Course Title:
Directed Readings: War, Peace and Media

Course Number:
COMM 5960-422

Course Description:
The end of the Cold War brought with it the end of easy binary thinking. The Cold War shaped a mindset where it was easy to think about international affairs as led by two protagonists: the Soviet side and the US side. But by the end of the 20th century things became much more complicated. The Gulf war, ongoing conflicts in The Balkans, one of the fastest mass killings in history in Rwanda, the largest refugee crisis out of Kosovo, the conflict(s) in Colombia, the oldest civil war in Latin America, are just a few some examples where protagonists, roots of the conflict(s), and alternatives are all of extreme complexity.

Students taking this course will explore how the mass media inform their audiences about international armed conflict; how well (or bad) informed world audiences are about armed violence, war, and peace in other parts of the world; how the mass media shape images of violence, war, and peace; how the mass media shape interpretations of victims and victimizers throughout the world. Students will read about media formats, narrative styles, journalistic practices, and relationships between the media and other type of organizations (military and governmental institutions, NGOs, humanitarian organizations, peace movements, etc.).

Course Dates:
January 2-April 30, 2014
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 2, 2014

Site Director:
Please see your local Site Director or e-mail Carolyn Taylor at cataylor@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Clemencia Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Department of Communication
610 Elm Avenue
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-1570
E-mail Address: clemencia@ou.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Contact the professor for this information.
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.
Reading list:

Concepts of War and Peace


The Media


The Middle East


Gladwell, M., (2001). Facebook Revolutions: Malcolm Gladwell’s disagreement on Technology’s role in the Arab uprisings (Tech’s role in Revolution Overhyped?)


Ireland


Africa


Suffering in silence: Media coverage of war and famine in Sudan. Steven Livingston. In From massacres to genocide. The media, public policy, and humanitarian crises. Eds. Robert I.


6. Hate radio and its antidote. Lina Holguin and Sandra Cummer. n.d. (Manuscript)


The Balkans


Alternatives

1. Passion and discovery: That was then. Danny Schechter. In The more you watch, the less you know. News wars/(sub)merged hopes/media adventures. New York: Seven Stories, 1997.


Internet Sources:


OU E-Mail:
All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

Online Learning Resource Center:
The Online Learning Resource Center of the University of Oklahoma’s College of Arts and Sciences Online Program is here to serve you and assist you with any questions, problems, or concerns you may have. For assistance go to http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/ or contact us by telephone at: (405) 325-5854 or Email: casonline@ou.edu

Method
This course will focus on reading recent scholarship about how the mass media cover international armed conflict. Readings have been selected to include armed conflicts in different parts of the world, in order to give students an opportunity to reflect on the media’s role in diverse geographical, cultural, and social contexts. Students are expected to complete all reading and to write a term paper during the semester. All readings will be posted on D2L as pdf or Word files.

Assignments, Grades and Due Dates:
The Term Paper
Guidelines:
The term paper should be typewritten, double-spaced, approximately 20 pages, 12 point font. Use APA, or Chicago style to cite the bibliography used. The paper should include a reference list at the end.

Option 1:
Write a review/critique of selected readings, including at least 30 of the readings assigned. The paper should address different topics as presented in the readings (i.e., the role of the media; interaction between local media and international media; limitations of for-profit media, etc). Use of subtitles to separate one section from another is strongly recommended.

Option 2:
Write a research paper on War, Peace, and Media. Use at least 20 of the readings assigned as the literature to review for your research study, plus relevant sources about your specific topic. Some examples of research themes developed for this class have included: New Information and Communication Technologies and International Conflict; coverage of specific conflicts, such as Iraq or Afghanistan; the emergence of new regional media players, such as Al Jazeera).

Grading:
This course is graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U). A grade of S is equivalent to B or better. Term Paper 100%

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.

Incomplete Grade Policy:
A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:
If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: http://webapps.ou.edu/it/ or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. 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

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local 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

Clemencia Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Education

- Ph. D. in International Telecommunications, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 1994.

Current Positions

- Professor, Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma
- Advanced Programs professor since 2001

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- COMM 6323 International Communication
- COMM 5960 War, Peace and Media

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Mass Media
- Intercultural Communication
- International Communication

Representative Publications and Presentations

Books:


Journal Articles:


**Book Chapters:**


Major Professional Affiliations

- OURMedia
- International Communication Association
- International Association for Mass Communication Research
- World Association for Christian Communication

Representative Honors and Awards

- Fulbright Specialist Program Grant, to engage in collaborative projects with the Communication Department at Universidad de Antioquia and EAFIT (Medellin, Colombia), 2011.
- College of Arts and Sciences, Travel Grant to attend the National Communication Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, 2010.
- Vice-President for Research, Travel Grant to attend the National Communication Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, 2010.
- College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Enrichment Grant: $1200, 2010.
- Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom: $11,300, 2009.
- Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma: $1200, 2009.
- Travel Grant, Vice-President for Research, University of Oklahoma: $1000, 2009.
- Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma: $1200, 2008.
- Travel Grant, Vice-President for Research, University of Oklahoma: $1200, 2008.
- Faculty Enrichment Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma: $1200, 2008.
- Channel Foundation Grant to support OURMedia, $9,700, 2007.
- Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma: $234, 2007.
- Faculty Development Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma: $1000, 2006.
- Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma: $960, 2006.
- Travel Grant, Office of the Vice-President for Research, University of Oklahoma: $960, 2006.