COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed as a workshop to introduce students to the practice of international reporting. It provides students with the background, knowledge and techniques needed to cover world affairs. Discussion topics include reporting strategies, challenges and opportunities for foreign correspondence in the light of globalization and technological change. Students are expected to develop cross-cultural sensitivity and critical thinking about international news. As much as possible, the course links global issues to the local community.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
At the successful completion of the course, you will be able to:
1) analyze international events, conduct background research and pitch ideas for newsworthy stories.
2) write news summaries about current world events
3) use online and traditional tools to gather materials, mine data and develop sources for international reporting
4) report and produce original stories that make local connections to global issues.
5) evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of international news coverage.

REQUIRED READINGS
Text
The AP Stylebook (available for purchase at the bookstore or http://www.apstylebook.com.)

Handouts
You are required to read online articles, tutorials and blog posts pertinent to your work in the course. These will be linked on Desire2Learn.

International news
http://global.nytimes.com/?iht
http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/
http://www.aljazeera.com/
You are required to bookmark and view these URLs on a regular basis. We will start each class session with a discussion of world news.

DESIREE2LEARN
To log on to Desire2Learn, go to https://d2l.depaul.edu/. Log in using your username and password. Among other things, you will find:
1) Course Home: This area includes the News section, where key announcements will be posted throughout the quarter. All announcements will also be emailed to you.
2) Content: This is where you'll find course and instructor information, syllabus, class schedule, detailed agenda for each day along with all of the online readings, lectures and other course materials.
3) Classlist: Here you'll find a list of all of the students in the course. You can click a classmate's name to send him or her an email.
4) Dropbox: This is where you will find detailed instructions for assignments. The Dropbox also allows you to submit assignments to the instructor. Items you submit through the Dropbox as well as feedback from the instructor are not visible to other students in the course.
5) Grades: This area contains any grades you received on class assignments.

WEB RESOURCES
There are several websites that are very helpful for those interested in international reporting. I recommend a list of such resources and hope that you will find them useful for your work. The URLs are posted on D2L under Content.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES
The following is a summary of assignments and assessment for this class. Brief descriptions are provided below. More detailed instructions about specific assignments and grading criteria will be discussed in class and posted on Desire2Learn.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Point value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country reports</td>
<td>30 x 5 = 150</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story 1</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story 2</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Country reports
At the beginning of the quarter, you will be asked to “adopt” a country that you are most interested in. You are expected to take on the perspective of that country and monitor
major news events in “your country” on a regular basis. You will write five (5) country reports (400 words each) throughout the quarter.

**Story 1**
This assignment will test your ability to use online and traditional tools to gather information, develop local sources and mine available data for your international reporting. You are expected to write a 1,000-word story about an international news topic (preferably related to the country that you have “adopted” for this class.) If you choose to produce a multimedia, mashup or interactive story, let me know in advance.

**Story 2**
You will come up with a story idea, gather materials and interview at least two original sources to write a 1,000-word story about an international news topic (preferably related to the country that you have “adopted” for this class or a current news event pertaining to international affairs.) If you choose to produce a multimedia, mashup, interactive or video story, let me know ahead of time.

**Final project**
You will conduct research and write a 6-page paper (Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double spaced) that analyzes and critiques the news coverage of an international issue (preferably related to your “adopted” country.) If you choose to write a 6-page memorandum that plans out an international reporting mission or to produce a final story (preferably feature/profile/multimedia package), let me know in advance.

**Participation and attendance**
Participation is critical in the class and I assess participation based on quantity and quality. You will have the opportunity to discuss, share and learn from your colleagues. This will be an exciting and personally beneficial experience. To receive full credit for attendance/participation, you should arrive on time, stay for the entire session and be engaged fully in lecture, discussions, exercises and other in-class activities. Attendance is mandatory. Life happens, however. Each of you will be permitted one (1) absence for whatever reason. There will be no additional “excused absences” beyond this one. Repeated, unexcused absences will lower your grade and you will not pass this class if you accumulate a total of four (4) classes or more during the quarter.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policy Statements**

**Deadlines**
All assignments are due at the start of the class session listed on our schedule. Unless you provide official proof of your excuse, I will not accept late work. You should notify
extreme verifiable circumstances in advance, not after the fact. Late work with a
documented reason of some magnitude will result in a reduced grade on the assignment
(one letter-grade per day late.)

**Academic honesty**
Cheating will not be tolerated in this class. Violations of DePaul’s academic integrity
policies as stated in the Student Handbook will result in severe consequences, including
(but not limited to) expulsion from the course with a grade of F. Plagiarism (the
unacknowledged use of another’s words, ideas, or work) and fabrication of facts,
quotations, and sources are cheating. You must do your work alone, unless it is
designated as a group project. Never submit work that you did not do yourself. Do not
turn in anything for this class that you did for another class or for another publication. If
you are required to interview an outside source for this class, you must make it clear that
you are a DePaul student who is reporting on the record, for publication. You must
provide contact information (name, address, phone, e-mail) for anyone you interview for
a story. I will check your sources. Any mistakes of substance must be corrected
immediately. Please call them to my attention.

**Harassment**
Harassment of any type will not be tolerated at DePaul University. We strictly adhere to
the policy as specified in the Student Handbook. This policy binds faculty, staff,
administrators and students.

**Special needs or concerns**
If you have questions or needs relating to a disability/medical condition or any other area
of concern that may require some accommodations to meet the academic demands of this
class, please make an appointment with me at the start of the quarter. I will be happy to
do whatever I can to help you. All discussion will remain confidential. Be sure to contact
the following office for support and additional services: Center for Students with
Disabilities, #370, Student Center, Lincoln Park campus; phone: 773-325-1677.

**Religious holidays**
If you are unable to attend class because it falls on a religious holiday, please let me
know ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.

**Other things to note**
1) The best way to reach me is via email. I will answer every email I receive, usually
within 24 hours (weekdays.) If you do not hear from me within two (2) days, you can
assume that I did not get your email.
2) I will post the best stories from this class on websites that belong to me or those that I
am affiliated with. If you choose to publish your work elsewhere, you need to let me
know in advance. I will also use some of your work as materials in my future courses.
Of course, you will be given credit. Let me know if you choose not to release these
materials.
3) There are no stupid questions in this class, and no one’s opinions or thoughts are
privileged. I will try to maintain a classroom environment based upon open
communication, mutual respect and non-discrimination. Please feel free to express your thoughts, opinions and questions. As always, however, we must agree to follow the rule of civilized conversation. To help foster an environment that promotes learning, you are expected to show respect to the class by not carrying on personal conversations.

4) Though grades are not negotiable, I give serious consideration to students’ concerns about grades. If you have questions about a particular grade, you will need to talk to me within a week of receiving the grade. If you dispute a grade, you will need to submit to me a written complaint also within a week of receiving the grade.

5) In-class use of cell phones and mobile devices is banned. If you need to be reached for an emergency, you should render your devices inaudible and step out of the class to receive or make important calls. No e-mailing, Web surfing, texting during class time unless it is part of class assignments.

6) One of your responsibilities in this course is to complete an online teaching evaluation. As you may already know, as instructors, we really appreciate learning what we are doing well in the classroom and where we can continue to improve. Your feedback makes a difference.

7) With luck, we may have guest speakers. On those occasions, I expect you to come to class prepared to ask questions and participate in discussion.

8) The class schedule specifies readings for each class and indicates deadlines for assignments (which I will observe.) However, this syllabus is subject to change if unexpected circumstances arise. Please monitor your email and announcements on Desire2Learn regularly.
# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

All reading materials for this class, including tutorials and handouts, are posted on Desire2Learn under Detailed Agenda.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 09/10 | - Welcome aboard!  
- International reporting: From outside in  
- Discussion: Your take on world news  
- Overview of country reports  
- Adopting a country/Country report #1 | - Handouts  
- International news | - Completing country report #1 |
| 2    | 09/17 | - What gets covered: Major themes  
- Reporting global issues locally  
- In-class exercise  
- Focal point: Data sources  
- Discussion: Data-driven reporting  
- Overview of story #1  
- A note on subsequent country reports | - Handouts  
- International news | - Country report #1 due  
- Completing country report #2  
- Researching/brainstorming ideas for story #1 |
| 3    | 09/24 | - Covering the world from here  
- Sourcing locally: Experts, institutions, organizations, immigrants, etc.  
- In-class exercise  
- Discussion: Story #1  
- Focal point: Immigration debate | - Handouts  
- International news | - Country report #2 due  
- Story idea #1 due  
- Gathering materials/data for story #1  
- Completing country report #3 |
| 4    | 10/01 | - International reporting goes digital  
- Multimedia, social media mashups  
- In-class exercise  
- Focal point: News judgment  
- Discussion: Story #1 | - Handouts  
- International news | - Country report #3 due  
- Completing story #1 |
| 5    | 10/08 | - Covering news in a foreign land  
- Getting to know the locals  
- Focal point: Cultural differences  
- In-class exercise  
- Review: Story #1  
- Overview of story #2 | - Handouts  
- International news | - Story #1 due  
- Revising story #1  
- Researching/brainstorming ideas for story #2  
- Completing country report #4 |
| 6    | 10/15 | - Covering conflicts and traumatic events  
- Legal and ethical issues  
- In-class exercise  
- Focal point: Global terrorism  
- Discussion: Story #2 | - Handouts  
- International news | - Country report #4 due  
- Revisions to story #1 due  
- Gathering information/contacting sources for story #2  
- Completing country report #5 |
| 7    | 10/22 | - Reporting on closed societies  
- Press systems and legal issues  
- Sources and news borrowings  
- In-class exercise  
- Focal point: When you’re not welcome  
- Discussion: Story #2  
- Overview of final project | - Handouts  
- International news | - Country report #5 due  
- Reporting/interviewing for story #2  
- Researching/brainstorming ideas for final project |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>8</th>
<th>10/29</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>11/05</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- International reporting goes fancy</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Dos and Don’ts</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Catching up, looking forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- New tools, infographics, interactives</td>
<td></td>
<td>- International reporting: Practical tips</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Discussion: Final project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- In-class exercise</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Review: Story #2</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Conclusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Focal point: News presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Discussion: Final project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Discussion: Story #2, final project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Handouts</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Story #2 due</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Final project due 11/19/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- International news</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Completing final project</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Have a restful break!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>