

Course: Journalism 395, International Communication. **Unique No.:** 08055. **Meetings:** Mondays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in CMA 3.108. **Instructor:** Dominic Lasorsa, Ph.D., Associate Professor. **Office:** BMC 3.320. **Mailbox:** Journalism Office. **Email:** lasorsa@utexas.edu. **Phone:** (512) 471-1966 **Fax:** 471-7979. **Office Hours:** Mondays, 12-1:30 p.m., and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., and by appointment.

Course Description: J395, International Communication, is a graduate seminar which examines (a) the history of the field of international communication, (b) current theories of and research on international communication processes and effects, and (c) directions for future research. The course offers a comprehensive overview of the global communication landscape and it covers the development of the technological infrastructure of international communications. We will compare, analyze and critique global media systems, content and audiences, and we will explore theories, concepts and issues relating to world news and transnational news flow. Overall, the course addresses the cultural, economic, political and social implications of global communications.

Course Requirements:

- (1) A 15-minute class presentation on the media system in one particular region of the world. Value: 15%.
- (2) An 8-10-page essay on the merits of doing research using cross-national models of communication (nomothetic) against the benefits of country-specific analysis (idiographic), based on the theoretical literature (e.g., Hallin & Mancini) and its criticisms. Value: 15%.
- (3) A 15-20-page proposal for empirical research in which you identify hypotheses to test (or research questions to answer), provide a literature review and discuss the theoretical framework you would use, detail how you would gather data, and explain the proposed study's potential contribution to the literature on international communication. You need not actually do the study for the class as it may be difficult to complete it within the timeframe of a semester (especially if you want to do ethnographic work or interview journalists in other countries) but your proposal should be as comprehensive and complete as possible in every detail. Value: 45%.
- (4) A 15-minute class presentation on your research proposal. Value: 15%.
- (5) Class participation. You are expected to do the necessary preparation for each session, including carefully reading all course materials ahead of time. You are expected to attend class sessions and contribute to class discussions. Value: 10%.

If you have any questions about course requirements, check with me well before the due date. If anything interferes with your ability to learn, let the instructor know. If you have questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask.

Submitting Assignments: Please include **page numbers** and put **your full name** at the top of the first page. Email your assignment to me as a **Word (.doc or .docx) attachment** and identify the assignment in the Subject line.

Course Materials:

There is one required textbook for this course: *International Communication: A Reader*, edited by Daya Kishan Thussu (Routledge, 2010). Other required course materials, primarily journal articles, will be made available to you. I will be happy to suggest optional readings beyond the required course materials in any area of particular interest to you.

Course Schedule: (Subject to change as the need arises)

January 25.

Introduction to International Communication

February 1.

International News Flow

Reading: Segev (2015).

February 8.

Infrastructure for International Media Flow

Reading: Thussu, Chapters 1, 2 and 4.

February 15.

Theoretical Approaches to the Study of International Communication

Reading: Thussu, Chapters 5, 7 and 8.

February 22.

Global Media Systems, Part 1

Reading: Thussu, Chapters 9 and 10.

February 29.

Global Media Systems, Part 2

Reading: Thussu, Chapter 12, and Sparks (2007).

March 7.

Dominant and Alternative Discourses, Part 1

Reading: Thussu, Chapters 14 and 15.

March 14.

Spring Break.

March 21.

Dominant and Alternative Discourses, Part 2

Reading: Thussu, Chapter 17.

March 28.
Empirical Research.

April 4.
Communication and Power
 Reading: Thussu, Chapters 19, 20 and 21.

April 11.
Cultures of Global Communication, Part 1
 Reading: Thussu, Chapters 22 and 23.

April 18.
Cultures of Global Communication, Part 2
 Reading: Thussu, Chapters 25 and 26, and Straubhaar (2008).

April 25.
Presentations, Part 1.

May 2.
Presentations, Part 2.

Religious Holy Days Observance Policy: The Texas Education Code specifies that an institution of higher education shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi03-04/ch4/ch4g.html#attendance>

Students with Disabilities: Please notify your instructor of any modification/adaptation you may require to accommodate a disability-related need. You will be requested to provide documentation to the Dean of Student's Office in order that the most appropriate accommodations can be determined. Specialized services are available on campus through Services for Students with Disabilities.

<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor. By accepting this syllabus, you have agreed to these guidelines and must adhere to them. Scholastic dishonesty

damages both the student's learning experience and readiness for the future demands of a work-career. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.

The Honor Code: The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.