

## INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM: MODULE GUIDE

**Semester 1 2011-12**

**JO3178**

**Level 3**

**Credits: 15**

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Office Hours: MON 3-4 and TUES 2-4

### AIMS

- To promote understanding of how the global news agenda is set
- To develop awareness of the pressures that shape the role of the foreign reporter and the operation of the foreign desk
- To promote awareness of international issues and institutions
- To examine the characteristics of war reporting
- To understand how the foreign correspondent manning a foreign bureau operates

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

**On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:**

- Engage in critical debate about the global news media's priorities and content
- Explain how foreign reporters and desks operate and why
- Identify the main international institutions and the global issues they were created to address
- Explain the particular challenges, skills and dangers of war reporting
- Make judgements about which stories should be covered in various parts of the world, justify those judgements and develop those stories using British sources

### TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

This one-semester module will be delivered through weekly two-hour workshops comprising of weekly discussions of world news, short lectures and student presentations. The lecturer will do most of the short lectures but there will also be two foreign correspondent speakers. Class may have to be flexible with the timetable if a guest lecturer has, at the last minute, to reschedule a visit.

Workshops will usually start with a short discussion of news from across the globe. You will be divided into small groups for these discussions, with each group responsible for a particular region of the world (eg the Middle East). Each group will be expected to meet – or at the very least communicate electronically – in advance of

class to discuss the news from their area and analyse the way stories in their patch have been covered. Groups will be selected at random each week to talk about coverage of their own patch. Analysis can take many forms but it could, for example, focus on the relative merits of stories from different parts of the globe or the treatment of different foreign news stories or different countries and regions by the same or different media. Students will be expected to connect the themes that emerge in presentations from both students and the lecturer with the coverage of their patch.

Each of the groups will also make a one-off presentation and lead class discussion (to fill a 30-40 minute slot) on a given international news topic. This will constitute 30% of the final mark. (The remaining 70% of the overall mark is allocated to a 2000 word essay)

It's important to understand that this is not a course in which you can turn up and just listen passively to the lecturer for two hours. It requires group and individual preparation and participation. Outside the workshop sessions, you will be expected to immerse yourselves in foreign news through newspapers – both in hard copy and online - and through terrestrial and satellite broadcasting. It's important to be able to compare and contrast coverage of particular foreign stories – eg Al Jazeera v CNN or Independent v Telegraph - so you can debate the issues around global news.

While the core and recommended texts are helpful (see bibliography), there is also lots of other relevant material in print and on-line relating to each week's topic. Some of this material will be flagged up in advance of – and posted after - sessions but students will also be expected to do their own research.

## **PROGRAMME**

### **WEEK 1 (Thursday Sept 28)**

#### **INTRO**

Module and assessment explanation. Setting up foreign correspondent and presentation groups 1-9. Explanation of weekly group reports and the one-off group presentations.

#### **PRACTICAL**

##### **GROUP/CLASS DISCUSSION**

We look at two pieces of writing from Afghanistan and North Korea.

What are the characteristics of foreign reporting? How does it differ from domestic journalism?

Also Lara Logan reporting on the Arab Spring in Cairo, Tim Hetherington covering revolution in Libya and Stephen Farrell on tragedy in Afghanistan. Was it/is it worth the risk?

#### **PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Each group must prepare their patch reports.**

**GROUP 1 should start preparing for their presentation in week 3. Other groups should start planning for their presentations.**

**WEEK 2 (October 5)**

**DISCUSSION OF LAST SEVEN DAYS OF FOREIGN NEWS**

**LECTURE**

**MAIN ISSUES AROUND THE GLOBAL NEWS AGENDA – PART 1**

Who sets it, what gets covered, what's ignored? Objective/subjective reporting?  
Dominant world views and media ownership?

**PRACTICAL**

**OBJECTIVE REPORTING? THE SLY POWER OF WORDS**

Group discussion of Middle East news report. Plus former Times Middle East correspondent Sam Kiley writes about resigning over words and The Independent's Robert Fisk on weasel words in the Middle East.

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Each group must prepare their patch reports.**

**GROUP 1 to make their presentation next week**

**WEEK 3 (Oct 12)**

**DISCUSSION OF LAST SEVEN DAYS OF FOREIGN NEWS**

**LECTURE**

**MAIN ISSUES AROUND THE GLOBAL NEWS AGENDA – PART 2**

The changing face of foreign reporting. How it used to work and how it works in the Digital Age. Just how poor is the current health of foreign ops?

Challenges to the status quo - from Al Jazeera to citizen journalists and local bloggers.

Top down forces via bottom up forces in foreign news and story selection.

**GROUP 1 PRESENTATION**

**Is objective foreign reporting possible or desirable? The case for and against the Journalism of Attachment**

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Each group must prepare their patch reports.**

**GROUP 2 to make their presentation next week**

**WEEK 4 (Oct 19)**

**DISCUSSION OF LAST SEVEN DAYS OF FOREIGN NEWS**

**LECTURE - WAR REPORTING 1**

History of war reporting and the truth, lies, censorship debate. From the Times' man in the Crimea, William Howard Russell, to Julian Assange's Wikileaks from Iraq

**GROUP 2 PRESENTATION**

The pros and cons of embedded war reporting? Should news organisations seize on opportunities for embedded reporting or dismiss them as attempts to censor and control?

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

Each group must prepare their patch reports.

**GROUP 3 to make their presentation next week**

**WEEK 5 (Oct 26)**

**DISCUSSION OF LAST SEVEN DAYS OF FOREIGN NEWS**

**LECTURE – WAR REPORTING TWO FROM GUEST SPEAKER (TBA)**

**GROUP 3 PRESENTATION**

The role of the local reporter in the Iraq war coverage. The ethics of foreign news organisations employing local reporters to take the biggest and deadliest risks.

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

Each group must prepare their patch reports.

**GROUP 4 to make their presentation after Reading Week**

**WEEK 6 (Nov 2) - READING WEEK**

**WEEK 7 (Nov 9)**

**DISCUSSION OF LAST SEVEN DAYS OF FOREIGN NEWS**

**LECTURE – GUEST LECTURER GRAHAM HOLLIDAY, REUTERS CORRESPONDENT IN KIGALI ON HOW TO MAKE FOREIGN WORK AS A STRINGER/FREELANCE**

**GROUP 4 PRESENTATION**

The rise of news bloggers and citizen journalists from Burma to Iraq – gift or threat to “professional” foreign news and “professional” foreign journalists?

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

Critique of next seven days of foreign news in your group’s patch.

**GROUP 5 to present next week,**

**WEEK 8 (Nov 16)**

**DISCUSSION OF LAST SEVEN DAYS OF FOREIGN NEWS**

**LECTURE – THE “CNN EFFECT”**

Has 24-hour news transformed politics as well as international news? Has it spawned a rash of “counter-hegemonic” satellite news services?

**GROUP 5 PRESENTATION**

**The Al Jazeera phenomenon. Can it and other 24-hour “counter-hegemonic” networks address some of the alleged unfairness in the global news agenda?**

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

Critique of next seven days of foreign news in your group’s patch.  
GROUP 6 to present next week

**WEEK 9 (Nov 23)**

**DISCUSSION OF LAST SEVEN DAYS OF FOREIGN NEWS**

**LECTURE – HOW TECHNOLOGY HAS REVOLUTIONISED FOREIGN REPORTING. HOW MUCH HAS TECHNOLOGY CHANGED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY REPORTED AND THOSE TRADITIONALLY REPORTED ON?**

**GROUP 6 PRESENTATION**

**The story of the Bang Bang Club and the pressures of foreign/conflict reporting.**

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

Critique of next seven days of foreign news in your group’s patch.  
GROUP 7 to present next week,

**WEEK 10 (Nov 30)**

**DISCUSSION OF LAST SEVEN DAYS OF FOREIGN NEWS**

**LECTURE – THE POWER AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOREIGN PRESS – FROM RWANDA TO DARFUR, CONGO AND HAITI.**

**Did the international media fail in Rwanda? If so, has it also failed in Darfur, Congo and Haiti?**

**GROUP 7 PRESENTATION**

**The Rwandan media’s role in the Rwandan genocide. What were the characteristics of Rwandan society and its domestic media that made genocide possible?**

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

Critique of next seven days of foreign news in your group’s patch.  
GROUP 8 to present next week

## **WEEK 11 (Dec 7)**

### **DISCUSSION OF LAST SEVEN DAYS OF FOREIGN NEWS**

#### **LECTURE - GLOBAL ISSUES AND INSTITUTIONS**

Inequality, poverty, disease, unfair trade, global warming, the developed v developing worlds – and the international institutions/bodies involved.

#### **GROUP 8 PRESENTATION**

**The World Bank and IMF – operating all over the world. A force for good?  
Should the foreign reporter revere them or treat them with scepticism?**

#### **PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK**

Critique of next seven days of foreign news in your group's patch.  
GROUP 9 to present next week

## **WEEK 12 (Dec 14)**

### **WIDER GROUP DISCUSSION ON WHAT STUDENTS HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE COVERAGE OF THEIR OWN PATCH AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD DURING THE SEMESTER. LOOKING FOR OVERALL CONCLUSIONS**

#### **GROUP 9 PRESENTATION**

**The relationship between the media and NGOs in the daily struggle to adequately cover the globe**

#### **ASSESSMENT**

1. A 2000-word essay on a key aspect of international journalism. The essay questions will be set by the lecturer. This will make up 70% of the final mark.
2. A group presentation will account for 30% of the final mark.

#### **DEADLINES**

1. All materials – slides and notes – relating to group presentations must also be submitted with a brief description of the contribution of each group member to the task must be submitted by **11am, Thursday 15 December, 2011 (Only one folder per group required)**
2. The 2000-word essay must be submitted by **11am, Monday, 9 Jan, 2012**

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY ,**

### Core texts

- \*Hachten, William A and Scotton, James F. (2007) *The World News Prism: Global Information in a Satellite Age by (7th edition)*. (Blackwell/Wiley)
- \*Van Ginneken, Jaap, (1997) *Understanding Global News: An Introduction* (Sage)
- \* Knightley, Philip (2003) *The First Casualty: The War Correspondent as Hero, Propagandist and Myth-Maker from the Crimea to Gulf War II* (Andre Deutsch)
- \*Journalism Studies, Vol 11, No 5, 2010 (read all articles in this issue on the current state and future of foreign reporting)

### Recommended Reading

- \*Allan, Stuart and Zelizer, Barbie, (2004) *Reporting War: Journalism in War Time* (Routledge)
- Ayres, Chris (2006), *War Reporting for Cowards* (John Murray)
- \*Connelly, Mark, and Welch, David (2006), *War and the Media: Reportage & Propaganda, 1900-2003* (I. B. Tauris)
- \*Courtemanche, Gil (2004) *A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali* (Vintage)
- \* Gourevitch, Philip (1999) *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda* (Picador)
- \*Herman, E S and Chomsky N (2002) *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media* (Pantheon)
- \*Keane, Fergal (1997) *Season of Blood: A Rwandan Journey* (Penguin)
- MacGregor, Brent (1997) *Live, Direct and Biased? Making Television News in the Satellite Age* (Hodder Arnold)
- \* Mohammed El-Nawawy and Adel Iskandar (2003) *Al-Jazeera* (Westview Press)
- \*Orwell, George *Homage to Catalonia* (Penguin)
- \*Pax, Salam (2003) *The Baghdad Blog* (Guardian Books)
- Politkovskaya, Anna (2003) *A Small Corner of Hell: Dispatches from Chechnya* (University of Chicago Press)
- \*Seierstad, Asne (2006) *The Bookseller of Kabul*
- \*Silva, Tony (2001), *Global News: Perspectives on the Information Age* (Iowa State Press, Blackwells)
- \*Waugh, Evelyn, *Scoop: A Novel about Journalism* (Penguin)
- \*Zelizer, Barbie and Allan, Stuart (2002) *Journalism After September 11* (Routledge)

### Additional

Two really good little books, downloadable from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (Oxford University) site. Part of a bigger series.

1.Painter, James (2008) *Counter-Hegemonic News – A Study of Al-Jazeera English and Telesur*

[http://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/documents/Publications/Counter-Hegemonic\\_News.pdf](http://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/documents/Publications/Counter-Hegemonic_News.pdf)

2.Fossato, Floriana and Lloyd, John (2008) *The Web that Failed How Opposition Politics and Independent Initiatives are Failing on the Internet in Russia*

[http://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/documents/Publications/The\\_Web\\_that\\_Failed.pdf](http://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/documents/Publications/The_Web_that_Failed.pdf)

(\*in our library)

