Course Title:
Seminar in Political Communication: War, Peace, and Media

Course Number:
COMM 6383-301

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to media coverage of war from a political and mass communication perspective. Students will be introduced to several major theories of mass and political communication that have been applied to the study of war coverage in the media as well as a number of research studies from the communication discipline. Topics will include media bias, embedded reporting, information control, and media agenda setting as they apply to war coverage. The course will examine traditional media coverage of war (such as television, radio, and newspapers) as well as the role of new communication technologies (such as blogs, Internet news websites, and media convergence).

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: April 15-21, 2012
Location: Hangar 2, Room 102, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.
Hours: Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; M-F 6:00-10:00 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: March 17, 2012

Site Director:
Mary Keller. Assistant: Novelda Sommers. Phone: 808-449-6364 (DSN & Commercial); Fax: 808-422-5509; E-mail: aphickam@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Kevin B. Wright, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: 610 Elm Avenue, Room 101
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-5946
Fax Number: (405) 325-7625
E-mail Address: kbwright@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:
The objectives of this class include developing a greater understanding of theories and research in the area of media coverage of war. In an effort to meet these objectives, the following assignments have been created.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

1. Readings and Participation (50% of grade). Students will be expected to have read the assigned readings prior to the first class session. As a graduate seminar, I expect students to be actively involved in class discussions.

2. Research Paper (50% of grade). Students will evaluate two communication journal articles that focus on media coverage of war. Students may choose any two communication journal articles that deal with media coverage of war depending upon their specific interests. Each article should be evaluated in terms of its theoretical and methodological strengths and limitations. The paper should be written in APA 5th edition style, and it should be no longer than 15 pages.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Kevin B. Wright, Ph.D.

Education
- 1999  PH.D., University of Oklahoma
- 1995  M.A., California State University, Chico
- 1992  B.A., San Francisco State University

Current Positions
- Advanced Programs Professor since 2006
- Professor of Communication, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- COMM 5353 Conflict Management
- COMM 5013 Introduction to Graduate Studies
- COMM6383 Seminar in Political Communication: War, Peace and Media
- COMM 5003 Quantitative Research Methods

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Media
- Computer-Mediated Communication
- Conflict
- Health Communication

Representative Publications and Presentations
• Wright, K. B. (2002). Motives for communication within on-line support groups and antecedents for interpersonal use. *Communication Research Reports, 19*, 89-98.

**Representative Honors and Awards Received**

Early Career Research Award

**Major Professional Affiliations**

National Communication Association
International Communication Association