

COMM 6970-102: Seminar: War, Peace, and Media

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to media coverage of war from a political and mass communication perspective. Students will be introduced to several major theories of mass and political communication that have been applied to the study of war coverage in the media as well as a number of research studies from the communication discipline. Topics will include media bias, embedded reporting, information control, and media agenda setting as they apply to war coverage. The course will examine traditional media coverage of war (such as television, radio, and newspapers) as well as the role of new communication technologies (such as blogs, Internet news websites, and media convergence).

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: September 29-October 1 & October 6-8, 2017
Location: College of Allied Health, OU Health Sciences Center, 1200 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1215
Hours: Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 31, 2017

Site Director:

Email: apokc@ou.edu. Phone: 405-271-4522.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Eric Mark Kramer, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma
Department of Communication
Burton Hall #101
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-3111
Email Address: kramer@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at <http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home> is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fhg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

1. Hess, S., & Kalb, M. (Eds.) (2003). *The media and the war on terrorism*. Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press. ISBN 9780815735816.
2. Kamalipour, Y.R., & Snow, N. (Eds.) (2004). *War, media, and propaganda: A global perspective*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. ISBN 9780742535633.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this class include developing a greater understanding of theories and research in the area of media coverage of war. In an effort to meet these objectives, the following assignments have been created.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**Readings and Participation (20% of grade).**

Students will be expected to have read the assigned readings prior to the first class session. As a graduate seminar, I expect students to be actively involved in class discussions.

Research Paper (80% of grade).

Students will evaluate two communication journal articles that focus on media coverage of war. Students may choose any two communication journal articles that deal with media coverage of war depending upon their specific interests. Each article should be evaluated in terms of its theoretical and methodological strengths and limitations. The paper should be written in APA 5th edition style, and it should be no longer than 15 pages. Due Date: 2 weeks after the last class meeting – **October 22, 2017.**

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Eric Kramer, Ph.D.

Education

1988 Ph.D. in Telecommunications, Ohio University

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 1990
- Associate Professor, Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- COMM 5223 Historical Development of Communication Theory
- COMM 5013 Introduction to Graduate Study
- COMM 6323 International Communication
- COMM 5970 Seminar in Mass Media Ethics

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- International Communication
- Intercultural Communication
- Cross-Cultural Communications
- Human/Technology Interface
- Technological Convergence
- Mass Communications Monopoly

Representative Publications and Presentations

- Modern/Postmodern: Off the Beaten Path of Antimodernism, Postmodernism and Race, 1997
- The Search for Ground: Critical Knowledge and Relativism
- Media Images and Phenomenology: Gibser's Hermeneutic for Modern Myth
- Dr. Kramer has written many articles and book chapters.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- First exchange student between Ohio University and Feng Chia University, Republic of China, 1983
- Invited by, and given financial support from, The Institute for Advanced Phenomenological Research, for Collegium Phaenomenologicum, Perugia, Italy
- Fulbright Scholar, 1992-93

Major Professional Affiliations

- International Communication Association
- National Communication Association
- International Jean Gelzer Society
- Japan Communication Association
- Japan Mass Communication Association