COMM 104GS: COMPARING MEDIA SYSTEMS: EUROPE
Summer Session I,
2021 Vienna, Austria

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CLASS SCHEDULE
Lecture: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 11am - 1pm
Academic Excursion: Thursday

OVERVIEW
This course focuses on analyzing media systems in Europe from a comparative perspective and sensitizes students to important differences with respect to journalistic and political cultures. We'll take a closer look at political, social, and economic factors shaping particular media systems and assess their implications for different types of political reporting. In addition, we'll analyze how structural arrangements in Europe (e.g. the role of public service media) differ considerably from the situation in the U.S. Taking this course will offer you a nuanced understanding of the intricate ways in which journalistic and political settings affect the dynamics of public discourse across European nations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the end of this class, students will be able to:

- Describe different journalistic and political communication cultures in Europe
- Identify, analyze and define different types of political news reporting
- Discuss social, historical, and economic conditions that shape structural arrangements of media and political systems
- Interpret major variations that have developed in European democracies in the structure and political role of the news media
- Compare and contrast public communication as well as mediated, political deliberation between the United States and Europe
- Generate self-reflective practices with respect to international news and globalized political discourse
## COURSE SCHEDULE

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<td>Europe as One Public Sphere</td>
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### References


Summary of Grade Criteria
Reading quizzes 10%
News protocols 20%
Class participation 10%
Excursion reviews 20%
Final exam 40%

How you earn your grade

**Quizzes:** You will take a 5-question quiz on Canvas every week based on the assigned reading. The quizzes are not just designed to test knowledge but to make sure you’ve familiarized yourself with the main contents of the text. One of the five quiz items asks you to formulate a question about something in the text that you’d like to have clarified or discussed.

**News protocol:** Analyzing the daily news is an integral part of this course. The idea is to apply insights from our readings and discussions to the current context of living abroad. Each week you’re expected to submit a list of top-five news stories, including a brief analysis. Collecting these stories will immediately and directly contribute to your final exam (see below).

**Guest speaker reviews:** For each guest speaker you will write a 200- to 300-word reviews. Writing and critical thinking go hand in hand. This assignment will allow you to explore and reflect upon your observations and experiences in an open and independent way.

**Participation:** You are expected to come to the lectures and required to attend all academic excursions. You are expected to have read the assigned reading materials and be prepared to talk about the reading material during discussion sessions.

**Final exam:** Throughout the quarter you’ll be reading, thinking and talking about the role of journalism in a democratic system. For the final exam, you will be asked to apply your thoughts, reflections and weekly news consumption (news protocols) to the current situation.

*You must complete all reading quizzes, attend section, and submit all exams in order to pass this course.*