

Communications/Journalism

International News Writing and Reporting ~ Patrick Farabaugh

LD only (Lower Division 100-200)/3 credit hours

In this hands-on course, students will learn how to produce quality international journalism - as foreign correspondents in Ireland - for an American audience. Building on the fundamentals of U.S. journalism and following approaches developed by some of the world's top contemporary news correspondents, students will be provided the opportunity to become familiar with the "tools of the trade" and put them to use in creating international stories for a domestic audience. Students will learn how journalism functions by examining the discipline through an intercultural lens. This is a writing intensive course with close, individual instruction provided on all assignments. In addition to covering relevant and timely stories from Ireland, debate and discussion on current ethical, political and legal issues regarding Irish culture will be conducted. This "immersion" will allow students to realize the importance of journalists developing a strong understanding of the people and places they cover. The U.S. news model will also be compared to the Irish model and other international journalistic approaches. Objectives: - Developing fundamental interviewing, writing and reporting skills; - Understanding the importance of journalistic ethics and cultural sensitivity in international news writing and reporting; - Gaining an appreciation of the news gathering techniques unique to international reporting; - Learning what characterizes quality international news writing and reporting; - Recognizing the similarities and differences between the American news gathering model and other nations' journalistic approaches; - Discovering how policy issues can affect international news coverage; - Gaining an appreciation of the role of today's technology in distributing international news; - Moving an American audience to become interested in Irish issues and concerns. Potential Reading List: Clausen, Lisbeth, "Localizing the Global: 'Domestication' processes in international news production," *Public Understanding of Science*, September 2011, Vol. 20, 658-673. Donsbach, Wolfgang, & Klett, Bettina, "Subjective Objectivity: How journalists in four countries define a key term in their profession," *International Communication Gazette*, February 1993, Vol. 51, No. 1, 53-83; Edwards, Aaron, "The Northern Ireland Troubles: Operation Banner 1969-2007," Oxford, U.K.: Osprey Publishing, 2011. McKittrick, David, & McVea, David, "Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland," Chicago, Ill.: New Amsterdam Books, 2002. Owen, John, & Purdey, Heather, "International News Reporting: Frontlines and deadlines," West Sussex, U.K.: Blackwell Publishing, 2009. Williams, Kevin, "International Journalism," Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2011.

Can the course be taken to fulfill major and minor requirements? YES

Can the course be taken to fulfill general elective credits? NO

Are there prerequisites for this course?

NO

Assessment Methods:

News stories - 30 percent

Journal entries - 20 percent

Quizzes - 10 percent

Investigative story - 30 percent

Participation - 10 percent

News stories will be written while in country, on specific events, people and places. Journal entries will require students to reflect - each day while in country - on their experiences. Quizzes will cover people, places and events that we encounter and experience, as well as historical elements related to Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant struggles. The investigative story will be written once the students have returned to the United States. For this assignment, students will examine the Catholic-Protestant struggle in Northern Ireland through both a micro and macro-lens, reflecting on the 30-year struggle as well as its impact and effect on Northern Irish society today. Participation points will be awarded based on the degree of student involvement in group discussions.