

MAIJ 2011-12

MCT 483 Foreign News Reporting

Module Tutor: Howard Barrell

Aims Of The Module:

The aims are to:

- give students an understanding of major international institutions, and current issues and trends in international relations;
- familiarise journalists with human and recorded sources of international news; and
- equip them to report well – and self-reflectively – on or for societies other than their own.

Learning Outcomes Of The Module:

One completion of the module students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- demonstrate a working knowledge of the world political and financial system and its origins;
- show a familiarity with the sources of quality information and analysis on foreign and international developments;
- demonstrate an understanding of how the international news agenda is constructed, by whom and in line with whose interests;
- appreciate that different cultural, economic and geographical considerations may produce divergent, though legitimate, viewpoints on the same development; and
- understand that a journalist's willingness to reflect self-critically upon how s/he reports on an issue is likely to be the best guarantor of the integrity of her/his work.

Intellectual skills:

- participate intelligently in debates on a wide range of global and regional issues; and
- detect the self-interested presentations of international events and developments by different governments and parties.

Discipline specific (including practical) skills:

- report on, adequately contextualise and analyse global and regional issues in the media;
- identify human and recorded sources of quality information on international developments;
- find, as well as appreciate the legitimacy of, opposing or less frequently reported, views on international issues; and,
- report well – and self-reflectively – on or for societies other than their own.

Transferable skills:

- to research across a wide range of foreign and international news developments and issues;
- to organise material on global developments coherently; and
- to produce a clearly and intelligently contextualised narrative or analytical product that an audience can easily digest.

Lecture List and Assessment Points

Below is the list of lectures for the module and, over the page, are the two assessed assignments for it.

THERE ARE TWO SETS OF LECTURES RELEVANT TO THIS MODULE BOTH OF WHICH YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

One set of lectures – four in all – will provide instruction on how to write an analytical feature. You need to be able to write this form of journalistic article in order to pass this module and the MAIJ. These lectures will be held at ... on ..., ..., ..., and ... in Room ... in the Bute Building.

The other set of lectures deals with aspects of Foreign News Reporting. These include lectures on important issues (e.g. the rise of China and India); significant issues in global reporting (e.g. diversity); and tradecraft (the practicalities of being a foreign correspondent) These lectures will be held every... at ... in

The list of lectures in the second series is:

Oct 6: Howard Barrell: (1) Introduction to the module.
(2) China and India rise, US in slow decline: a changing world order.
(3) Conventions of confidentiality in international journalism.

Oct. 13: Verica Rugar: Russia's renaissance and Europe.

Oct. 20: Erica Chenoweth, Wesleyan University, US: Myth of the rational insurgent.

October 27: Howard Barrell: The international economy: the crisis evolves.

Nov. 3: All away at Gregynog: No lecture.

Nov. 10: Verica Rugar: How important diversity is to reporting the world.

Nov. 17: Janet Harris, The embedding of journalists and the reporting of war.

Nov. 24: Embassy press attaché: Selling and telling a controversial story.

Dec. 1: Howard Barrell, Trade craft as a foreign correspondent.

Dec. 8: Howard Barrell, Civil resistance, social networking and the 'Arab Spring'.

Dec. 15: Janet Harris, Current patterns of insurgency in the early 21st century.

There are two assessment points:

1. *Deadline: November 14:*

To write an outline/plan for an analytical feature on the subject about which you propose to write your analytical feature later in the semester.

This outline will be marked for clarity and organisation. It should state a suitable, attention-grabbing intro idea for the feature, outline the subject matter being explored, clearly identify the organising idea or research question the feature sets out to argue or answer, and say what sources and resources you plan to use to get the information and opinion the feature needs.

Outline's/plan's length: between 250 and 350 words.

Contribution to module mark: 25%

2. *Deadline: December 19:*

To write an analytical feature proper based on your earlier outline/plan.

Analytical feature's length: between 1,200 and 1,500 words.

Contribution for module mark: 75%

The feature will provide an interesting, entertaining read on *one* of the topics listed below. You will be marked up for

- the strength of your intro,
- the way in which your feature is derived from and linked clearly to current events and to an issue or issues that arise from these events,
- the clarity of your writing and analysis of the subject matter,
- accuracy, intelligent use of figures, correct language,
- for the quality of your research, and,
- ***particularly, for the strength and number of the original interviews you conduct with people appropriate to the subject matter.***

3. *Choose one of the topics listed below for your analytical feature:*

You should develop a feature that falls under **one** of the following 15 topics:

- The rise of China and/or India.
- The relative decline of the US.
- The evolution of the economic crisis in the West.
- Threats to the stability of the Chinese economy.
- Challenges to Western domination of the international media.
- The role of the Internet in democratising dictatorships.
- Islam and democracy.
- China and democracy.
- The crisis of militant Islamist groups such as al Qaeda.
- Modern patterns of insurgency.
- Is civil resistance now the smart option with which to attempt to achieve fundamental political or social change?
- Is the US undermining its own interests through its support for Israel?
- How can Africa reverse its marginalisation?
- The London Olympics and the UK's place in the world.
- The international politics of energy;
- Can Europe trust Russia?
- Is a diplomat someone sent abroad to lie for his/her country?

ENJOY!

Howard Barrell.

Indicative Reading List:

- Peter Ackerman & Christopher Kruegler, *Strategic Non-Violent Conflict. The Dynamics of People Power in the 20th Century* (London: Praeger, 1994).
- Amin, Hussein 'Arab Media Performance in the Midst of War', in *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 3, 2002. 3 pp.
- Bartram, John 'News Agency Wars: the battle between Reuters and Bloomberg', in *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 4, No.3, 2003. 13 pp.
- Richard Cornwell, 'A New Partnership for Africa's Development?', in *African Security Review*, Vol. 11, No. 1. (www.iss.co.za)
- Niall Ferguson, *The Cash Nexus. Money and Power in the Modern World, 1700-2000* (London: Penguin, 2002).
- Berger, Guy 'Grave New World? Democratic Journalism Enters the Global Twenty-first Century', in *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2000.
- de Burgh, Hugo 'Chinese Journalism and the Academy: the politics and pedagogy of the media', in *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 4, 2000.
- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion. Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).
- Hernando de Soto, *The Mystery of Capital. Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else* (London: Bantam Press, 2000).
- Lee Chin-Chuan, 'China's Journalism: the emancipatory potential of social theory', in *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 4, 2000.
- Larry Diamond, *The Spirit of Democracy. The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World* (New York: Holt, 2009).
- Jaap van Ginneken, *Understanding Global News. A Critical Introduction* (London: Sage Publications, 1998).
- Robert Kagan, 'Power and Weakness. Why the United States and Europe see the World Differently', in *Policy Review*, June/July 2002, No. 113.
- Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers. Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*. (London: Fontana, 1988).
- Phillip Knightley, 'Journalism, Conflict and War: an Introduction', in *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 2002.
- Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel, *The Elements of Journalism* (London: Atlantic Books, 2003).
- Marc Lynch, 'Taking Arabs Seriously', in *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2003, Vol. 82, Iss. 5.
- John Maxwell Hamilton & Eric Jenner, 'The New Foreign Correspondence', in *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2003, Vol. 82, Iss. 5.
- Jim Richstad, 'Asian Journalism in the Twentieth Century', in *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2000.
- Adam Roberts & Timothy Garton Ash, *Civil Resistance & Power Politics. The Experience of Non-Violent Action from Gandhi to the Present* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).
- Anya Schiffrin (ed.), *Covering Globalization. A Handbook for Reporters* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004).
- Kurt Schock, *Unarmed Insurrections. People Power Movements in Nondemocracies* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005).
- Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents* (London: Alan Lane/The Penguin Press, 2002).
- Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2004).
- Martin Wolf, *Fixing Global Finance* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008).
- Michael Wolff, *The Man Who Owns the News. Inside the Secret World of Rupert Murdoch* (London: Bodley Head, 2008).