International Reporting
53-4610

Course Description:
This course is a practical guide to being a foreign correspondent and to covering international issues in the United States, focusing on immigrant communities in Chicago to understand and report issues of global importance. Students will follow and analyze breaking news and in-depth reporting from around the world. This is a multimedia and social media course that gives students the opportunity to choose from multiple, emerging platforms to tell their stories.

Learning Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

* analyze international topics, politics, and social, economic and cultural issues of the day
* examine the economic realities and physical obstacles to international reporting
* compare cultural diversity, values and historical perspectives
* pitch, research, report, write, produce multimedia international spot news and feature stories
* develop news sources and briefing materials for international stories
* demonstrate professional work standards and practices, as expressed through regular attendance in class and prompt arrival to all meetings.

Required texts and materials:
Choose ONE book from the following list to read, discuss and report on during the course of the semester. You must get the book and start reading it by the second week in class. If you already have read one of the books on this list, great! Pick one you haven't. A book review (modeled after review in the New York Times, Washington Post or other major newspaper) is due after Spring Break.

*Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo (India)
*Finding Manana: A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus by Mirta Ojito (Latin America)
*We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda by Philip Gourevitch (Africa)
*Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea by Barbara Demick (Asia)
*Eating Mud Crabs in Kandahar: Stories of Food during Wartime by the World's Leading Correspondents by Matthew McAllester (Global)
*Night Draws Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War by Anthony Shadid (Middle East)
A Privilege to Die: Thanassis Cambanis (Middle East)
*Love in the Driest Season: A Family Memoir by Neely Tucker (Africa)
*China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power by Rob Gifford (Asia)
*Out of Mao’s Shadow by Philip P. Pan (Asia)
*The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew and the Heart of the Middle East by Sandy Tolan (Middle East)
*Instant City: Life and Death in Karachi by Steve Inskeep (South Asia)
*Fragments of Grace by Pamela Constable (Central Asia)
*Love They Neighbor by Peter Maas (Eastern Europe)
*Midnight in Mexico: A reporter’s journey through a country’s descent into darkness by Alfredo Corchado (Central America)
*Midnight in Siberia by David Greene (Russia)
*Enrique’s Journey by Sonia Nazario (Central America)
*The Heart that Bleeds by Alma Guillermoprieto (South America)
*Stringer by Anjan Sundaram (Africa)
*Ten Men Dead: The Story of the 1981 Irish Hunger Strike by David Beresford (Europe)
*Between Man and Beast by Monte Reel (South America)

**Recommended news sources for this course:**
New York Times
Foreign Policy magazine
Christian Science Monitor
GlobalPost
NPR
BBC

Supplemental reading materials will be posted in Moodle and on our class Facebook group weekly. It is your responsibility to check Moodle and FB to be prepared for class each week. You must keep up on news in your region and be able to talk about top global issues and stories.

**Class Format:** This is not a seminar class. This is a reporting class, and you will be expected to produce stories from immigrant communities in Chicago. You will be responsible for reporting the stories outside of class. We will spend time in class talking about major international news events, analyzing reporting methods and discussing your reporting projects. Non-journalism majors are welcome in this class but are expected to adhere to best practices in journalism. If you are unfamiliar, please review the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Basically, you will be fine if you follow these two principles: Don’t make stuff up, and don’t offer your opinion.

**Assignments:**

Please refer to the course schedule for individual assignments. Note that these assignments are worth half of your grade. The assignments are due at the beginning of class. No late work will be accepted. All work may be revised.
You will have a week to submit the revision after it is graded and returned to you.

Except where indicated, you must interview at least THREE people in person for all of your stories and include one data point (such as a statistic).

Final Project
Your final project must be original material and presented on the platform of your choice as a multimedia package on an immigrant community in Chicago or a global issue that is playing out in Chicago. A multimedia package will include written text (500 words), a photo slideshow (min. 12 photos) OR a video (90 seconds).

Evaluation/Grading:

Assignments: 50 percent
Final Project: 30 percent
Participation: 20 percent*

*Your participation grade will be based on punctuality (class starts promptly at 9 a.m.), adherence to the classroom policies, including staying off of smartphones unless instructed to use them, voluntarily participating in class discussion and on our Facebook page, meeting deadlines and demonstrating that you have read the assigned materials.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1
Introduction to the course and to foreign reporting

Homework due next class: Choose region. Where will your bureau be located? Write a one-page memo explaining your choice and describing what interests you about this region, which journalist(s) you plan to follow and what the big stories may be on your beat.

Week 2
Social Media in foreign reporting and citizen journalism

In-class assignment: Create a Storify about your region/country on a breaking news topic.
Homework due next class: Research the immigrant community from this region and where they live in Chicago, with a discussion of potential story ideas from here. Organizations? Community groups? Places of worship? Write a one-page memo. We will discuss in class.

Week 3, Feb. 10
unraveling the top foreign news stories

Week 4
Immigration and evolving demographics in the United States. We look at the numbers in your community here in Chicago.

Week 5
Visas, green cards and refugees. How do people get to America and why? Stories behind the numbers.

Homework due next class: Using Cowbird, create a story with single photo, audio and text (minimum 250 words) on a single character from your immigrant community. No minimum or maximum length on the audio, but it must be edited. You do not need multiple sources for the text.

Week 6
War reporting

Week 7
Refugees and immigrants from places of conflict. How to tell their stories with sensitivity.

Week 8
In-class assignment: Go directly to your immigrant neighborhood. Using a mobile app, produce a multimedia piece during class. You do not need to set something up in advance. This is street reporting, telling a story that you find when you arrive. But you should have some general ideas and a back-up plan. Due by 5 p.m.

Homework due after Spring Break: Write a book review of the book you selected at the beginning of the class. This is not a book “report” or a casual Yelp review. Follow standard newspaper or magazine guidelines used by the Washington Post, New York Times, Slate or Salon to write your review.
Week 9
Government censorship and foreign news sites

*Homework for next class: How do people in your community find out news from “home?” Is there a local publication in Chicago? A TV station? Do they share gossip at a barber shop, a community center, the grocery store? Write a one-page memo.*

Week 10
Human rights

*Homework for next class: Bring idea for final project to class for discussion. The idea must be approved by me, with input from your classmates.*

Your final project must be original material and presented as a multimedia package on an immigrant community in Chicago or a global issue that is playing out in Chicago. A multimedia package will include written text (750 words), a photo slideshow (min. 12 photos) OR a video (90 seconds).

Week 11
Finding and telling off-beat global stories

*Homework for next class: Pick your platform. Tell a story from your community.*

Week 12
Understanding world religions

*Homework for next class: Take the Poynter News U. course, Religion, Culture and Society: Getting Beyond the Cliches. Follow the instructions on Moodle to write at least five paragraphs discussing what you learned.*

Week 13
U.S. foreign policy and the agencies in Washington that foreign correspondents follow

Week 14
The future of global news. Wrap-up.
Homework for next class: Final Project Due.

Week 15
Showcase final projects.