



MA in International Studies on Media, Power, and Difference

Course name:	Global Justice, War and Poverty in the Media
Course Code:	31973
Term:	1ST
Type:	Optional
Number of credits:	7.5 ECTS
Teaching language:	English
Teaching staff:	Dr. Christopher Tulloch

1. Overview

Global justice as a socio-political concept directed towards the promotion of human dignity necessarily involves the compliance of diverse criteria in order for it to be achieved and maintained. Many of them are instrumental aspects such as multilateral institutions in the financial sector (IMF, World Bank), the legal field (International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court) along with those in the field of international cooperation (NGOs, Red Cross). Others derive from more abstract and wide-ranging ideas such as intercultural dialogue, fair treatment, accountability, respect and empathy. Problems arise due to imbalances in military and financial power and the internal interests between states leading to their greater protagonism on the world media stage at the expense of those disadvantaged countries and territories who often feel ignored or unfairly treated by these global structures.

Dialogue is therefore a fundamental aspect on the road to greater transnational equality and a fairer distribution of wealth and in this regard, the media fulfils an important role in shaping, amplifying and responding to public attitudes towards poverty, war and global justice.

This subject introduces students to the issues of human rights, morality, distributive justice and individual duties. It offers a brief overview of the main theories of justice, as well as the institutions (states, global financial institutions, international NGOs, multinational corporations, international courts, etc.) involved in global justice, and introduces the main figures and issues in the field today.

The course then examines the role of the media in global justice, addressing topics such as how news and persuasive media communicate global (in)justice, poverty, conflict, and welfare; comparative representations of poverty and war; the relationship between the media's depictions of global justice and the public's understanding of global justice, poverty and war, as well as the different responses of various groups; opportunities in the 'new' media to produce and disseminate material, and the challenge of reaching an audience; and 'viral' media and the development of online communities.

The course will also examine two new developments within the field of global media studies which affect the portrayal of justice, war and poverty in the press. The first is the substitution of the “classic” bi-lateral international political news agenda between governments for a more transnational, social agenda between peoples while the second issue refers to the consolidation of “advocacy journalism”, also known as “journalism of attachment” which challenges concepts such as professional neutrality in favour of highlighting the victims of injustice whether they be war dead or refugees. It has been called “a journalism which cares as well as knows”.

The subject aims to identify the main factors and considerations influencing the people and organizations involved in the coverage of global justice, as well as examples of effective practice with a view to deriving transferable academic and professional lessons.

2. Learning outcomes

Critically evaluate the most relevant and current debates concerning the media production, representation, cultural consumption and diversity and be able to contribute to these.

Judge the interpretative keys to any globally unjust phenomena related to the distribution of power.

Define, evaluate and criticise the different existing conceptual frameworks regarding diversity and communication policies as well as the media practices which derive from them.

Identify the ways in which difference and diversity is experienced and projected in socio-political and cultural contexts.

Conceive and produce in both a flexible and fluid manner texts from an ethical perspective regarding difference and diversity.

Offer a critical analysis of the communicational phenomena surrounding the issue of difference and diversity.

Involve inclusive communicative techniques in daily production routines.

Apply inclusive communications techniques in the design of proposals for action based on the respect for difference and diversity.

3. Course programme

3.1. Theoretical framework

Introduction to the principal theories on social justice and the international institutions and organizations related to this. Dynamics of power. Analysis of

the working definitions for the course: "poverty", "global", "justice", "war", "media".

3.2. Media representation of (in)justice, war and poverty

Main perspectives and themes for debate regarding the media representation of global justice, poverty and war. Internal dynamics of the journalistic profession. News factors. Typology of news actors of transnational subjects such as war, poverty and justice. Foreign correspondents and special envoys as mediators of international news. Media cartography. Mapamundi 20th century vs 21st century. Sources of International information. Agenda XXI. The death of "international" journalism.

3.3. Case studies on media coverage. Comparative análisis of the media projection of transnacional phenomena derived from (in)justice, war and poverty.

Disaster reporting. International aid, media repercusión and local consequences. **Case Study I: Africa** in the Media. "We are the World"? Celebrity Aid.

3.4. Case study II: Islam in the media. Stereotipization. Media demonization. Distorsion. Alternatives.

3.5. Armed conflict in the media. Neo-War. Silenced victims. Media dyanmics. **Case study III: Israel-Palestine.** Media *performances*, rituals, iconic representation.

3.6. Refugees: Media discourse, political injustice. From the "Jungle" at Calais to the Mediterranean Sea. *Disaster displacement* narratives, mobility, insecurity, perceived threats to society (health, wellbeing, jobs...).

3.7. Human rights and the media.

3.8. Alternative Journalisms. Advocacy reporting. Peace Journalism. Proximity journalism. Red Cross Journalism. Public Opinion.

3.9. New News World Order. South-South communication. New global platforms. Structural changes to euro-american hegemony.

3.10. Diaspora and the media. Debates, articulation and their impact on the global media system.

4. Assessment

- Course Project 50%
- Oral presentation 20%

- Participation in debates / seminars – Class preparation	15%
- Reading tests (3 x 5%)	15%
TOTAL	100%

Students have to comply with four grading requirements. The first task is an oral presentation on the subject matter to be dealt with in class. This can be an individual exercise or in pairs with a class colleague. Half of this grade will be based on content (focus, sources) and the other half on the quality of the oral delivery itself. The second grading exercise refers to active participation in class debates. For example, students are asked to bring media samples on the subject to be dealt with that week. The third grading category refers to three short reading exercises (each worth 5%) to be carried out in the weeks 5, 7 and 9 of the course. The remaining 50% refers to a 2,000 word dissertation/essay/article on a subject related to the course. This should be handed in week 10 of the course.

5. Methodology

- All classes will begin with a brief review of the key ideas of the previous session
- Relevant newsworthy media coverage of global justice/war/poverty-related events will be discussed
- Some student(s) will be called upon to prepare and deliver a short “icebreaker” seminar paper. The oral presentation will then be debated in class with fellow students. These presentations will have been previously assigned by the course instructor at the beginning of the course. The student(s) must attend a pre-presentation tutorial to guarantee the quality of his/her intervention in class.
- The course instructor will then use the presentation as a springboard to elaborate further on the material prepared for that class and to offer the class lecture
- Presentation and discusión in class of progress in individual research projects
- Face-to-face tutorials complemented by online support
- Given the media-oriented nature of the course, the student is expected to participate actively in every session. As with regular classes, if a field study is programmed or a in-house guest session organized, attendance is mandatory. All readings from the class dossier must be completed before the start of every session.

6. Bibliography and teaching resources

6.1. Basic bibliography

GOLAN, G. (ed.). *International media communication in a global age*. Nova York: Routledge, 2010.

FRANKS, Suzanne. *Reporting Disasters: Famine, Aid, Politics and the Media*. Oxford University Press 2013.

- HAFEZ, K. *Islam and the west in the mass media. Fragmented images in a globalizing world*. New Jersey: Hampton Press, 2000.
- PASCALE, C. M. *Social inequality and the politics of representation*. Londres: Sage, 2013.
- SAID, Edward. *Covering Islam. How the Media and the experts determine how we see the rest of the world*. Nova York: Pantheon, 1981.
- THUSSU, Daya, K. *International communication. A reader*. Londres: Routledge, 2010.
- TULLOCH, C. *Corresponsales en el extranjero: mito y realidad*. Pamplona: EUNSA, 2004.

6.2. Recommended bibliography

- BOYD-BARRETT, O.; THUSSU, K. *Contra-flow in Global News: International and Regional News Exchange Mechanisms*. Londres: UNESCO, 1992.
- BROOKS, C. *Global news access. The impact of new communications technologies*. Connecticut: Praeger, 1998.
- CARRUTHERS, S. *The media at war. Communication and conflict in the twentieth century*. Londres: SAGE, 2000.
- COLOMBO, Furio. *Ultimas noticias sobre el periodismo*. Alfaguara: 1997
- HESS, S. *International news and foreign correspondents*. Washington: Brookings Institution, 1996.
- IYENGAR, S.; McGRADY, J. A. *Media politics: a citizen's guide*. W.W. Norton, 2006.
- KNIGHTLY, P. *The first casualty. The war correspondent as hero and myth-maker*. Londres: Prion, 2000.
- LEIGHLEY, J. E. *Mass media and politics: a social science perspective*. Houghton Mifflin, 2003.
- MILES, Hugh. *Al Jazeera. How arab TV news challenged the world*. Abacus, 2005.
- NORHSTEDT, S. *New Wars, New Media and New War Journalism. Professional and Legal Challenges in Conflict Reporting*. Nordicom: 2014
- TULLOCH, C. "Advocacy Journalism: últimes notícies del debat sobre l'ètica periodística i la cobertura del conflicte armat". *Periodística*, 13, 2011. Pàg. 75-87.
- TUNSTALL, J. *The Media Were American*. Oxford University Press, 2008.
- VAN GINNEKEN, J. *Understanding global news. A critical introduction*. Londres: SAGE, 1998.

6.3. Teaching resources

- Websites of political, legal and international institutions
- Alternative press websites
- Archives of international news agencies (AP, Reuters)
- International news sections of world press
- NGO websites (RSF, Amnesty International, Change.org).