

# Issues & Ideas

## Class code

## Instructor Details

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## Class Details

Summer 2007  
Monday and Wednesday afternoons 3-6pm

## Prerequisites

A desire to understand how British media differ from American media and to be prepared to watch, listen, and read the journalism that is produced and published in the UK and Europe.

## Class Description

Lectures coupled with screening of documentaries and news coverage, guest speakers, and opportunities to take part in media discussions elsewhere in London.

## Desired Outcomes

1. To broaden students' understanding of media and journalism outside the United States.
2. To gain insights and perspectives on how international stories are covered and reported.
3. To become aware of cutting edge issues and concerns facing media in the U.S. and Britain with special emphasis on ethical journalistic dilemmas resulting from new approaches and new technology.
4. To understand what dangers journalists face in the pursuit of stories, especially local journalists who work in countries without a rule of law.

## Assessment Components

1. Short Document Analysis (to be handed in at start of session 4) 20% of total mark
2. Short Document Analysis (to be handed in by start of session 6) 20% of total mark
3. 1000 word essay (from choice of 3 and to be handed in by start of session 9) 50% of total mark
4. Seminar participation 10% of total mark

## Assessment Expectations

**Grade A:** A students will be expected to submit all of their work on time, read in advance all relevant material that is assigned for specific classes, and achieve a quality of work in their writing and analytical ability that is clearly superior to their classmates. Their final exam marks should place them amongst the top achievers in the class.

**Grade B:** B students will also be expected to submit their work on time and achieve a better than average quality of work in their writing and analysis, as well as in their classroom participation. They are also expected to have read their material in advance of class. They will also be expected to score above average in their final exams.

**Grade C:** C students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and demonstrate in their written work and in their classroom participation that they are reading all relevant material that is assigned to them. They are expected to perform at least on average in their writing projects and on their final exam.

**Grade D:** D students are clearly perceived to be performing below standard. This means that they are not prepared in class, are not submitting their work on time, are writing at a below standard level, and achieved result in their final exam that is below average.

**Grade F:** F students will have failed to achieve the minimal standards of the course (attending class, completing assignments, and taking the final exam) and made no effort whatsoever in class, in their work, and on their final exam.

### Attendance Policy

NYU-L has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** Students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work but should NOT approach them for excused absences. Absences due to illness must be discussed with the Assistant Director – Student Life **within one week** of your return to class. Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Director prior to the date(s) in question. Unexcused absences will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. NYU-L also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

### Late Submission of Work

- 1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor;
- (2) Late work should be submitted **in person** to the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs **in office hours** (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.
- (3) Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.
- (4) Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

### Plagiarism Policy

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.

Please be advised that NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student. This database may be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it. The database is managed by JISC (Joint Information Systems Council) and has been established with the support of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work until their final grades are posted on Albert and

must supply an electronic copy, if requested to do so by NYU in London. 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 Student Handbook.

**Required  
Text(s)**

The Elements of Journalism, Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel  
The Television News Handbook, Vin Ray

**Supplemental  
Texts(s) (not  
required to  
purchase as  
copies are in  
NYU-L Library)**

Power Without Responsibility, James Curran and Jean Seaton  
News: A Reader, Howard Tumber  
The First Casualty, Phillip Knightley  
Covering Globalization, Anya Schiffrin  
Al Jazeera, Hugh Miles

There will be handouts from books, articles, reports, and monographs plus website recommendations

**Internet  
Research  
Guidelines**

**Additional  
Required  
Equipment**

It is hoped that students will have their own laptops with access to the Internet.

**Session 1**

***PLEASE NOTE THAT I MAY MAKE CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE ARE DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAKE THE DISCUSSION OF SOME OF THE ISSUES MORE TIMELY OR WHEN CERTAIN SPEAKERS ARE AVAILABLE. ALSO I MAY ADD ADDITIONAL MATERIAL IF I FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE COURSE. AFTER THE FIRST SESSION READING (OR URLS) WILL BE HANDED OUT AS WE PROGRESS.***

**Introduction: The big world of News**

- **How news in Britain differs from that in the US and why – history, regulatory frameworks and the market**
- **How both are facing up to the challenges identified by Kovach and Rosenstiel**

**Session 2**

**Impartiality**

- **What is it? Does it matter?**

**Preparatory reading will include chapters from Kovach and Rosenstiel plus BBC Guidelines and other articles**

**Session 3****Political Reporting**

- Why is it important? What makes it particularly difficult?

Preparatory reading will include chapters from Kovach and Rosenstiel plus other articles

**Session 4****War Reporting – with particular reference to Iraq**

- History and influence
- Current coverage

**Session 5****Taking the Right Risks**

- Why do journalists get killed and what can they do to reduce the risks?
- Can you be a reporter and have a life?

Preparatory reading will include material from the INSI, Dart, CPJ and RSF websites plus other articles.

**Session 6****Reporting Globalization**

- What are the challenges?
- Case study: China

Preparatory reading will include chapters from Kovach and Rosenstiel plus other articles.

**Session 7****Investigative Reporting**

- Tricks of the trade
- The biggest challenge – getting the resources to do it

Preparatory reading will include chapters from Kovach and Rosenstiel plus other articles

**Session 8****Words and Pictures**

- The significance of images
- Basic film-making

**Session 9****Citizen Journalism**

- What is it?
- What do we do with it?
- What does it mean for the industry?

**Session 10****The Future**

- A splintered industry?

Preparatory reading will include various articles

**Session 11****The Newsroom**

- A practical scenario

**Session 12****Review****Classroom  
Etiquette**

Eating is not permitted in any classrooms in 6 Bedford Square. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

**Required Co-  
curricular  
Activities**

It is possible that there may be a required class outing to the Frontline Forum in Paddington or to the BBC or other media organization.

**Suggested Co-  
curricular  
Activities**

It is important students spend time outside class listening and viewing British news programmes and reading British newspapers. More specific direction will be given. There may also be opportunities to attend relevant screenings, lectures, and discussions at various venues.