

**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**

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Topics</b>               | <b>Texts (see full citations below)</b>   | <b>Activities and Assessments</b>                        | <b>Excursions</b>  |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1           | Comparing Media Systems     | Hallin and Mancini, <i>Comparing Media Systems</i><br>Hanitzsch et al., <i>Worlds of Journalism</i> | Quiz 1<br>Guest speaker<br>News protocol 1               | Foreign correspondents panel (Reuters, Associated Press) |
| 2           | Central/North Europe        | Revers, <i>Contemporary Journalism in the US and Germany</i>  | Quiz 2<br>Guest speaker<br>News protocol 2               | <b>3-day excursion to Prague (see above)</b>             |
| 3           | Eastern Europe              | Roudakova, <i>Losing Pravda</i>   | Quiz 3<br>Weekend Excursion: Prague<br>News protocol 3   | Erste Foundation   |
| 4           | Southern Europe             | Benson, <i>Shaping Immigration News</i><br>Christin, <i>Counting Clicks</i>                         | Quiz 4<br>Guest speaker<br>News protocol 4               | Reporters Without Borders                                |
| 5           | Europe as One Public Sphere | Albaek et al., <i>Political Journalism from a Comparative Perspective</i>                           | Quiz 5<br>Guest speaker<br>News protocol 5<br>Final exam | International Press Institute                            |

**References**

- Albaek, Erik, Arjen van Dalen, Nael Jebiril, and Claes de Vreese: *Political Journalism in Comparative Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Benson, Rodney. *Shaping Immigration News*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
- Christin, Angele. Counting Clicks: Quantification and Variation in Web Journalism in the United States and France. *American Journal of Sociology*, 123(5), 1382-1415, 2018.
- Hallin, Daniel, & Mancini, Paulo (2004). *Comparing Media Systems: Three Models of Media and Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
- Hanitzsch, T., Hanusch, F., Ramaprasad, J., & de Beer, A. S. (Eds.). *Worlds of journalism: Journalistic cultures around the globe*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019.
- Revers, *Contemporary Journalism in the US and Germany*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.
- Roudakova, Natalia. *Losing Pravda: Ethics and the Press in Post-Truth Russia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

## 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.*