### Class Title
Methods and Practice: Journalism

### Listed as
“Methods and Practice: Journalism”
V54.9202004
4 points

### Instructor Contact Information
Name: Duncan Hewitt
Office Hours: Wednesday, 4:00-5:00

### Class Time
Wednesday, 5:00-8:00

### Course Description
This class is taught by Duncan Hewitt, who has worked as a journalist in China for more than ten years. It provides an introduction to the work of the reporter, with particular focus on covering China – and offers students a chance to learn and practice basic journalism skills, including news writing and descriptive/feature writing, with feedback given in individual meetings. Visiting speakers will also give insights into the role of the journalist and the challenges faced, and provide additional feedback on students’ work and ideas.

### Course Objectives
To enhance students’ understanding of the practice of journalism, and of issues relating to the role of the international media with regard to China – and to develop students’ skills in journalistic writing.

### Grading Components
Class Participation/Attendance: 30%
Written Assignments: 70%

### Grading Expectations
A: Excellent performance showing a thorough knowledge and understanding of the topics of the course; all work includes clear, logical explanations, insight, and original thought and reasoning.
B: Good performance with general knowledge and understanding of the topics; all work includes general analysis and coherent explanations showing some independent reasoning, reading and research.
C: Satisfactory performance with some broad explanation and reasoning; the work will typically demonstrate an understanding of the course on a basic level.
D: Passable performance showing a general and superficial understanding of the course’s topics; work lacks satisfactory insight, analysis or reasoned explanations.
F: Unsatisfactory performance in all assessed criteria.

### Required Activities
Taking part in visits organized as part of class. Reading texts in class reader in preparation for classes. Students will also watch films and listen to talks by guest speakers during class time, and will be expected to take notes during presentations.

### Suggested
Keeping up with news relating to China; internet research. Other
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<th>Activities</th>
<th>optional and suggested trips and events will be discussed throughout the semester.</th>
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<td><strong>Attendance Policy</strong></td>
<td>NYU in Shanghai has a strict policy about course attendance that allows no unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence will result in the deduction of three percentage points from the final grade. More than two unexcused absences will result in failure of the course. All absences due to illness require a signed doctor’s note from a local facility as proof that you have been ill and have sought treatment for that illness. All absence requests and excuses must be discussed with the Academic Support Coordinator. Non-illness absences must be discussed with the Academic Support Coordinator or the Program Director prior to the date(s) in question. Students should contact their instructors to catch up on missed work but should not approach them for excused absences. If you must miss class (for any reason), the Academic Support Coordinator will determine whether or not it is an unexcused absence. If your absence is not excusable, you risk missing class as a detriment to your grade. Students are expected to arrive to class promptly both at the start of class and after breaks. The Academic Assistant will check attendance 15 minutes after class begins. Arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 10 minutes early will be considered an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an exam by the Academic Support Coordinator, your instructor will decide how you will make up the exam. This attendance policy also applies for classes involving a field trip or other off-campus visit. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the agreed meeting point on time. There will be no adjustment of attendance records after the end of the semester. If you wish to contest a marked absence, you must do so before you leave Shanghai; so if you think that there may be a discrepancy about your attendance in class on a given day, ask the NYU in Shanghai academic staff to let you look at the attendance record.</td>
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<td><strong>Submission of Late Work</strong></td>
<td>Written work due in class must be submitted during class time. Late work should be submitted in person to the Academic Support Coordinator during regular office hours (9:30-6:00, Monday-Friday). The Academic Support Coordinator will mark down the date and time of</td>
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Methods and Practice: Journalism  
Spring 2010

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<th>Submission</th>
<th>In the absence of the Academic Support Coordinator, another member of the administrative staff can accept the work in person, following the same protocol. Work submitted within five weekdays will be penalized one portion of a grade for every day that it is late (so if it is late by one day, an assignment marked an “A” will be changed to an “A–,” and so on). Work submitted more than five days after the due date without an agreed extension will be given a zero. Please note that final essays must be submitted on time.</th>
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<td>Plagiarism Policy</td>
<td>Plagiarism: the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Students must retain an electronic copy of their work until final grades are posted on Albert. They must be prepared to supply an electronic copy if requested to do so by NYU in Shanghai. Not submitting a copy of their work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Academic Guide.</td>
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<td>Required Text(s)</td>
<td>A collection of articles and book extracts relating to the various classes throughout the semester will be distributed in a class reader at the start of the semester.</td>
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| Supplemental Text(s) | Optional background reading for insights into contemporary China and the practice of journalism:  
**Flat Earth News** – Nick Davies  
**Out of Mao’s Shadow** - Philip Pan  
**Postcards from Tomorrow Square** - James Fallows  
**The China Price** – Alexandra Harney  
**Oracle Bones** - Peter Hessler  
**Getting Rich First: Life in a Changing China** - Duncan Hewitt  
**China Underground** – Zachary Mexico  
**China Road** – Rob Gifford  
**Factory Girls** – Leslie T. Chang  
**Chinese Lessons** – John Pomfret |
| Week 1  
March 3rd | **Introduction to journalism/ Reporting China:**  
Introduction to the course; discussion of the basic principles of journalism and the history of international media coverage of China. See class reader for relevant articles. |
**Assignment 1: First impressions of Shanghai (due week 2)**

**Week 2**  
*March 10th*  
Basic news-writing skills/ What makes a good article?  
Introduction to various types of news-writing + class discussion  
(Students are asked to select and discuss a piece of journalism they have been impressed by)

**Week 3**  
*March 17th*  
News-writing workshop:  
Bill Savadove, former Reuters chief economic correspondent for China, will lead students in a range of exercises designed to practice news-writing skills.  
+ Individual feedback sessions on assignment 1.

**Assignment 2: News writing exercise (due week 4)**

**Study Break**  
*Week-long Study Break: Friday, March 26th–Sunday, April 4th*

**Week 4**  
*March 24th*  
Writing the China story:  
Guest Speaker: James Areddy, Shanghai correspondent of the Wall Street Journal (and part of its China team which won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Foreign Reporting), will discuss some of the issues involved in reporting from China, and will talk students through several of his news and feature stories in detail.

**Week 5**  
*April 7th*  
Feature writing trip:  
The class will visit a location in Shanghai (details to be confirmed) to conduct interviews and take notes in preparation for writing a feature story.

**Assignment 3: Writing a short feature story based on material collected (due week 6)**

**Week 6**  
*April 14th*  
Feedback sessions/ Introduction to Documentary Film in China:  
Individual feedback sessions on assignment 2 + screening of documentary film.

**Week 7**  
*April 21st*  
Documentary Film-making Q&A  
Screening of documentary film + talk and Q&A session with director (to be confirmed)

**Week 8**  
*April 28th*  
Descriptive writing:  
Discussion of descriptive writing techniques, with reference to examples from class reader.

+ Individual feedback sessions on assignment 3

**Assignment 4: Descriptive writing exercise (due week 9)**

**May Holiday**  
*Week-long May Holiday vacation: Friday, April 30th–Sunday, May 9th*

**Week 9**  
*May 12th*  
Class trip to local media organization (details to be confirmed)  
This visit will provide a comparison with the workings of the international media, highlighting both shared interests and the particular
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<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Makeup Day</th>
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<td>Friday, May 14th</td>
<td>Individual feedback sessions on assignment 4</td>
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<th>Week 11</th>
<th>May 19th</th>
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<td>TV Writing: Workshop focusing on the skills required for writing television news tracks — with possible guest speaker (to be confirmed)</td>
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Assignment 5: Essay: Reporting China – the issues and challenges for foreign journalists (due week 12)

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<th>Week 12</th>
<th>May 26th</th>
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<td>Profile Writing: Introduction to interviewing subjects &amp; writing profiles, with reference to examples from class reader</td>
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Assignment 6: Profile writing exercise (due week 14)

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<th>Week 13</th>
<th>June 2nd</th>
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<td>Individual feedback sessions on assignment 5</td>
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<th>Week 14</th>
<th>June 9th</th>
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<td>Individual feedback sessions on assignment 6</td>
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<th>Final Exam</th>
<th>June 16th</th>
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<td>Rewrite of profile to count as final assignment</td>
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<td>Due at 5:00 on Wednesday, June 16th in hard copy to the Academic Support Office</td>
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