

SAMPLE SYLLABUS



Elective Reporting Topics: Covering Global Health, Development and the Environment in Ghana

[Course Number JOUR-UA 9204.00]

Summer 2023

Syllabus last updated on: May 14, 2023

Lecturer Contact Information

TBA

Prerequisites

Investigating Journalism: Ethics and Practice JOUR-UA 50

Units earned

4 CREDITS

Course Details

- Meets Tuesdays: 10:00am to 1:00pm and 1:30pm to 5:00pm GMT
- Mandatory reporting days Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00am to 5:00pm GMT
- Location: #8, 3rd Norla St, Room 102

Course Description

"Elective Reporting Topics: Covering Global Health, Development and the Environment in Ghana", based at NYU's Accra campus, offers undergraduate students the opportunity to experience what it's like to work as a foreign correspondent while honing their reporting skills and powers of observation.

Students report, write, and produce news articles focusing on public health, development and/or environmental issues in this dynamic West African nation. Examples of topical focus might include: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on malaria prevention, overcoming stigmas in mental health treatment, or efforts to expand cancer services in developing nations. Students will work with both Ghanaian public health or development officers and with representatives with international NGOs with branches in Accra.

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.

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You must also peruse websites of the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Guardian and other papers that routinely cover Africa.

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.

Multimedia work (video, audio, photo) will be supported and encouraged.

THIS IS AN INTENSIVE FIELDWORK REPORTING COURSE WHERE STUDENTS WORK EVERY DAY.

Course Objective

In this course, students will:

- Learn to cover the global health, development and/or environment 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

Assessment Components

Participation 25%

Assignments 50%

Final Article 25%

Grades

- * 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

You are expected to attend class in person. Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Teaching & Learning Philosophy

This class may be unique among journalism classes you have taken at NYU. We really aim to emulate the "teaching hospital" model where a student both learns by doing AND works alongside their peers and instructor. Our goal here is to create the best journalistic content possible in a short time to give students an excellent learning experience AND useful clips.

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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.

Suggested Text

Homegoing, Yaa Gyasi (Knopf). Suggest reading before arrival.

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)

Little Bunch of Madmen, Mort Rosenblum. In Brightspace.

Additional Required Equipment

Not applicable; for multimedia assignments student must supply their own equipment for filming and editing.

Topics, Meeting Patterns and Assignments

Class will meet once a week, on Tuesdays, for a 7-hour block. That's a traditional work day and this class will be like a news job in that we will meet, collaborate and discuss our work, just like in a newsroom. Wednesdays and Thursdays are students' field assignment days. You won't come in to the newsroom but you will cross Accra looking for stories, working on access, conducting interviews, doing background research. Office hours are held on Wednesday afternoons, should students wish to consult with the professor just as a reporter would discuss stories with their editor. We will also meet for occasional group dinners to discuss work in a less formal manner.

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. Please be prepared to be flexible.

Session 1 – May 23

Welcome to Ghana. We will make introductions and discuss in greater detail how the class will work, especially your capstone assignment. We will walk through the kind of article that is due for your first (and subsequent) assignment and how to report it in a basic way (our second class goes into more detail).

This week's out of class assignment is meant to get you immersed in life in Accra. In order to aid in your immersion in this unfamiliar city, you will complete this assignment in teams of two. Get to know Accra by seeing it firsthand. You and your partner should spend a whole day this week exploring the city: museums, memorials, markets, parks, cafés, etc. Then, decide what the most surprising or unique thing you saw during the day was, and go back and cover it. Be sure to include at least one interview.

Session 2 – May 30

The storyteller. This week we will discuss in more detail the building blocks of the news feature. We will discuss story types; profile, explanatory pieces, issues and trends, investigative, and narrative. We will explore how these are different as you shift into multimedia work: photo, audio and video reporting. Then we will break down the steps of the feature. In class exercises, critiques and analyses of contemporary regional reportage.

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Out of class assignment: 500 word assignment covering the work of one NGO in Accra.

Session 3 – June 6

The interview. This week we will drill deep on finding the right voices for your stories and then shaping the best interview to help drive a successful feature story. We will workshop questions together as a collaborative exercise.

Out of class assignment: 500 word economic development assignment. You also need to be identifying the subject for your capstone report.

Session 4 – June 9 (NOTE SPECIAL DATE)**

The foreign correspondent. This week we will explore the world of the foreign correspondent and the process of global reporting. You are gaining a valuable immersion of this in Accra, but we will discuss how this job works all around the world, as a staff reporter, as a freelance reporter, as a local stringer.

Final out of class short assignment: 500 word politics story. Continue developing capstone.

Session 5 – June 13

The pain of writing. So you have terrific interviews but don't know where to go. We will break down the kinds of elements you need to drive a longer form feature story, how to report them and then how to shape all of them into a deeper, longer narrative. We will examine past examples of excellence. We will also hold a final story conference on the progress of your capstone reports and seek guidance for our group as to final steps for your field reporting.

Out of class assignment: wrap up field reporting on your capstone story.

Session 6 – June 20

The Editor. This class will be dedicated to the final workshopping of the capstone assignments. Students will present their drafts, and give each other feedback to improve the stories for final delivery.

Final assignment: delivery of capstone piece.

Classroom Etiquette

To optimize the experience in our learning environment, please consider the following:

- Please do not eat during class and minimize any other distracting noises (e.g. rustling of papers and leaving the classroom before the break, unless absolutely necessary).
- If you are not using your cell phone to follow the lesson, cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode during class time.
- Make sure to let your classmates finish speaking before you begin.
- Students should be respectful and courteous at all times to all participants in class.

Your Lecturer

Jason Maloney is a clinical professor at New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. He has reported for *PBS NewsHour* from over 30 countries and has worked across West, Central and Eastern Africa. He is the director of GlobalBeat, NYU's international field reporting program for graduate students and has traveled to Senegal, Morocco, Ukraine,

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Cambodia, Peru to co-report with students. He is a videographer and editor, but above all else, a reporter.

Academic Policies

Attendance Policy

Studying at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers, or online through NYU Brightspace if the course is remote synchronous/blended, is expected promptly when class begins. Attendance will be checked at each class meeting. If you have scheduled a remote course immediately preceding/following an in-person class, you may want to write to mno211@nyu.edu to see if you can take your remote class at the Academic Center.

As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor and/or the Academics team by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, Moses Center accommodations, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or site staff may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from an NYU Staff member as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances that you wish to be treated confidentially must be presented to staff. Doctor's notes must be submitted in person or by e-mail to the Academics team, who will inform your professors.

Unexcused absences may be penalized with percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed, and may negatively affect your class participation grade. Four unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequently joining the class late.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to site staff; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed.

Final exams

There is no final exam for this class. Instead, a final course capstone, a written piece of 1000 words or a multimedia piece between 5-7 minutes, will be due by the end of the semester.

Late Submission of Work

Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (including weekends and public holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a

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doctor's note or by approval of NYU SITE Staff), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (including weekends and public holidays) following the submission date receives an F.

Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days late (including weekends and public holidays) without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

NYU takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form, and may check your assignments by using TurnItIn or another software designed to detect offences against academic integrity.

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. It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you **MUST** inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

Inclusivity Policies and Priorities

NYU's Office of Global Programs and NYU's global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

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Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU SITE's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#)

Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert and Zoom)

Students, staff, and faculty have the opportunity to add their pronouns, as well as the pronunciation of their names, into Albert. Students can have this information displayed to faculty, advisors, and administrators in Albert, the NYU Home internal directory, as well as other NYU systems. Students can also opt out of having their pronouns viewed by their instructors, in case they feel more comfortable sharing their pronouns outside of the classroom. For more information on how to change this information for your Albert account, please see the [Pronouns and Name Pronunciation website](#).

Students, staff, and faculty are also encouraged, though not required, to list their pronouns, and update their names in the name display for Zoom. For more information on how to make this change, please see the [Personalizing Zoom Display Names website](#).

Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Accommodations for this course are managed through NYU [SITE].

Bias Response

The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community.

Experienced administrators in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) receive and assess reports, and then help facilitate responses, which may include referral to another University school or unit, or investigation if warranted according to the University's existing Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

The Bias Response Line is designed to enable the University to provide an open forum that helps to ensure that our community is equitable and inclusive.

To report an incident, you may do so in one of three ways:

- Online using the [Web Form \(link\)](#)
- Email: bias.response@nyu.edu
- Phone: 212-998-2277