

Linda Gradstein Course MPJO-764
"Covering Conflict"
Mondays, Wednesdays 5 PM – 7:45 PM
Email: lindagradstein@gmail.com
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description: This course aims to introduce students to the world of foreign reporting using the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a prism. Topics to be covered include: how to develop sources, use of language, ethics of covering conflict, how to stay safe and how to break into international reporting.

Each student will prepare a newspaper or radio piece and a class presentation on their chosen conflict.

Please come to the first class with at least two ideas of what you would like to cover and who would be your first sources to contact.

Part of each class will involve "workshopping" drafts of stories. One student will be the "lead editor" in each case and will be responsible for ensuring edits and rewrites of the other student's works. Since this course is only one month long, please budget at least ten hours a week for reporting and writing. You will need a draft of your piece by June 22.

GRADING: CLASS PARTICIPATION: 40 PERCENT
ORAL PRESENTATION: 20 PERCENT
FINAL PROJECT: 40 PERCENT

1. JUNE 1 ---INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPING SOURCES –
IMPORTANCE OF FINDING SOURCES ON BOTH SIDES OF ANY
CONFLICT

2. JUNE 3 -- NARRATIVES – HOW DOES EACH SIDE'S NARRATIVE OF
THEIR HISTORY PLAY A ROLE TODAY?

CASE STUDY – THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Guest Speakers from the Israeli Embassy and the Palestinian Information Office in
Washington DC.

Assignment: One-page description of your chosen conflict and how you will report
your piece.

3. JUNE 8 -- COVERING IRAQ – SPECIAL CHALLENGES OF WAR
COVERAGE

Book – WAR JOURNAL: MY FIVE YEARS IN IRAQ

4. JUNE 10 -- LANGUAGE – TERRORISTS VS. FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

How does language influence coverage?

Assignment: Reporting Check: List of Sources Contacted and Lead and Nut Graph.

5. JUNE 15 --ETHICS OF COVERING CONFLICT ---When can our presences as journalists incite to violence? Is it wrong to film someone who is dying even if you have their permission? When is language or pictures on suicide bombing too graphic and when is it appropriate?
Book: BREAKING NEWS by Martin Fletcher

6. JUNE 17 --MOVIES – WHAT CAN FILMS DO THAT JOURNALISM CAN'T?
CASE STUDY – WALTZ WITH BASHIR – An Israeli Animated Film on the 1982 Sabra and Shatilla massacre that was a candidate for this year's Best Foreign Film

7. JUNE 22 -JOURNALISTIC OBJECTIVITY – Does it exist? Should it exist? Should terrorists be given a platform – the case of Osama Bin Laden and al-Jazeera.
Reading: Media and Political Conflict: Chapters 1,5,6
Assignment: Draft of your final project. Please bring enough copies for everyone

8. JUNE 24 – EDITING WORKSHOP -- We will discuss all of the drafts. Each student will be responsible for editing a colleague's work and leading the discussion on that piece. I expect everyone to come prepared with specific suggestion on improving the piece.

9. JUNE 29 BREAKING IN TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE – HOW THE CHANGES IN JOURNALISM OFFER NEW OPPORTUNITIES
Possible guest speaker: former foreign correspondent from the Washington Post

10. JULY 1 –FINAL EDITS OF PROJECTS AND CONCLUSIONS.

Academic Resource Center

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Writing Center

The Georgetown University Writing Center is a free writing resource open to all Georgetown students. Graduate and undergraduate students trained in teaching writing are available to assist you at any stage of your writing process. Whether you are just beginning to brainstorm or revising a later stage of your work, our goal is to provide a collaborative center for the discussion of writing. The Writing Center offers assistance in topic development, general organization, guidance on paper revisions, and specific or recurring structural problems with writing. Consultants are not trained to proofread papers for grammar or spelling errors, but rather to help individuals improve their own critical thinking, revision, and editing skills. <http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu/>
Plagiarism & Making Things Up: If you are caught, there will be severe disciplinary consequences.

Ethics Statement

As signatories to the Georgetown University Honor Pledge, and indeed as good scholars and citizens you are expected to uphold academic honesty in all aspects of this course. You are expected to be familiar with the letter and spirit of the Standards of Conduct outlined in the Georgetown Honor System and on the Honor Council website. As faculty, I too am obligated to uphold the Honor System and report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty. For more information, please visit:
<http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/he/index/html>.

Honor System: Students are expected to abide by the Georgetown University Honor System. If you have not already done so, please familiarize yourself with the material and information posted on the Honor Council's website:
<http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/he/index.html>.

Georgetown University Honor Pledge

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System: to be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.