New York University in Buenos Aires
Reporting Buenos Aires

Professor: Marina Artusa                        August-December 2011
Office hours: Thurs. 6-7 p.m.                     Mon. and Wed. 1.45-3.15 p.m.
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1. Course Description

The course intends to introduce students to the coverage of Buenos Aires, a city of more
than four million people and 47 neighborhoods. Emphasis will be on dealing with cultural
differences and local context in a country where one of the primary topics of discussion is
the absence of an FOI (Freedom of Information) law at the national level.
During the course, students will be assigned neighborhood beats where they will explore
and practice the key elements of journalism by reporting, analyzing, and understanding
domestic affairs, and by examining the way stories are developed in the local media.

Topics covered will include generating story ideas, exercising news judgment, and
gathering information. The course will aim to sharpen students’ abilities to develop beats
and find news angles for Argentine newspapers and magazines by using the techniques of
information gathering, organization, and writing. Writing and reporting on different
topics will be a significant aspect of the course.

We will have guest speakers and classes will combine lecture and editorial meetings.

2. Course Requirements and Grading

Students will look for accurate sources to produce news materials. Assignments will take
students around Buenos Aires to report 1,000-word pieces and a final profile that will run
from 2,000 to 2,500 words. Every two weeks they will bring to class memos that will
work as road maps to plan their work regarding different topics (human rights, social
issues, cultural issues, and immigrant communities).

It is important students spend time outside class reading Argentine newspapers. They
may also be required to attend relevant screenings, lectures, and discussions at various
venues.

Students will be evaluated from day one. Written work due in class must be submitted
before the deadline to the professor. All students must submit an electronic copy of each
piece of their written work as well as hand in a printed copy. Failure to submit either
copy will result in the assignment’s automatic failure and possible failure in the class.
### 3. Class participation and Attendance

Attendance to all classes is mandatory and any absence requires written notification in advance. It is highly recommended to be on time. Tardiness or early departures from class may be interpreted as an unexcused absence that will reduce the final grade by 3%. Absences due to illness should be reported to the professor and the Program Coordinator within one week of the student’s return to class. In all cases, students are responsible for catching up on missed classes.

### 4. Punctuality

Students are expected 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 the professor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade for each late arrival and each early departure.

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.

### 5. Plagiarism/cheating

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. The instructor will uphold the university’s code of academic and personal conduct for all instances of plagiarism. Please find this code in NYU policies at the NYU website.
### 6. Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Screenings</th>
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<tr>
<td>I 29-1 August/September</td>
<td>The introductory meeting. The grading policy will be explained and the expectations of both sides expressed. Overview of course. Introduction to Buenos Aires Herald, Clarín newspaper, La Nación and Página 12.</td>
<td>“What’s that in your mouth?” (from Bloom, Stephen, “Inside the Writer’s mind”).</td>
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<td>II 5-8 September</td>
<td>What is journalism for? News as fresh information that interests or affects us. News criteria. 300-word writing exercise of observation and description due.</td>
<td>Kovach, Bill and Rosenstiel, Tom. “The Elements of Journalism”.</td>
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| | | Argento, Analía. “De vuelta a casa. Historias de hijos y nietos restituidos”.
| | | Actis, Munu; Aldini, Cristina; Gardella, Liliana and Lewin, Miriam. “That Inferno: Conversations of Five Women Survivors of an Argentine Torture Camp”.
| | | Clippings from local and international newspapers.
| | | Field trip to ESMA/Atletico/ Mansión Sérè/Mothers of Plaza de Mayo site or Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo’s.
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| VII 17-20 October | Covering Human Rights:  
Photo Exhibition  
“Desapariciones” by photographer Helen Zout.  
The author will meet with the students to discuss about her work.  
Guest Speaker: a Mother of Plaza de Mayo/ a survivor of a clandestine center of detention during the military regime/ a recovered grandchild. |
|            | Field trip to the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team site. |
| VIII 24-27 October | 1,000-word piece on Human Rights due.  
Covering Social Issues:  
Madres del paco, a group of addicts’ mothers who fight against drugs. How local and international newspapers and magazines cover stories regarding Madres del paco.  
Discussion on students’ Human Rights stories. |
|            | Clippings from local and international newspapers. |
| IX 31-3 October/November | Covering Social Issues:  
Guest Speaker: a middle-class ex paco addict’s testimony.  
Reporting and Writing: The Profile: Discussion on assigned readings. |
|            | Benedict, Helen. “Portraits in Print.”  
Kramer, Mark and Call, Wendy. “Telling True Stories” |

Field trip to Villa 21, one of the largest slums in the city where Paco is a drug of extermination. In the Villa 21’s main church, Nuestra Señora de Caacupé, priests do social work against Paco.

| Clippings from local and international newspapers. | |
| Covering Social Issues: Photo Exhibition “Frágil” by photographer Myriam Meloni. The author will meet with the students to discuss about her work about Paco addicts. | |

1,000-word piece on Paco due.

Covering Immigrant Communities: From “to govern is to populate” (1853) to twentieth century immigration. From Italian and Spanish immigrant communities to Bolivians

Clippings from local and international newspapers.

and Peruvians, two-thirds of whom work in the informal economy. Discrimination. How local and international newspapers and magazines cover stories regarding the Bolivians in Argentina. Discussion of students Social Issues stories.

|                   | Covering Immigrant Communities: Guest Speakers from the Bolivian community in Argentina. | Field trip to a Bolivian radio station in one of the Bolivian neighborhoods in Bs. As. |
|                   | Discussion of students’ first drafts. | |

| XIII 28-1 November/December | Reporting and Writing: Guest Speaker: Being a Foreign Correspondent. Reporting across cultures. What makes foreign reporting different from domestic reporting. How to give a foreign story context for a local reader. Sources and resources: The pitfalls for foreign reporting. | Clippings from local newspapers. |

| XIV 5-8 December | 1,000-word piece on the Bolivian community due. | |
|                 | Discussion on students’ immigrant communities stories. |

December 7: Final Profile Due

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

Changes to the syllabus may be made, especially if there are developments that make the discussion of some of the issues timely or when certain speakers are available. Additional material could be added.
6. Required readings


Nieman Narrative Digest
HYPERLINK "http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/narrative/digest/" http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/narrative/digest/
The Pulitzer Prizes

7. Recommended readings

Torrado, Susana. “La cuestión social” in “Argentina: 15 años de democracia”. Norma,
Angeletti, Norberto y Oliva, Alberto. “Revistas que hacen e hicieron historia”.
Ruberg, Michelle y Yagoda, Ben. “Writer's Digest Handbook of Magazine Article Writing”.


Web sites and Internet resources:

Poynter Institute
HYPERLINK "http://www.poynter.org/" www.poynter.org

Nieman Program on Narrative Journalism
HYPERLINK "http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/narrative" www.nieman.harvard.edu/narrative

Maynard Institute
HYPERLINK "http://www.maynardije.org/" www.maynardije.org

Transom
HYPERLINK "http://www.transom.org/" www.transom.org