



Course Syllabus

CODE number: CMM 331 G

International Journalism

Number of ECTS 6

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Course Prerequisites (if any):

HUM 101 & CMM 101

Course Description

The course focuses on the understanding of the foreign correspondents' and international news' role in society. The course analyses the direction, flow and pattern of the foreign correspondents' coverage, as well as the impact of new technologies on the quantity, frequency and speed of their coverage. It also addresses the political, social and economic consequences of journalistic coverage of international news. In its discussion of these aspects of journalism studies, the course takes an international approach, contrasting differences in journalistic cultures and approaches, as well as discussing the impact of global trends (e.g. the democratization of content creation) on journalistic practices.

Finally, the main challenges of communicating from abroad are candidly discussed with foreign correspondents based in Brussels as well as officials from the EU and NATO who participate as guest speakers.

COURSE CALENDAR

- Week 1. Introduction: Journalism and Globalization (reading by Simon Cottle)
- Week 2. Theoretical Perspectives and Research Methods in Studies of Foreign Correspondence (Reading by Charles Self)
- Week 3. The Political Economy of Foreign Correspondents (Reading by Gerd Kooper and Benjamin Bates)

- Week 4. Theoretical Frameworks Guiding the Study of International News: Gatekeeping, Agenda Setting and Framing (reading by Peter Gade and Dave Ferman)
- Week 5. Foreign Correspondents as Mediators and Translators Between Cultures: Perspectives from Intercultural Communication Research in Anthropology, Semiotics and Cultural Studies (reading by Ralph Beliveau, Oliver Hahn and Guido Ipsen)
- Week 6. Professional Values, Ethics and Norms of Foreign Correspondents (reading by Katerina Tsetsura, David Graig and Olivier Baisnee)
- Week 7. **Mid-Term Exam**
- Week 8. Foreign News Reporting in the Digital Age and the Impact of New Technologies (reading by Levi Obijiofor & Folker Hanusch, chapter 6 and 9)
- Week 9. Redefining and Creating a New Typology of Foreign Correspondence (reading by John Maxwell Hamilton and Eric Jenner)
- Week 10. Comparative Studies of Journalists and Foreign Correspondents (reading by Thomas Hanitzsch et al., and Georgios Terzis) [Quest Lecture: Foreign Correspondent based in Brussels]
- Week 11. Covering the EU: Attend the European Commission Mid-Day Press Briefing and tour of the Europe by Satellite facilities
- Week 12. Covering NATO: Visit its Press Service Approaches to reporting Peace and Conflict (reading by Levi Obijiofor & Folker Hanusch, chapter 7)
- Week 13. The Role of Foreign Correspondents in Public Diplomacy (reading by Christina Archetti) [Quest Lecture: Euronews/Africanews TV channels]
- Week 14. Course Wrap: Summary and Conclusions
- Week 15. Final Exam

Course Materials

Textbook

A Reader provided by the instructor

Course Assessment

Commented [J1]: This one by former colleagues in Antwerp may be interesting: on the role of new values in foreign news selection:

De Swert, K., & Wouters, R. (2011). The coverage of China in Belgian television news: a case study on the impact of foreign correspondents on news content. *Chinese Journal of Communication*, 4(3), 331–347. doi:10.1080/17544750.2011.594561

(could also work for the next class, they show that having a correspondent affects which news is made about a country – e.g. more on civil society, less elite sources, ...).

Commented [J2]: More on general journalism, but might be interesting as an additional reading:

Lecheler, S., & Kruikeimer, S. (2016). Re-evaluating journalistic routines in a digital age. A review of research on the use of online sources. *New Media & Society*, 18(1), 156-171.

The final grade will be based on the following:

- In-Class Participation 10%
- Research Paper 30%
- Mid-Term Exam 30%
- Final Exam 30%

Commented [J3]: Needed? If so, then you'll need to clearly describe the criteria you'll use for this (and grade each session). Not sure about this for 300 level – I'd shift this more onto the research paper.

The time allocation is estimated as follows:

- Research Paper 43 hours
- Mid-Term Exam 40 hours
- Final Exam 40 hours
- In-Class Participation 42 hours

Grading Scale of Vesalius College

Vesalius College grading policy, in line with the Flemish Educational norms, is now as follows:

Letter grade	Scale of 20	Scale of 100
A	17.0-20.0	85-100
A-	16.1-16.9	81-84
B+	15.3-16.0	77-80
B	14.5-15.2	73-76
B-	13.7-14.4	69-72
C+	13.1-13.6	66-68
C	12.3-13.0	62-65
C-	11.5-12.2	58-61
D+	10.7-11.4	54-57
D	10.0-10.6	50-53
F	0-9.9	0-49

Additional Course Policies

Teaching and Learning Methods

Interactive Professor Lectures, Expert Lectures from a number of political communication actors and foreign correspondents based in Brussels, Videos, Class Discussions.

Class attendance

Because the College is committed to providing students with high-quality classes and ample opportunity for teacher-student interaction, it is imperative that students regularly attend class. As such, Vesalius College has a strict attendance policy.

Participation in class meetings is mandatory, except in case of a medical emergency (e.g. sickness). Students will need to provide evidence for missing class (doctor's note). If evidence is provided, the missed class is considered as an excused class. If no evidence is provided, the missed class is counted

as an absence. If students are absent for five 1,5 hour class sessions of a course, they receive a penalty of 5 points on their overall grade for that course. For each additional absence (over five) for a 1,5 hour class session, an additional penalty of 1 point is applied to the course grade.

Research Paper **Instructions**

Commented [J4]: Briefly describe the basic goal of the paper? E.g. should they do an interview, or apply some of the theories to a foreign news case?

Length: The extent of the paper should be minimum 3000 and maximum 4000 words per student, (using a minimum of 12 different academic peer-reviewed references, and an approved Style citation system).

Research Methods. During this course students would be asked to do a text analysis of international news events covered by different media organizations.

Assignments are due on:

Week 10 (at reception)

Mid Term and Final Exams

The mid-term and final exams will cover both lecture notes and assigned readings. The midterm will cover the required material from the first part of the semester, the final exam the material from the second part. The format of both the midterm and the final exams will be 3 short essay questions (0.5 - 1 page long answer) and 1 long essay question (1.5 - 2 pages long answer). The following criteria will be applied in assessing exam responses: Capacity to grasp and convey factual, conceptual and theoretical knowledge; Capacity to synthesize and to apply concepts and theory to concrete cases; Capacity to develop a systematic argument based on theory and practice.

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND MAKE UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED!