

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

NYU Prague

Course Number MCC-UE 9453 P01
Global Media Seminar: East-Central Europe
Spring 2022
Course Format: Blended
Time Zone: CET

Spring 2022

You may be taking courses at multiple locations this semester. If you are enrolled in this course 100% **remotely** please make sure that you have completed the online academic orientation via Brightspace so you are aware of site specific support structure, policies and procedures. **Please contact the site Academic Director (vanda.thorne@nyu.edu) if you need more assistance.**

If you are attending **in person**, you will be assigned a seat on the first day and are expected to use that seat for the entire semester due to NYU COVID-19 safety protocol. Please note that you are expected to attend every class meeting in-person; however, this may change at any point during the semester if local COVID-19 regulations require additional physical distancing.

Instructor Information

TBA

Course Information

- Course Number: MCC-UE 9453 P01 and JOUR-UA 9505 P01
- Course Name: Global Media Seminar: East-Central Europe (Issues & Ideas)
- Meeting times: Mondays 3.00-5.50 Mucha Classroom at RD and Zoom (Central Europe Time zone)
- [NYU Prague Academic Calendar](#)

Course Overview and Goals

Very few industries have undergone so profound a change with the onset of globalization as media. The journalism business model has weakened and is yet to be replaced with something viable. Digital communication and social networks have transformed ways we communicate and argue, vote, make a living, organize our economy and politics. The political, cultural and economic changes influenced by globalism and instantaneous digital communication, have caused us to question even basic assumptions of our lives. They shape how we prosper, dream and indeed fear. Some of the changes have been particularly radical in Central and Eastern Europe on its journey from the totalitarian communism to a liberal democracy. The course helps

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students to sort out the changes and mutual influences in communication, culture, politics and the economy.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

Understand key globalization trends and processes as they manifest themselves in culture, media, economy, and politics. They will demonstrate an ability to use and apply relevant concepts and gain insights into the world increasingly shaped by media, politics, markets, pop-culture and several other determining factors.

Grading of Assignments

A failure to submit or fulfill any of these would result in the F grade for the course. The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments	% of Final Grade
Class Attendance and Activity (presence in class and discussions moderated by professor, based on course readings, films and lectures; short quizzes based on readings)	10
Group Seminar Presentation (teams of 5 present a 30-minute presentation on a given seminar topic)	10
Midterm Examination (several short essay-type answers; closed book and notes: students <i>will not be allowed</i> to use any course or internet resources)	20
Individual Presentation (slide-decks on an assigned topic to be submitted to Brightspace-not presented in class)	25
Final Paper (5-page position paper; students choose one from three statements and support it with high-quality reasoning and evidence)	35

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percent
A	93-100
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99

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C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D+	67-69.99
D	63-66.99
D-	60-62.99
F	Below 60

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topic	Reading (read <u>before</u> class)	Assignment Due (submit to Brightspace)
Session 1 Monday, January 31	Introduction Film: <i>A Thousand Cuts</i>		
Session 2 MAKE UP DAY Friday, February 4 MONDAY SCHEDULE	Globalization Video: 'A Thousand Cuts' Film Discussion Shorenstein Center	Harari: - Introduction - Ch1 Disillusionment	
Session 3 Monday, February 7	Globalization Video: <i>Kony 2012</i>	Harari: - Ch2 Work - Ch3 Liberty	
Session 4 Monday, February 14	First Seminar: Freedom of Speech	Harari: - Ch4 Equality Journalism & Truth: - Introduction. By Katz and Mays	All First Seminar Students submit their slide-decks to Brightspace
Session 5 Monday, February 21	Backlash against Globalization and De-Globalization	Harari: - Ch7 Nationalism Journalism & Truth: - Belgium Invades Germany: Can Facts Survive Politics? By Schudson	

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Session 6 Monday, February 28	Second Seminar: Harari's Lessons	Harari: - Ch 9 Immigration - Ch17 Post-Truth	All Second Seminar Students submit their slide-decks to Brightspace
Session 7 Monday, March 7	Who Owns the Future? Individual Presentation Discussion (<i>Topic: the Pros & Cons of the Emergence of Global Cosmopolitan Culture</i>) Midterm Exam	Journalism & Truth - Canards, Fausses Nouvelles, Paranoid Style. By Ortoleva - Fake News. By Krause, Wirz, Scheufele, and Xenos	Midterm Exam
Monday, March 14	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASSES		
Session 8, Monday, March 21	Who Owns the Future? The Kremlin Disinformation Campaign Film: <i>Operation Infektion</i>	Journalism & Truth - From Information Availability to Factual Accountability. Graves and Wells - Conclusion. Mays and Katz	
Session 9 Monday, March 28	Third Seminar: Journalism and Truth	Social Media & Politics in CEE - Introduction. By Surowiec and Stetka - Wilson – Four Types of Russian Propaganda.	All Third Seminar Students submit their slide-decks to Brightspace
Session 10 Monday, April 4	The Post-Gutenberg Revolution: Social Media Final Paper Discussion Film: <i>The Social Dilemma</i>	Social Media & Politics in CEE - Who is afraid of the platforms? Adoption of and strategies for use of social media by politicians in the Czech Republic. By Mackova, Stetka, Zapotocky and Hladik - Chen – The Agency	
Session 11 Monday, April 11	The Post-Gutenberg Revolution: Social Media	Social Media & Politics in CEE - Personalization of political communication in social media: the 2014 Slovenian national election campaign. By Dezelan, Maksuti, and Prodnik	All students submit their individual presentation slide-decks to Brightspace (<i>The Pros & Cons of the Emergence of Global Cosmopolitan Culture</i>)
Monday, April 18	EASTER HOLIDAY - NO CLASSES		

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Session 12 Monday, April 25	Fourth Seminar: Social Media and Democracy	Social Media & Politics in CEE - We have been to Bolotnaya: Russian protests, the online public sphere, and the discourse of division. By Ryabovolova	All Fourth Seminar Students submit their slide-decks to Brightspace
Session 13 Monday, May 2	Journalism in the Czech Republic since 1989	Social Media & Politics in CEE - Conclusions. By Stetka and Surowiec	
Session 14 Monday, May 9	LAST DAY OF CLASSES – Course Review	Equal Times Article by By Jelena Prtorić – In Central and South-Eastern Europe, media freedom is under attack, and journalists are on the frontline - Equal Times	
Reading Day Tuesday, May 10	NO CLASSES		
Monday, May 16	FINAL PAPER DUE		Final Paper Due on Brightspace

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials:

- 21 Lessons for the 21st Century. By Yuval Noah Harrari. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2018.
- Journalism and Truth in an Age of Social Media. Ed. James Katz and Kate Mays. Oxford U Press, 2019.
- Social Media and Politics in Central and Eastern Europe. Ed. Surowiec and Stetka. Routledge, 2018.
- [In Central and South-Eastern Europe, media freedom is under attack, and journalists are on the frontline - Equal Times](#) By [Jelena Prtorić](#)
- Andrew Wilson – Four Types of Russian Propaganda. Aspen Review Central Europe 4/2015 <http://www.aspeninstitute.cz/en/article/4-2015-four-types-of-russian-propaganda/>
- Adrian Chen – The Agency. The New York Times, June 2, 2015 http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/07/magazine/the-agency.html?_r=0

Films and videos:

- The Social Dilemma. Dir. By Jeff Orlowski, 2020
- A Thousand Cuts. Dir. By Ramona Diaz, 2021

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- ['A Thousand Cuts' Film Discussion | Shorenstein Center](#)
- [Operation InfeKtion: How Russia Perfected the Art of War | NYT Opinion](#)
- Kony 2012

Resources:

- **Access your course materials:** [Brightspace](#)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](#) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](#) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](#) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)
- **NYU Prague library:** [Tritius Catalog](#) (https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

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 Brightspaces 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 Academic Director Vanda Thorne (vt21@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 Academic Director Vanda Thorne (vt21@nyu.edu) by email 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 Academic Director, who will inform your professors.

Unexcused absences may be penalized with a two 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

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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.

Late Submission of Work

1. 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 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.
2. Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (including weekends and public holidays) following the submission date receives an F.
3. 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.
4. Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.
5. 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.

Final Exams

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between final exams, please bring it to the attention of the site Academic Director as soon as this is known to facilitate alternate arrangements. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as though it were one's own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one's own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer's work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science's Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else's idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

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Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” (**Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook**)

Classroom Etiquette

- Please be mindful of your microphone and video display during synchronous class meetings. Ambient noise and some visual images may disrupt class time for you and your peers.
- 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 do.
- 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 deemed necessary by the study away site (ie COVID related need), synchronous class sessions may be recorded and archived for other students to view. This will be announced at the beginning of class time.
- Students should be respectful and courteous at all times to all participants in class. In online classes, consider using the chat function or “raise hand” function in order to add your voice to class discussions.

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.

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 email 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, Brightspace, 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.

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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 Prague.

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