Semester At Sea Course Syllabus

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage: Fall 2018
Discipline: Journalism and Media Communication
Course Number and Title: JTC 418 Journalism, Peace, and War
Division: Upper
Faculty Name: Dan Berkowitz
Semester Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Whether at war or in peace, one constant around the globe is the threat of political violence, more commonly called “terrorism.” Terrorism also goes beyond politics to encompass culture, ideology, and religion, among other dimensions. The concept of terrorism has begun to pervade the minds of Americans, as well as people all around the world. At the same time, the meanings of the word “terrorism” have become more varied and less precise. Media coverage about terrorism has raised more questions than it has provided answers. This ambiguity has surfaced in television shows, movies and the Internet as well.

This course therefore focuses on the interface between media and terrorism. Through readings and discussion, we will explore models for depicting and analyzing media coverage of terrorism events taking place both within and outside a country. We will explore the concept of terrorism, media portrayals of terrorism, and the cultural meanings and symbols that emerge about terrorism. Course requirements include exams, student-led overviews of readings and media content, and student discussions of key topics and terrorism-related films.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To build an understanding of how terrorism and conflict are reported in the news and presented in popular culture.
- To develop a model of how media portrayals of terrorism and conflict shape our understanding of the concept.
- To explore how media representations of terrorism and conflict contribute to misunderstanding of cultures and diverse peoples.
- To enhance critical thinking about media messages in society, both domestically and in the global arena.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Brigitte L. Nacos
TITLE: Mass-Mediated Terrorism: Mainstream and Digital Media in Terrorism and Counterterrorism.
PUBLISHER: Rowman & Littlefield
ISBN #: 978-1-4422-4761-1
DATE/EDITION: 2016/3rd Edition

AUTHOR: Joseph S. Tuman
TITLE: Communicating Terror: The Rhetorical Dimensions of Terrorism
PUBLISHER: Sage Publications
ISBN #: 9781412973243
DATE/EDITION: 2010/2nd Edition

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Hamburg, Germany — September 9
B1—September 12: Course introduction: Toward a definition of terrorism and its interface with news and society

B2—September 14: Exploring media content of terrorism. developing a model for communication about terrorism. Exploring the notion of Peace Journalism
   Read Berkowitz: Developing an ideographic model of communication about terrorism
   Read Youngblood: Ch. 1, The Peace Journalism Approach
   Country profile paper due

Barcelona, Spain — September 15-16
Valencia, Spain — September 17-18
B3—September 20: Building a foundation for studying terrorism and media
   Read Nacos: Introduction to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd editions
   Read Tuman: Introduction
   Debrief port reports

B4—September 22: Terrorism in contemporary times
   Read Nacos: Ch. 1, Media and terrorism in the twenty-first century

Study Day — September 23: No Class

B5—September 25: Defining terrorism and its communication actions
   Read Tuman: Ch. 1, The struggle to define terrorism
   Read Nacos: Ch. 2, The communication calculus of terrorism

Tema, Ghana — September 27-28 (FIELD CLASS meets Friday, September 28)
Takoradi, Ghana — September 29-30

B6—October 1: The rhetoric of terrorism
Read Tuman: Ch. 2, Terrorism as a communication process with rhetorical dimensions
*Country profile paper due*

**Community Programming — October 2: No Class**

**B7—October 4:** The media language about terrorism
Read Nacos: Ch. 3, Terrorists always found alternative media
Read Tuman: Ch. 3, Labeling and defining terrorism as rhetoric
*Debrief Port Report due*
*Field Class Report due*

**B8—October 6:** The role of the Internet in terrorism
Read Nacos: Ch. 4, Computer-assisted political violence or e-terrorism
*Country profile paper due*

**Cape Town, South Africa — October 7-12**

**B9—October 14:** Symbolism about terrorism in the news
Read Tuman: Ch. 4, Symbols, symbolism and terrorism
Read Nacos: Ch. 5, Traditional media, terrorism news, and the virus of contagion
*Debrief port reports*

**Study Day —October 16: No Class**

**B10—October 17:** Looking deeper into the symbols of terrorism
Read Tuman: Ch. 5, Symbolism in the targets of terrorism
*Case Study: Terrorism, Domestic Terrorism and the Lone Wolf*

**Port Louis, Mauritius — October 19**

**B11—October 20:** Exam #1

**Study Day —October 21: No Class**

**B12—October 23:** Mass-mediated terrorism as we know it
Read Nacos: Ch. 6, Attack on America as breaking news: A case study
Read Tuman: Ch. 6, Methods for studying public oratory about terrorism
*Debrief port reports*

**Cochin, India — October 25-30**

**Study Day —October 31: No Class**
B13—November 1: Terrorism and gender in the media
Read Nacos: Ch. 7, Terrorism and mass-mediated gender stereotypes
Read Berkowitz: Suicide bombers as woman warriors: Making news through mythical archetypes
Read Berkowitz & Ling: From Woman warrior to innocent child: Telling gendered news stories of women terrorists
Country profile paper due

B14—November 3: The oratory and fiction of terrorism
Read Nacos: Ch. 8, Political violence as public entertainment
Read Tuman: Ch. 7, Case studies for public oratory about terrorism
Debrief port reports
Country profile paper due

Yangon, Myanmar — November 4-8

B15—November 10: Speaking out about terrorism
Read Nacos: Ch. 9, Terrorism, counterterrorism and freedom of expression
Read Berkowitz: Solidarity through the visual: Healing images in the Brussels terrorism attacks
Debrief port reports

Community Programming — November 11: No Class

B16—November 13: Mass media theory and terrorism
Read Tuman: Ch. 8, Theories of mass media for terrorism
Read Nacos: Ch. 10, Indexing, propaganda model, and counterterrorism news
Country profile paper due

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — November 14-18

B17—November 20: Images of terrorism
Read Tuman: Ch. 9, Mass-mediated images and construction of terrorism
Terrorism in the Media Marathon
Debrief port reports

Study Day — November 21: No Class

B18—November 23: Wrapping up concepts of terrorism
Read Nacos: Ch. 11, Responding to terrorist crises
Read Nacos: Ch. 12, Conclusion
Country profile paper due

Shanghai, China — November 24-29
B19—December 1: Exam #2
  Country profile paper due
  Debrief port report

Kobe, Japan — December 2-6

B20— December 8: Terrorism in the movies
  Small group meetings to work on movie papers

B21—December 10: Terrorism in the movies, discussion #1
  True Lies (1994)
  Air Force One (1997)

B22—December 12: Terrorism in the movies, discussion #2
  Collateral Damage (2002)
  Syriana (2005)

B23—December 14: Terrorism in the movies, discussion #3
  Paradise Now (2006)
  The Kingdom (2007)

Honolulu, Hawaii — December 16

B24— December 17: Terrorism in the movies, discussion #4
  Body of Lies (2008)
  Four Lions (2010)

Study Day — December 18: No Class

B25— December 20: Terrorism & the media...key issues discussion

Arrive San Diego, California — December 23

COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE GRADE

Port Reports: This assignment provides a way to contextualize your class discussions and readings within the countries you are visiting. Students will keep a journal and prepare a paper for discussion related to news and popular culture related to terrorism and conflict in each port city. Pay particular attention to the location of the content in relation to the country you are visiting. Details are provided in the section below about Independent Field Work.

Country Profile: A file of articles is kept online for each of the port countries. These are assigned for the day before reaching a port city. Students will explore the relevant file and write a one-page paper about terrorism and conflict in that country. Profile reports will be discussed in class on the day the assignment is due.
Case Study: Terrorism, Domestic Terrorism and the Lone Wolf. This assignment looks at news coverage of the Las Vegas mass shooting in October 2017. It analyzes the media debate about whether it should be considered terrorism and which textual cues would help make that decision. There is a separate file discussing this assignment in more detail.

Exam #1: Covers material from the start of class through the date of the exam. Material includes readings, class discussions and in-class examples. The exam will be based on short essays, some of which are chosen by the student from among a few options. Details will be provided in class. Students are allowed one page of notes.

Exam #2: Covers material after Exam #1 through the date of this exam. It will follow the same format as the first exam.

Terrorism in the Movies: Students will watch an assigned movie and write a short paper discussing the relationship of the movie to our readings and discussions. There is a separate file discussing this assignment in more detail.

Key Issues in Terrorism and the Media: This will be an in-class discussion of key issues we have raised during the semester. Students will be assigned four questions from those on the list and write a paragraph presenting their position for each of the questions they choose.

Field Class: This assignment provides an opportunity to connect concepts from our text and classroom discussions with practice in a specific country. Details are provided in the section below.

Distribution of Assignment Grades
Port Reports...........................................10%
Country Profiles....................................10%
Case Study Paper....................................5%
Exam #1.................................................15%
Exam #2.................................................15%
Terrorism in the Movies..........................10%
Key Issues Paper & Discussion...............5%
Field Class ...........................................20%
Class participation ..............................10%

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.
Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. This Field Class constitutes at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and is developed and led by the instructor.

Field Class: Covering Conflict, War and Terrorism in Ghana
The field class meets on Friday, September 28 in Tema, Ghana. According to the BBC, Ghana is considered one of the more stable countries in West Africa since its transition to multi-party democracy in 1992, with little in the way of war, conflict or terrorism in its history since then. The country gained its independence from the UK in 1957. At a January 2018 press conference, President Akufo-Addo assured that Ghanaians are safe from any terrorist attacks, although other regions on the continent are experiencing acts of terrorism. Ghana as a nation is slightly smaller than the US state of Oregon. Approximately 70% of the country is Christian, with nearly 60% of the population under the age of 25 years.

We begin our Field Class with a visit to the Ghana Institute of Journalism, where we will meet with faculty and students to discuss how the country views itself in relation to war, peace, conflict and terrorism. We will also learn about the Institute’s approach to journalism education. After lunch, we will visit TV3 – one of the leading television stations in Ghana – to learn how journalism is practiced there.

Students will be evaluated based on a report that contrasts the nature of media coverage in Ghana with how war, peace, conflict and terrorism are covered in other parts of the continent. Each student will take notes during the day on what they are learning about Ghana’s media. Notes will be typed into a two-page report, using a bullet-point format. More information will be provided separately. The paper and notes are due on Thursday, October 4.

Independent Field Assignments
As you experience and explore each port, try to read English language news media, looking for news about terrorism, war and conflict. Take notes, which will be summarized into a one-page Port Report. Consider the following:

1. What kinds of terrorism, conflict or war is reported?
2. What details are emphasized? What locations?
3. In the Us/Them equation, who is the “Them” and how are they labeled?
4. Buy at least one newspaper in each port city.
   a. Circle each news story you believe relates to terrorism, conflict or war. Write a paragraph discussing how the story relates to the Peace Journalism Frame.

GRADING SCALE
The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).
Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100%</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>93-96%</td>
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<td>90-92%</td>
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<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>70-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor’s supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student’s home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one’s own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment.”

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY
FILM REQUEST
The following films will be placed on reserve in the ship's library.
  True Lies (1994)
  Air Force One (1997)
  Collateral Damage (2002)
  Syriana (2005)
  Paradise Now (2006)
  The Kingdom (2007)
  Body of Lies (2008)
  Four Lions (2010)

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS
AUTHOR: Steven Youngblood
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: 1. The Peace Journalism Approach
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Peace Journalism Principles and Practices
DATE: 2017
PAGES: 1 - 17

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
none