

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Spring 2019
Discipline:	Journalism and Media Communication
Course Number and Title:	JTC 418 Journalism, Peace, and War
Division:	Upper
Faculty Name:	Dr. Gary Rice
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Journalists, particularly during times of war, have the heavy responsibility of writing and recording the first rough draft of history. Yet it's been said repeatedly that in times of war, truth is the first casualty. This course will examine, explore and evaluate how well journalists have done, throughout history as well as today, in separating fact from fiction, discerning truth from propaganda and providing crucial information over merely blood and sensationalism.

We will get to know some of the men and women who have reported war and find out what motivated them in many cases to risk their lives. Does their work matter? Have they made a difference? Are they heroes or shills, thoughtful analysts or thrill-seeking adrenalin addicts? We will look at the concepts of objectivity and balance, and debate whether either is truly possible or desirable. We will dig into the concept of peace journalism vs. conflict reporting. And we will do all these things with a particular emphasis on the regions we visit.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To explore how war and conflict has been reported by journalists throughout history and in contemporary times.

To examine the pressures, conditions and influences that wartime journalists are subjected to, and how those factors influence the way conflicts are reported.

To separate opinion from fact and weigh whether journalists covering conflicts can truly be objective.

To evaluate whether coverage of conflict too often covers simply the gore and mayhem, without providing context or examining ways that violence could have been avoided.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Phillip Knightley

TITLE: *The First Casualty: The War Correspondent as Hero and Myth-Maker from the Crimea to Iraq*

PUBLISHER: The Johns Hopkins University Press

ISBN #: 9780801880308

DATE/EDITION: 2004 paperback edition

AUTHOR: Chris Hedges

TITLE: *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*

PUBLISHER: Public Affairs

ISBN #: 9781610393591

DATE/EDITION: 2014 paperback edition

AUTHOR: Jerry Lembcke

TITLE: *The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory and the Legacy of Vietnam*

PUBLISHER: New York University Press

ISBN #: 978-0814751473

DATE/EDITION: 2000 paperback edition

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico — January 5

B1—January 8: Introduction and explanation of class. Reading Assignment: *The First Casualty*, Preface through Page 66

B2—January 10: Lecture: War Journalism through History, Part 1

Honolulu, Hawaii — January 12

B3—January 13: Lecture: War Journalism through History, Part 2

B4—January 15: Lecture: Vietnam War History, Part 1. In-class video from CBS News “Vietnam” with Walter Cronkite Reading Assignment: Reading Assignment: *The First Casualty*, Page 409 through 468

January 16—International Date Line crossing (Lost Day)

B5—January 18: Lecture: Vietnam War History, Part 2. In-class video from CBS News “Vietnam” with Walter Cronkite. Begin reading “The Spitting Image.”

Study Day (No Class) — January 19

B6—January 21: Lecture: Vietnam War Correspondents and Controversies. In-class video from CBS News “Vietnam” with Walter Cronkite.

B7—January 23: Lecture: Vietnam War Peace Movement. In-class video from CBS News “Vietnam” with Walter Cronkite. Begin reading: *The Spitting Image*.

Kobe, Japan — January 24-28

B8—January 30: Lecture: Tet Offensive and the Media. In-class video from CBS News “Vietnam” with Walter Cronkite.

Shanghai, China — January 31 - February 1

In-Transit — February 2-3

Hong Kong, SAR — February 4-5

B9—February 7: Lecture: My Lai Massacre and the Media. In-class video from CBS News “Vietnam” with Walter Cronkite. (See Field Class description. Note assignment and due date)

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — February 8-13

B10—February 15: Lecture: Television and the Vietnam War. In-class video from CBS News “Vietnam” with Walter Cronkite.

Study Day (No Class) — February 16

B11—February 18: Lecture: Fall of Saigon. In-class video from CBS News “Vietnam” with Walter Cronkite. Assignment from Field Class due.

Yangon, Myanmar — February 19-23

B12—February 25: Lecture: Vietnam War—Myths, Media and Legacies

B13— February 27: Review due of book “The Spitting Image” and class discussion.

Cochin, India — February 28 – March 5

Community Programming (No class)—March 7

B14—March 8: In-class review for mid-term exam.

B15—March 10: Mid-term exam. Start reading “War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning”

Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11

B16—March 12: Lecture: Why Do People Become War Correspondents. With in-class video, “The War Reporters.”

B17—March 15: Lecture: The media and the overthrow of a Middle East Democracy

B18—March 17: Lecture: Don’t forget to ask “Why.” Lessons from Robert Fisk.

Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23

B19—March 25: Lecture: The secret way to war and the Downing Street Memos

B20—March 27: Lecture: The media, the Iraq War and universal lessons of conflict, Part 1

B21—March 29: Lecture: The media, the Iraq War and universal lessons of conflict, Part 2

Takoradi, Ghana — March 30 - April 1

Tema, Ghana — April 2-3

B22—April 5: Lecture: Does peace journalism have a chance?

B23—April 7: Book review due of “War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning” and class discussion

Study Day (No Class) — April 8

B24— April 10: In-class wrap-up and review for final

Casablanca, Morocco — April 11-15

Study Day (No class)—April 16

B25—April 18: Final Exam

Arrive Amsterdam, The Netherlands — April 21

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class:

The field class for this course is on Wednesday, 13 February in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

Title: “Ground Zero of the Vietnam War—war remnants, tunnels and the noodle shop where the Tet Offensive was planned.”

Description: This class is designed to give students a take on the Vietnam War from largely the viewpoint of the Vietnamese who fought the United States 50 years ago. First, the class will visit the War Remnants Museum, with exhibits including captured U.S. military hardware, depictions of torture and other war crimes and portrayals of the conflict from a decidedly anti-U.S. standpoint. Then we will visit the Tunnels of Cu-chi, which illustrate the elaborate underground network that played a crucial role in the conflict. We will visit Vietnam War photographer Hoang Van Cuong. Finally, we conclude with a stop at the noodle shop where the Tet Offensive was secretly planned in an upstairs room while American soldiers unknowing enjoyed the food and beer downstairs.

Objectives:

1. To experience the Vietnam War from largely the standpoint of the Vietnamese who fought the United States;
2. To explore questions of propaganda, slanted reporting and the victors' viewpoint in the writing of history;
3. To evaluate the concepts of peace and healing 50 years after a conflict was fought;
4. To learn history by experiencing it.

Assignment: Write a 4-to-5-page paper analyzing this experience and its contribution to your understanding of war and peace, and particularly the Vietnam War. Due 17 February

Independent Field Assignments

During all our port stops, we should be on the lookout for examples of war, the military and hopefully peace. If our ship could travel on land and we visited the small town in Kansas where I grew up, we would see a National Guard armory, a heavy artillery piece in a small city park, a museum honoring a Spanish-American War general and a memorial for local residents killed in war.

As we make our different port stops and fan out over the landscape, I want you to maintain a journal where you list examples like those above. The more of these examples you find and perhaps visit, the better. Some will be obvious, like at Pearl Harbor or in Ho Chi Minh; others will be less known. Use personal observation, research, interviews with tour guides and any other sources to build your lists. Things like a group of young soldiers walking down the street, a statue of a cavalry officer, a military surplus store, a veterans' club— all could go on your lists, along with the more obvious museums and military bases. Maintain your lists by city and we will discuss in class after each stop. Your journal, accompanied by a 2 to 3 page typed double-

spaced paper reflecting on what your observations tell you, will be turned in for credit on April 9 and will be the basis of the grade for your independent field assignments.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

How your course grade will be assigned:

First book review: 15 %

Second book review: 15%

Field Class Assignment: 20%*

Independent field assignments: 10%

Mid-term Exam: 10%

Final exam: 30%

***Mandatory attendance and participation is required in the field class**

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

None

FILM REQUEST

"The Vietnam War with Walter Cronkite," DVD Collection

"Four Hours in My Lai," 1989 Yorkshire Television documentary

"The War Reporters," Films for the Humanities and Sciences, Films Media Group, DVD

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

None

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Professor will distribute written handouts as applicable.