



## MMC 5306 International Communication Media in the Digital Age Spring 2013

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Office hours for this course: Walk in or by appointment. I am in the office most of the day, most of the week. You can call the Telecommunication Dept office to make an appointment—392-0463. If you walk in, be sure to tell them you are in my class.

### **Introduction:**

In this course we will look at the history and role of communication systems intended for audiences in other countries, and at communication systems in several countries outside of the United States. The uses and effects of such technologies as broadcasting, satellites, and the Internet is the central theme of the course textbook.

Since the early 1990s the world's media systems have wrestled with the challenges and consequences of changing geo-political relationships, an increasingly interdependent global economy, and the emergence of digital technologies. These challenges include significant increases in the availability of distribution channels and content, new forms of content, such as interactive media, and controversies surrounding such issues as intellectual property, access to information, and consolidation of media control. While newsgathering and news reporting is one component of the globalization of communication systems, entertainment, commercial and political persuasion, are also important. We will address the growing importance of international communication

systems in the Middle East and North Africa and China, as well as the rise of new entertainment production centers such as those in India and Nigeria.

We will look most closely at activities in the European Union. Digital broadcasting, broadband, e-platforms, and other technologies are being developed and implemented. In some cases laws, customs, and national objectives clash with the unifying goals of the EU. In other cases there are tensions between trade policies of European governments and those of the United States. In this course we will examine the status of electronic media in the EU, and laws and policies designed to promote and protect them.

**The textbooks for this course are:**

**Thomas L. McPhail, *Global Communication: Theories, Stakeholders and Trends* 3d edition. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010**

**William A. Hachten and James F. Scotton, *The World News Prism: Challenges of Digital Communication* 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, Wiley-Blackwell, 2012**

**Additional assigned readings will be distributed in class, or by e-mail, placed on library reserve, or found on websites.**

**Course Objectives:**

After completing this course you are expected to be able to:

- Evaluate international and domestic media systems from a variety of dimensions
- Describe the history of international communication, and the issues and controversies that have surrounded these activities
- Locate and use information about media systems in other countries
- Describe the International agencies with responsibility for the regulation of media
- Describe the policies and goals of the European member nations and the European Union in promoting electronic media in their respective countries
- Describe the content, technology, and organization of electronic media entities in the EU's member states

**Student Responsibilities and Requirements:**

- You are expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance will be taken, and excessive absences will negatively affect your final grade
- All assignments are due when listed. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a lower grade, up to and including a "0" for that assignment.

- Assigned readings are to be completed prior to coming to class. Participation is part of the grading requirements, and this can only be accomplished if you are prepared to discuss the day's topics.
- There will be a class list-serve (e-mail) that will be used to distribute important information and announcements about class assignments, quizzes, schedules, etc. You are responsible for maintaining an e-mail account that allows you to receive these messages, and to regularly check for messages.
- *UNIVERSITY POLICIES REGARDING PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED ON ALL EXAMS. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ABIDE BY THE UNIVERSITY'S HONOR CODE AND ACADEMIC HONESTY GUIDELINES. STUDENTS WHO VIOLATE THESE RULES WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF "E" AND BE REFERRED TO STUDENT JUDICIAL AFFAIRS*

The University of Florida Honor Code was voted on and passed by the Student Body in the Fall 1995 semester. The Honor Code reads as follows:

**Preamble:** In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

**The Honor Code:** We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

For more information about academic honesty, contact, Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261.

### **Explanation of Assignments:**

Your final grade will be based on several assignments and requirements:

- **Participation in class discussions: 20% of course grade**  
Class sessions will consist of lectures and class discussion of assigned readings. You will be expected to actively participate in these discussions both by answering and asking questions. Such participation will require

familiarity with reading assignments and previous lectures and presentations. Obviously, attendance is a significant contributor to participation. **Each two unexcused absences will result in a 10% reduction in the grade for this requirement.**

- Media Monitoring: **15% of course grade**

Each week we will monitor the news coverage of domestic and international events by news organizations in a variety of countries. We are using English-language websites of these newspapers, so there is likely to be some loss of information compared with the version in the original language. However, we will gain insights into the news priorities of these various countries, as well as the perspective from which the news is reported within these countries.

You will be assigned to monitor one of these organizations. You will keep a daily record of what is presented, and each Thursday be prepared to discuss your findings. You will also submit a 1-2 page written summary:

- What stories are given the greatest prominence?
- What are the most important international stories of the week?
- What are the most important domestic/local stories?
- What's happening in sports, entertainment, culture?
- What editorial positions did the newspaper take?
- How would you characterize the coverage of events involving the United States—based on your knowledge, how accurate is it? Is it critical or supportive? In what ways? Provide examples.
- Provide a similar assessment of coverage of other international news, and of domestic news within the relevant country.
- How would you characterize the news coverage—serious, sensational or other? How so?
- What did you find particularly interesting? Surprising?

If you are fluent in another language you may select a site in that language. Your presentation, of course, will be in English.

Any website you select must be of a daily newspaper or broadcast news organization. Any such website must be approved by the instructor. **You may not select a site from a country from your home continent.**

- **Paper (30% of course grade):** Paper addressing an issue of importance in international communication (scope—15-20 pages double-spaced, plus bibliography) Your paper will be evaluated on the basis of completeness, accuracy, and clarity. We will discuss possible topics early in the semester. Please see the schedule, below for due dates for interim portions of the paper.

Your paper should provide a description of the problem, its background and development, the arguments surrounding the issue, and a discussion of your own position (with supporting arguments). Your sources can include, but are not limited to, public media (newspapers, magazines, etc), academic articles and papers, publications from trade associations, NGO's, consultants, etc., and/or original data. **However, collection of original data such as through survey, content analysis, or experiment is *not* required.**

- 3 essay/short answer exams. (10% of course grade each for exams 1 and 2, 15% of course grade for exam 3)

### Course Outline and Schedule

**We expect to have several guest speakers and videoconferences. Because we will be accommodating their schedules, this schedule is likely to change.**

**Prism: Hachten and Scotton, *The World News Prism***

**Global: McPhail, *Global Communication***

Introduction to Course Jan 28

Models and Approaches to Evaluating Media Systems Jan 10-17

**Global Ch 1 and 2**

**Prism Ch 1 and 2**

History and Controversies Jan 22-29

**Global Ch 10**

**Prism Ch 10 and 11**

**Elizabeth C. Hanson, *The Information Revolution and World Politics*  
Lanham, UK: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2008 Ch 2, "The Origins of the Information Revolution"**

Technologies Jan 31-Feb 5

**Global Ch 5**

**Prism Ch 4**

**Hanson, Ch 3, "The Globalization of Communication"**

**David Ostroff, "Engines of Content Diversity: A Brief Chronicle of Communication Satellite Policies," in Sofie Van Bauwel, Elke Van Damme and Hans Verstraeten (eds), *Diverse Mediawerelden*, Ghent, Belgium: Academia Press, 2009, pp 161-175**

**Feb 7 Topic for term paper submitted and discussed in class: @ 1 page indicating the paper's topic, why it is an important/significant issue, the method(s) you will use, and a preliminary bibliography**

**Exam 1        Tues Feb 12**

Information as Tool, Weapon, Commodity    Feb 14-21

**Global, Ch 4**

**Prism, Chs 6 and 12**

International News Organizations    Feb 26-28

**Global, Chs 11, 12, 13**

**Prism Ch 5**

**Shahira S. Fahmy and Mohammed Al Emad, Al Jazeera vs. Al Jazeera: A Comparison of the Network's English and Arabic Online Coverage of the US/A; Qaeda Conflict, "International Communication Gazette 2011:713: 216-232**

**Spring Break Mar 4-8**

Entertainment    Mar 12-14

**Global Ch 7, 8, 10**

**Kai Hafez, *The Myth of Media Globalization* Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2007 Ch 4 "Film and Programme Imports—Entertainment Culture as the Core of Media Globalization"**

**Exam 2        Tuesday March 19**

Asia and Africa and International Communication    Mar 21-28

**Global, Ch 14**

**Prism Ch 7, 8, 9**

**April 2 Rough draft of paper due and discussed in class**

The European Union and International Communication    Apr 4-18

**Global, Ch 9**

**Jeremy Tunstall, *The Media Were American: U.S. Mass Media in Decline* New York: Oxford University Press, 2008, Ch 14 "Europe and Euro-American Media"**

**Hedwig de Smaele, "The Enlarged Audio-Visual Europe: The Many Faces of Europeanization," in Alec Charles, ed., *Media in the Enlarged Europe: Politics, Policy and Industry*, Bristol: UK, Intellect, 2009, pp. 13-22**

**David Hutchinson, "The European Union and the Press," in Charles, pp. 53-60**

**Tue April 23- Catch up day**

**Paper Due**

**Tues April 23**

**FINAL EXAM    Tues April 30 7:30-9:30 AM**