

\*\*\*\*\*This is a tentative program. The most up to date syllabus will be given out on the first day of class\*\*\*\*\*

Reporting Africa Intensive (**Directed Reading, Research & Fieldwork Reporting**)

JOUR-UA 9204.00

May 26-July 6 2019

Professor: TBA

GHANA  
No 12 4<sup>th</sup> Norla Street  
North Labone, Accra  
Ghana

Class time is Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and mandatory reporting times are Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m. through 5 p.m.

### **Description**

You are going to learn to think, act and write like a journalist stationed in an African bureau of a major news organization. **THIS IS AN INTENSIVE FIELDWORK REPORTING COURSE WHERE STUDENTS WORK EVERYDAY.**

This course will provide an introduction to the basic principles of research, reporting and writing the news from a foreign capital and for an American audience. You will be introduced to a variety of ways in which we work in this fast paced, deadline driven business – but your focus will be on the news feature and telling untold stories from Ghana and its people.

To be a good reporter you have to be informed about what's happening in the world around you. For this class, you have to read several of the local newspapers particularly the Daily Graphic. You must also peruse websites of The New York Times, (**You have a complimentary subscription for registering for this class**) the Washington Post and The Times of London and other papers that routinely cover Africa.

You will spend six weeks reporting on an issue but you will do lots of writing along the

way on economic development, tourism and issues that reflect the society here because the only way to work on your skills is to practice it over and over.

We will visit local newsrooms and talk to the local press corps and you will be expected to ask well thought out questions on your project area how to get around local barriers to getting information you need.

In addition to frequent assignments you will be required to have a well-researched final 800-1000 word capstone project by Week Five. If you pick your subject right, it could be publishable. That has happened with prior classes, resulting in a slew of clips.

In the weeks leading up to the first draft of final project, everyone is expected to detail their reporting progress in class.

We will start out with the basics and go over the nuances of good story telling while you explore Accra's diverse colorful neighborhoods, as well other towns we visit for shorter stories.

The best of these assignments, I may showcase on Africa Dispatch, the class webpage. You will be required to produce relevant photos or artwork for each piece. You are also required to pitch ideas for short pieces that may work on the dispatch page. All pitches and drafts must be made through the Teaching Assistant. You may focus on the 'Faces of Ghana' telling short stories on the people that make up this vibrant city. Photos, audio clips, slideshows, and video are encouraged!

## **EVERYONE MUST CONTRIBUTE TO WEBPAGE AS PART OF THE CLASS**

### **Learning Objectives**

In this course, students will:

- Learn to cover a beat, using research & reporting skills to develop sources and find story ideas.
- Research, report and write – and rewrite – pieces in a range of journalistic styles.
- Improve research and interviewing skills to find sources, including experts, and to conduct in-depth information-gathering interviews.
- Demonstrate awareness of journalism's core ethical values.
- Write clear, accurate and engaging prose in an audience-appropriate manner

## Requirements

**Do not miss class. Class site visits, and daily outings and reporting trips are not optional.**

This is an intensive reading, writing, and reporting class, so it is essential to comprehensively study the news pieces up for discussion that week before coming to class. All stories must be turned in on deadline with relevant photos. If you miss deadline, your grade on that assignment drops a letter. Every assignment must be double-spaced. If it's not, I won't read it and you'll miss deadline. Each paragraph must be indented. Read over your work. Do not write headlines. Date your copy.

All articles must be followed by source lists, along with source contact details.

### Required Reading and class tools.

**\*\*\*\* Homegoing, A novel: Yaa Gyasi (Knopf) Please Read prior to arrival\*\*\*\***

\* The Word: An Associated Press Guide To Good News Writing: Rene J. Cappon AP 1991

\* The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law. Every story you write must be written with the stylebook at your side.

\* Purchase several reporter notebooks prior to your arrival and have one with you at all times.

\* A digital camera

\* A portable flash drive for storing your documents and photos.

\* A digital tape recorder. You just be ready at all times to interview someone. (Optional)

**One Day I Will Write About This Place, by Binyavanga Wainaina (2011)  
(Note this text is required for the companion Cultural Context of African Media course)**

Use the following guidelines to understand the grades you earn:

- \* A = publishable as is
- \* B = publishable with light editing

- \* C = publishable with a rewrite
- \* D = major problems with facts, reporting, writing
- \* F = missing key facts, containing gross misspellings, plagiarism or libel

Participation- 25%

Assignments 50%

Final Article 25%

### **Plagiarism:**

It goes without saying that we: a) Don't make up characters or amend quotes; b) Don't copy or plagiarize, meaning take printed material from elsewhere and use it in your story without crediting it. Plagiarism or fabricating sources, quotes, sentences from any print, broadcast or online source is strictly forbidden. Any incidents of plagiarism will be punished with an automatic F and the Department chair will be notified.

### **Assistance**

It is very important for you to know that I am here for you. This is about learning, it's about making mistakes, and it's about growing. If you are struggling, unsure about anything, or just want to talk I am not hard to find, come talk to me, I will be at the NYU center most days and the restaurants where dinner is served to NYU students most nights.

**Remember, this is likely not the same as other classes you have taken. It's more of an organized tutorial. We may decide that individual conferences are necessary at certain times and if so, we will make those happen. \*\*\*\*\*This is also a Directed Reading course so you will be given take home reading assignments in form of News pieces to study, analyze and be prepared to critique in class.\*\*\*\*\***

### **Accommodations**

Students with disabilities that necessitate accommodations should contact and register with New York University's Moses Center for Students with Disabilities prior to arrival (CSD) at +1 212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu). Information about the Moses Center can be found at [www.nyu.edu/csd](http://www.nyu.edu/csd). The Moses Center is located at 726 Broadway on the 2nd floor.

### **Diversity & Inclusion**

The Institute is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. The Institute embraces a notion of intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions.

### **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

*A NOTE ABOUT THE SCHEDULE: By its nature, journalism is fluid and subject to fast-paced changes, especially in Africa. This schedule is tentative and it will change depending on a variety of factors including breaking news coverage, field trip logistics, the availability of guest speakers, external lecturers and more. Previously unannounced field trips may be added at a moment's notice. Please be prepared to be flexible.*

WEEK ONE (External lecturers and site visits)

**Tuesday, May 28, 2019**

Breakfast on your own at residence

9:00 a.m.

Van depart dorm to Academic Center

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Akwaaba! Welcome! – Orientation

*Location: Block B Classroom 2*

- Meet the NYU - Accra staff: student/staff introductions and review of orientation materials.
- Cultural dos and don'ts, safety/security, health tips, etc.

10:45 – 11:30 a.m.

Refreshment break and meeting with Prof. Frankie Edozien

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Aspects of Ghanaian Culture**: Lecture and Q & A session at the Academic Center with Prof. Nat Amarteifio

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Welcome lunch at Holiday Inn

3:00 p.m.

Tour of the city by Prof. Nat Amarteifio

7:00 p.m.

Dinner at Sunshine in Labone

**Wednesday May 29, 2019**

Breakfast on your own at residence

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Adjei

Culture and Religion in Ghana – Mr. Dan Appiah-

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Politics in Ghana – Dr. Emmanuel Debrah

2:30 p.m.

Visit to Ghana Broadcasting Corporation

7:00 p.m.

Dinner at Buka in Labone

**Thursday, May 30, 2019**

Breakfast on your own at residence

11:00 – 12:00p.m. Traditional Medicine in Ghana– Prof. Kodjo Senah

12:00– 1:00p.m. Investigative Journalism – Mr. Anas Amereyaw  
Anas

2:30 p.m. Visit to Daily Graphic, state run newspaper

7:00 p.m. Dinner at Sunshine in Labone

### **Friday, May 31, 2019**

Breakfast on your own at residence

10:00 a.m -11:00 p.m. Overview of Economy – Mr. Sampson Akligoh,  
Investcorp Financial Services

12:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Media in the context of African culture and society  
introductory lecture – Prof. Audrey Gadzekpo

7:00 p.m. Dinner at Buka

### **WEEK TWO**

### **Monday, June 3 2019**

Breakfast on your own at residence

10:30 a.m. REPORTING AFRICA; First lecture The Agony of  
Square One -- Prof. Frankie Edozien

Out of class assignment, a tourism story. It could  
be based on the last weekend's trip to Cape (June 1-  
2 ) Coast, Elmina, and Kakum National Park. Or

someplace in Accra. Pick a destination and deliver a tourism piece. **All stories are due Wednesday at 9 a.m. on NYU CLASSES. (June 7) 500 words max.**

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Visit the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum

7:00 p.m.

Dinner at Buka in Osu

Thursday & Friday

Fieldwork & Free time

### **WEEK THREE**

**Monday, June 10, 2019**

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast on your own at residence  
Van depart dorm to Academic Center

10:00 a.m.

10 a.m. till 5:20 p.m.

The building blocks of the news feature. History Scope, Cause, Impact, Action of contrary forces and the future. Re-examination and explanation of story types; profile, explanatory pieces, Issues and trends, Investigative, and narrative. Doing the Feature. Where to begin? In class exercises, critiques and analyses of contemporary regional reportage. Reading: Cappon, chapter 11. Out of class assignment, Continue to research capstone piece and think of angles for next weeks Economic development piece.

**Tuesday**

VISIT TO ADA (JUNE 11) WITH PROF. GADZEKPO

**Wednesday**

VISIT TO BLUS SKIES FACTORY

**Thursday & Friday.**

10 a.m. -5 p.m. (Practicals/Reporting Days)

## **WEEK FOUR**

**Monday June 17, 2019**

2:30 p.m. till 5:20 p.m.

(Note that class will start later in the day to accommodate Gadzekpo lecture and our trip north on Tuesday. Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday (Practicals/Reporting Days & lectures while on the road.)

Accuracy. The importance and smart use of numbers and statistics.

Writing tightly. Lede's and nut graphs of final project ought to be ready this Friday. Review of research techniques. In class readings and exercises Out of class assignment.

An economic development/business story based on food security issues in Northern Ghana Optional extra credit piece culture piece based on the any part of the road trip from Kumasi to Tamale. This will be due next TUESDAY at noon.

Readings. Cappon, chapters 4,5 6, 7.

## **WEEK FIVE**

**Monday June 24, 2019**

10 a.m. till 5:20 p.m. Use of color. Story Conclusions, kickers and endings. Final writing tips. Use of charts and graphics, sidebars and alternate views. Research reminders. First drafts of final stories due NEXT WEDNESDAY **JULY 3** in class. Readings: Cappon, chapters 9, 10

Wednesdays Thursday Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Practicals/Reporting Days).



WEEK SIX

**Wednesday July 05, 2019**

(Monday class may be held on Wednesday July 03 this week.)

10 a.m. till 5:20 p.m.

Wrap ups. Final workshop-ing and postmortem. All rewrites and multimedia companion pieces due THURSDAY July 4 at noon. 800-1200 words.

FRIDAY

Possible Trip to Aburi

SAMPLE