COMM 5390:001, Fall 2012

Fall 2012 (Aug. 22-Dec. 4)

Course meets: 4:20p to 6:50p T in BH 128

Office phone: 361-825-2678

Instructor: Dr. Anantha S. Babbili

Office: Bay Hall 330
Office Hours: TTh 8:30 to 11:30 am
E-Mail: anantha.babbili@tamucc.edu

SPECIAL TOPICS IN COMMUNICATION:
GLOBAL MEDIA STUDIES AND MEDIA ETHICS

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the ethical issues and cases in the ever-changing mediascape of American democracy in a global context. The course will include definitions of media ethics across democratic societies, foundations of ethical decision-making, and media practices in the U.S. and abroad. Students will research specific case studies in media ethics and explore ethical principles dominant in the Fourth Estate and in international media.

Learning Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

1) Understand the ethical practices of American media and American democracy in a global media studies and global media context;
2) Identify differences between ethical and moral dimensions across democratic societies of the world;
3) Work through models of ethical decision-making in global media settings;
4) Identify the dominant philosophical principles applicable to mass media including new and digital media;
5) Compare moral dimensions of the Western media with those in non-democratic nations.

Major Course Requirements and Expectations:

Students will be required to attend every class period, write weekly abstracts, three think pieces/essays and a term paper at the conclusion of the term. Thus, the course will be composed of instructor’s lectures, group discussions relating to course materials and readings, written and oral presentations by students.

Students will be evaluated and their performance will be assessed based on the following criteria and grading scale:
Course Requirements (contd.):

**In-class participation/Attendance:** 15%  (Discussion on assigned readings, lectures and media readings). Each student is required to complete specific readings of book chapters and journal/newspaper articles and contribute to class discussions on topics related to national or global media.

**Weekly abstracts:** 25% (One-page summaries and critiques of selected readings) *Analytical summaries and critiques must be submitted by each student that exhibit capacity for individual thought and critical analysis of problems in global media.*

**3 Think Pieces:** 30% (3-5 page commentary and critique on topics in global media). *Students must submit extended essays that exhibit ability to correlate topics and developments in global media ethics in the context of lectures and readings.*

**Term paper:** 30% (Research paper on an approved topic in global media). *Fully developed term papers are expected from each student at the end of the course that show rigor in research and critical analysis relating to a specific topic or problem selected by student with approval of instructor.*

**TOTAL:** 100%

Grade Scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 59 and under=F

**Required Textbook:**


**Course Policies:**

*Attendance and Tardiness:* Attendance is required—both physically and mentally. You are expected to take an active role in classroom discussions. Absences, late arrivals, and chronic failure to engage in class discussion will all be reflected in your participation grade.

*Late work and make-up exams*

- If there should be a legitimate reason for you missing class (illness, family emergencies, certain University-sponsored extracurricular activities), please provide the instructor with the notification prior to the event or as soon as you are able—before the missed class period. If appropriate, we can arrange alternate times for you to make up quizzes or exams, but it will be your responsibility to get any information from lecture from one of your classmates.
- Unexcused absences will be noted and reflected in your participation grade. Also, any work missed due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up.
- Late work for any reason considered unexcused will be panelized by at least one letter grade for each day it is late.
Course Policies (contd.):

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage: While in class, please make sure your phone is off or on silent (and in your backpack or out of sight), so it's not heard in class. Also, limited laptop use is permitted --for note-taking only, but do not abuse this privilege.

- Please remember to check your email regularly for any course updates.
- If you would like to discuss any course readings, lectures, or assignments outside of class, you should feel free to contact me via email or by arranging to visit me during office hours or set up an appointment to see me at any other time.
- Please submit hard copies of your papers, prior to the class period on the due date. Marked copies will be returned to you.
- All writing for this course must be composed using a standard, 12-point font size, and with the standard 1-inch margins.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examination or examination materials, falsification, forgery complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work). In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in the course grade of F.

Dropping the Course

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation will not automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please check published dates for the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Preferred methods of scholarly citations

For the purpose of citation, please follow The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th Edition, humanities style (notes and bibliography). For guidance, see: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will result in the grade of F for the course.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
Grade Appeals*

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Academic Advising: The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 361-825-3466.

Notice to Students with Disabilities and/or Returning Veterans

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Please have your accommodation letter from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Disability Services (DS) Office with you when you come to see me. If you are a returning veteran and experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Office for assistance. If you suspect that you may have any disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Disability Services Office (located in Room 116 Corpus Christi Hall) at 361.825.5816.

Course Schedule and Assignments

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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Intro To Course</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Scope of Global Media Studies</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Global Media Ethics Present</td>
<td>Chapter 2/Abstract due</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Global Ethical Foundations/Frameworks</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Protonorms Across Cultures</td>
<td>Chapter 4/Think Piece #1</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Global Media Ethics Applications</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Ethical Decision Making across cultures</td>
<td>Chapter 6/Abstract due</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Information and News ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 7/Abstract due</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Persuasive Communication and Ethics</td>
<td>Chapters 8/Think Piece #2</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>New Media and International Journalism</td>
<td>Chapter 9/Abstract due</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Comparative Media Ethics &amp; Principles</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Theoretical Models and Research in Ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 11/Abstract due</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Universal Values and Moral Dimensions</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Last Think Piece (# 3) due</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Media and Democracy</td>
<td>Readings to be assigned</td>
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<td>Student presentations</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Towards a Global Media Ethic?</td>
<td>Readings to be assigned</td>
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<td>Student presentations</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Ethical Dimensions of Arts &amp; Entertainment</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Course overview</td>
<td>Final Term Paper due</td>
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