 4 (Sept. 13)
Global language and global news

Week 5 (Sept. 20)
Global events and global news

Week 6 (Sept. 27)
Mobile media and global news - Africa

Week 7 (Oct. 4)
Continental leader - Brazil

Week 8 (Oct. 11)
International correspondence today – Challenges of journalism practice

Week 9 (Oct. 18)
Project presentations

Week 10 (Oct. 25)
Project presentations

Have a good Thanksgiving break and rest of the semester!

Teaching Policies & Resources — Syllabus Insert
Administrative Home
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop
deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other policies. These policies vary by college (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook).

Electronic Communication
Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2).

Accommodations for Disabilities
UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student should then discuss accommodations with the course instructor (https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/).

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom
UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University’s Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at diversity@uiowa.edu or diversity.uiowa.edu.

Academic Integrity
All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address.

CLAS Final Examination Policies
The final exam schedule for each semester is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this final exam information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals. (https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policies-resources-examination-policies.)

Making a Complaint
Students with a complaint should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the departmental executive officer (DEO), also known as the Chair. Students may then bring the concern to CLAS (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities).

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 must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, definitions, and the full University policy, see https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/.