

# **World Communication Systems**

**JLMC 476/576, Spring 2022**

**Online Asynchronous Half-Semester Course**

**(January 18 - March 11, 2022)**

## **INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Daniela Dimitrova, Professor, Greenlee School of Journalism & Communication

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Office Hours: Online via Webex on Canvas

## **MEETING TIME AND PLACE**

Canvas: Asynchronous Online Class

## **PURPOSE**

This course is designed to introduce students to the increasingly important role that global media play in our daily lives. Our response to international events to a considerable degree is determined by how the media (domestic, international and transnational) shape our views of these events. During the semester we will examine the various domestic, international and transnational media in developed and developing societies. Key issues ranging from dominant media models, global journalism education, media freedom, and international news flow will be discussed. We will look at several case studies of how the media cover key events around the world. We will ask who these media are, how they function, who controls them, and how we react to them and to their content. We will also discuss what impact the answers to these questions have on social, economic and political developments in different nations. Finally, we will explore the role of social media and the digital divide in today's global society.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the semester, you should:

- (1) Have a solid understanding of the theories of international communication;
- (2) Learn about media structure and development in all world regions;
- (3) Understand the role of journalists, media organizations, international news agencies, and journalism training around the world;
- (4) Discuss with peers the influence of the political, economic, and cultural environment on global media development;
- (5) Evaluate the impact of media coverage of international events;
- (6) Be able to explain the basic differences in historical developments and current trends in media systems around the world.

## **TEXTBOOK**

There is one required textbook for this course:

1. Dimitrova, D. V. (2021). Global journalism: Understanding world media systems. Lanham, MD: Roman & Littlefield. *\*either print copy or e-book version*

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Yahya R. Kamalipour. (2020). Global Communication: A Multicultural Perspective. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Lanham, MD: Roman & Littlefield.

Daya Kishan Thussu. (2018). International Communication: Continuity and Change (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). London: Arnold.

Thomas L. Friedman. (2005). The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

In addition to the readings, we will try to watch clips from documentaries and newscasts where relevant. We may also invite guest speaker from other countries during the semester. You are encouraged to use the Internet to stay current with international news and events. (I have provided a Top 10 recommended links at the end of the syllabus). I would also like to encourage you to post to the General Class Discussion any interesting and relevant articles or videos you come across to share with your classmates.

## PREREQUISITES

In order to take this class, undergraduate students need **16 credits** of social science. **Junior** classification or instructor permission required. Please make sure that you have access to the ISU library databases and a reliable online connection for accessing class content.

## REQUIREMENTS

Please note that it is **your** responsibility to read this syllabus carefully. Feel free to contact me with any questions about course topics, goals, requirements or policies at any point during the semester.

**Computer Skills:** This course relies heavily on Canvas and on general computer proficiency and previous knowledge of how to use the online resources. You will be required to have an active ISU email account and check it regularly. Basic understanding of online searches and library databases is also expected.

**Posts:** Weekly posts will gauge how well students are understanding the readings and other material covered in class. Each student is expected to comment on two other students' post throughout the week in a meaningful way. All posts should use proper spelling, grammar and professionalism and will be made on Canvas. Please note that no late postings will be accepted. If you need additional assistance with Canvas please contact CELT or the IT office on campus.

The weekly postings will focus on the media in a foreign country of your choice. These postings may be a description of a news story about the media system in that country or your own findings about journalism training or media freedom there. The topic of the posting will change every week. Be prepared to discuss these postings in class. Please note that each student will follow a different country throughout the semester and the postings will become the basis for the student presentation. Countries will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

**Exams:** There will be one midterm exam in this class at the half way point of the class. The exam will cover material from the first half of the semester and will be in multiple-choice format. More details about the exam will be provided later.

**Student Presentations:** One of the class assignments involves recording a 12-15 minute presentation about your country of choice. You will be responsible for introducing the country's background and the characteristics of its media system. The presentation should be based on your research throughout the semester and incorporate information from the weekly

posts. Each presentation will be pre-recorded and uploaded on Canvas. Further instructions will be posted online.

**Graduate Students:** Graduate students will be required to meet higher performance and participation standards than will undergraduate students. Each graduate student will be expected to take a leadership role in interacting with peers on the class discussion board. They will also be expected to find relevant resources and post them within the General Discussion Board and to guide peers in online discussions in a professional and collaborative manner.

**Please Note:** Additional information about each assignment will be distributed on Canvas. Deadlines are very important in this course so please complete your assignments on time. No late assignments will be accepted.

**Extra credit:** Extra credit *may* be offered for participation in research projects or other on-campus activities. Such opportunities will be announced in class.

## GRADING

Grades will not be curved or rounded for individual assignments. Your final scores will be derived by adding the scores of each assignment. If you do not complete an assignment, you will receive 0 points.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Weekly Online Postings	30 (6 posts)
Midterm Exam	30
Student Presentation	30
Online Participation	10
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

### **Grade Distribution:**

A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93
B+	88 - 89
B	83 - 87
B-	80 - 82
C+	78 - 79
C	73 - 77
C-	70 - 72
D+	68 - 69
D	62 - 67
D-	60 - 61
E	below 60%

### **Grades Reflect the Following:**

- A = Mastery of the content and concepts in the course; original thinking in all assignments; thorough preparation for class; excellent attendance and participation both in class and online
- B = Strong effort in preparation; consistent attendance and participation; evidence of understanding the course content and concepts; very good performance
- C = Acceptable preparation; familiarity with course content and concepts; frequent attendance

### **CREATING A GOOD LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:**

**General:** You are expected to be in class on time and notify me ahead of time if you will miss class for any reason. You are expected to complete the required readings prior to the lecture and are encouraged to ask questions, respond to lectures, actively participate in class, and think critically about assigned readings. Please check your technology settings in advance.

**Participation:** Although this class is a lecture course it is designed to encourage as much discussion, exchange and even debate on a wide variety of international communication issues. Your instructor will introduce specific discussion topics, but each student is expected to contribute their perspective on these issues and introduce topics of interest and significance related to world communication systems.

Delivery mode should not serve as impediment to class discussion. Even during online class delivery students will have an opportunity to ask questions and contribute with their ideas and experiences. Whenever possible, online group activities will be used as a way to stay engaged with peers.

**Inclusiveness:** Every attempt is made to make all Greenlee School courses non-sexist and multicultural in content. Should the instructor fail to meet this goal, please visit with me or the Department Executive Officer.

**Availability:** Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or feedback about the class. I am available to meet online during office hours or, if those don't work, we can schedule an appointment at another time. I can be reached via any of the following technologies: Webex, Zoom, Skype, or simply via phone.

**Technology:** Because of the online delivery mode, we will rely heavily on instructional technologies throughout the semester. The main platform for accessing class material is Canvas. Class content will be delivered and accessed via Canvas as well as the YouTube & Webex application within it. Please be sure to have decent Internet connection when accessing the online video content.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

All work presented in class must be your own. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this class. This applies to all online content you turn in as your own as well as to your written work. Each student is expected to do his or her own work, which should be original and performed solely for this course. Any deviation from this policy will be considered grounds for failure in the class. In other words, if cheating occurs it will result in an "F" for the course. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, you must ask me before you turn your work in. For more details on academic dishonesty contact the Dean of Students Office.

The departmental policy states: "*Plagiarism, literary or artistic theft, occurs when the work or actual words of another person or persons are presented as one's own (that is, without attribution, quotations, or rewriting).* Any provable instance will be cause for disciplinary action by both the professor in the course and the University, as described in the ISU Information Handbook. A suitable sanction for wholesale appropriation of material from another source without attribution to that source would be immediate dismissal from the course."

## ADDITIONAL

**Students with Disabilities:** I will make special arrangements as needed for students with disabilities. Please let me know of such needs the first week of the semester.

**Counseling:** Counseling services and related resources are available at Iowa State University. Please let me know if you need assistance finding such resources on campus.

## USEFUL RESOURCES

**International Media:** Each of you has potential access to a wide variety of international media. Hundreds of international newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations now have their own Web sites. Many of these media offer printed summaries of national and international events as well as streaming audio and/or video. Most of these electronic publications are updated daily. There are often English-language versions if you don't read or understand the official language of the nation you choose.

### **Top 10 Recommended Websites:**

You may find the following websites useful to stay up to date on international news and events:

1. European Journalism Observatory: <https://en.ejo.ch/>
2. Access World News Database: <http://instr.iastate.libguides.com/az.php>
3. Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/lists.html>
4. Arab Media News: <https://www.arabnews.com/>
5. NYT World Edition: <https://www.nytimes.com/section/world>
6. The BBC News World Edition: <http://news.bbc.co.uk>
7. CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>
8. Committee to Protect Journalists: <https://cpj.org/>
9. Freedom House: <https://freedomhouse.org/>
10. Reporters Without Borders: <https://rsf.org/en>

### Documentaries

Control Room: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCgfMdvk2n8>

War Photographer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXDei7xH4fM>  
(Also through Kanopy at the ISU library)

The Murder of Jamal Khashoggi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DVah3bZIV8&t=3s>

OLPC Uruguay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mR0k8thNGtc&t=1203s>

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### Course Calendar

**January 18 - March 11, 2022**

DATE	TOPIC	READING/ CASE STUDY	ASSIGNMENT
Week 1	A Framework for the Study of Global Media Systems	The class syllabus ☺ Chapter 1 Case Study: <i>Four Theories of the Press</i>	<b>Post 1:</b> Self Intro Choose Your Country
Week 2	Global Media Freedom	Chapter 4 Case Study: <i>Jamal Khashoggi's Murder</i>	<b>Post 2:</b> Press Models
Week 3	European Media Models: Central and Eastern Europe and Western/ Northern Europe	Chapter 10 & 11 Case Study: <i>The Mohammad Cartoons Controversy</i>	<b>Post 3:</b> Media Freedom
Week 4	The Media in Developing Nations: Sub-Saharan Africa & MENA	Chapter 8 & 9 Case Study: <i>War Photographer</i>	<b>No Post</b> Test Review
<i>Due Feb. 13</i> <i>ONLINE</i>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>		
Week 5	The Media in Developing Nations: Asia & Latin America	Chapter 12 & 13 Case Study: <i>Cultural Imperialism</i>	<b>Post 4:</b> Media Diversity
Week 6	Global Journalism Education	Chapter 6 Case Study: <i>SPJ Code of Ethics</i>	<b>Post 5:</b> Foreign News Reporting
Week 7	Covering International Conflicts, Crises, and Global Migration	Chapter 16 Case Study: <i>Control Room</i>	<b>Post 6:</b> Digital Divide
Week 8	The Global Digital Divide	Chapter 3 Case Study: <i>OLPC in Uruguay</i>	<b>No Post</b> Presentation Guidelines
<i>Due March 11</i> <i>ONLINE</i>	<b>Presentations</b>	--	