MDST4559 Prof. Williams

Spring 2015 202 Levering Hall Hotel F   243-4331

[baw5n@virginia.edu](mailto:baw5n@virginia.edu)

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday:9:30-10:50

**MDST 4559**

**Journalism Goes to War**

**Tuesday, Thursday: 11:00-12:15**

**Nau Hall 141**

**Course Description**

Since the mid-19th century, when America has gone to war, professional journalists have provided citizens’ with most of their information. Journalism has struggled with the tensions which inevitably arise from this central role in the nation’s wars: how to balance the norms of professional journalism with loyalty to the United States, how to negotiate government efforts to use the press to mobilize and maintain support for war, how to balance citizen’s right-to-know with the need for military secrecy during war, and so forth. While these challenges are enduring, they have been addressed quite differently as both the nature of military conflict and the structure of the media have dramatically changed over the last 150 years. This seminar will explore and critically evaluate the evolution of press coverage of war from the emergence of the war correspondent in the mid-19th century to the 21st century War on Terrorism and the “crisis” of professional journalism itself.

**Required Text**

You should purchase (in either print or electronic form):

Phillip Knightley, *The First Casualty: The War Correspondent as Hero and Myth-Maker from the Crimea to Iraq.* 3rd Edition, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.pp. 19-82

Unless otherwise noted, all other required readings are available on Collab.

**Required Video Material**

Required films and video are on reserve at the Robertson Media Center in Clemons.

**Course Requirement**s

This is a seminar and students are expected to complete the readings and think about them BEFORE the class meeting at which they will be discussed. Your contribution to seminar discussion will constitute a significant component of your grade.

***Written Assignments:***

* Each week you will be expected to bring to class a brief summary of the required readings and questions you would like the class to discuss.
* A 10 page take-home midterm will be distributed on March 5 and due on March 17.
* A term paper examining a significant issue related to the coverage of war by journalists. This project must involve original research and cannot be entirely based on secondary sources.
* Four brief written assignments (approximately 5 pages each) are structured to move students though their project:

1) selection of a research topic (due February 10),

2) development of a plan for gathering data (due March 3)

3) preliminary analysis of your data (due March 24)

4) detailed outline of the final project (due April 2)

More detailed descriptions of each assignment will be provided in class.

**Grading**

Contribution to Class Discussion (including written summaries of readings) =20%; Four short papers (5% each) = 20%; Midterm=20%; Final Project=40%

**Safety and Equality**

The University of Virginia is dedicated to providing a safe and equitable learning environment for all students. To that end, it is vital that you know two values that I and the University hold as critically important:

1. Power-based personal violence will not be tolerated.

2. Everyone has a responsibility to do their part to maintain a safe community on Grounds.

If you or someone you know has been affected by power-based personal violence, more information can be found on the UVA Sexual Violence website that describes reporting options and resources available - [www.virginia.edu/sexualviolence](http://www.virginia.edu/sexualviolence).

As your professor and as a person, know that I care about you and your well-being and stand ready to provide support and resources as I can. As a faculty member, I am a responsible employee, which means that I am required by University policy and federal law to report what you tell me to the University's Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator's job is to ensure that the reporting student receives the resources and support that they need, while also reviewing the information presented to determine whether further action is necessary to ensure survivor safety and the safety of the University community. If you would rather keep this information confidential, there are Confidential Employees you can talk to on Grounds (<http://www.virginia.edu/justreportit/confidential_resources.pdf>). The worst possible situation would be for you or your friend to remain silent when there are so many here willing and able to help.

**The University of Virginia Honor System:**

I trust every student in this course to fully comply with all of the provisions of the UVA Honor System. By enrolling in this course, you have agreed to abide by and uphold the Honor System of the University of Virginia.

When it comes to written assignments, all work must be your own. Do not quote directly or paraphrase from sources without a proper citation. Footnote ideas and information that are not common knowledge. Show the highest respect and take the greatest care when using library materials or internet sources. When in doubt about what academic integrity requires, ASK!

Suspected violations will be forwarded to the Honor Committee at my discretion. Also at my discretion, you may receive an immediate zero on that assignment regardless of any action taken by the Honor Committee

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the course honor policy.

If you believe you may have committed an Honor Offense, you may wish to file a Conscientious Retraction (“CR”) by calling the Honor Offices at (434) 924-7602. For your retraction to be considered valid, it must, among other things, be filed with the Honor Committee before you are aware that the Act in question has come under suspicion by anyone. More information can be found at www.virginia.edu/honor.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

January 13: No reading

**II. PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM AND REPROTING AMERICA AT WAR**

January 15 (No class January 20):

**ASSIGNED READINGS**

1. *Reporting America at War,* PBS, 2003, <http://search.lib.virginia.edu/video/u4652494>

2. Bruce A. Williams and Michael X. Delli Carpini, *After The Broadcast News: Media Regimes, Democracy and the New Information Environment* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), pp. 1-50.

**III. THE EMERGENCE OF THE WAR CORRESPONDANT**

January 22: ***The “Golden Age” of the War Correspondent***

**ASSIGNED READINGS**

1. Phillip Knightley, *The First Casualty: The War Correspondent as Hero and Myth-Maker from the Crimea to Iraq.* 3rd Edition, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.pp. 19-82

2. W. Joseph Campbell, *Getting It Wrong: Ten of the Greatest Misreported Stories in American Journalism.* University of California Press, 2010, pp. 9-25.

**IV. COVERING THE WORLD AT WAR: TOTAL WAR, MASS MEDIA. AND JOURNALISM**

January 27, 29***: World War I***

**ASSIGNED READINGS**

1. Knightley, *The First Casualty,* pp. 83-146

2. *The Battles Of The Somme And Ancre*[videorecording]

February 3, 5: ***War Coverage Between Wars to End All Wars***

1. Knightley, *The First Casualty,* pp. 147-236.

February 19: ***Covering the Good War***

1. Knightly, *The First Casualty,* pp. 237-330.

February 24, 26: ***Censorship and Journalism During War***

1. Frederick S. Voss, *Reporting the War: The Journalistic Coverage of World War II,* Smithsonian Institution Press, 1994, pp. 19-39.

2. George H. Roeder, “Censoring Disorder: American Visual Imagery of World War II,” in *The War in American Culture: Society and Consciousness During World War II,* Edited by Lewis A. Erenberg and Susan E. Hirsch. University of Chicago Press, 1996, pp. 46-70.

3. Knightly, *The First Casualty,* pp. 331-390.

**V. COVERING COLD WARS, SMALL WARS, AND BAD WARS**

March 3,5: ***Cold and Hot Wars***

**ASSIGNED READINGS**

1. Knightly, *The First Casualty, pp. 365-408.*

2. W. Joseph Campbell, *Getting It Wrong: Ten of the Greatest Misreported Stories in American Journalism.* University of California Press, 2010, pp. 68-84.

3. Clarence R. Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers: The American Press and the Vietnam War,* University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 13-50.

4. Peter Davis, *Hearts and Minds,*1974. <http://virginia.kanopystreaming.com/node/113006>

5. *Reporting America at War,* PBS, 2003, Part 2, <http://avalon.lib.virginia.edu/media_objects/avalon:1906>

**TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED ON MARCH 5 AND DUE ON MARCH 17**

**SPRING BREAK MARCH: NO CLASS MARCH 10, 12**

March 17, 19: ***Vietnam and the Role of Journalism (Real and Imagined)***

**ASSIGNED READINGS**

1. Knightly, *The First Casualty, pp. 409-440.*

2. Clarence R. Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers: The American Press and the Vietnam War,* University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 77-149.

3. W. Joseph Campbell, *Getting It Wrong: Ten of the Greatest Misreported Stories in American Journalism.* University of California Press, 2010, pp. 85-100.

March 24, 26: ***The My Lai Massacre: Journalists and American War Crimes***

**ASSIGNED READINGS**:

1. Bernard Greiner, *War Without Fronts: The USA in Vietnam, Yale University Press, 2009, pp. 1-85.*

2. Nick Turse, *Kill Anything That Moves: The Real American War in Vietnam*, New York: Metropolitan Books, 2013, pp. 1-24.

**VI. JOURNALISM AND WAR IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

March 31: ***Grenada, The Falkland’s, and The First Gulf War: Last Wars of the 20th Century and First of the 21st Century***

**ASSIGNED READINGS**

1. Knightly, *The First Casualty, pp.469-500.*

April 2, 7: ***Perspectives On Journalists Covering War After 9/11***

**ASSIGNED READINGS**

1. Knightly, *The First Casualty, pp. 527-548.*

2. Stuart Allan and Barbie Zelizer (editors), *Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime.* Routledge, 2004, pp. 25-95.

April 9, 14: ***Is There Still a Role for Professional Journalism?***

**ASSIGNED READINGS**

1. Howard Tumber and Frank Webster, *Journalists Under Fire: Information War and Journalistic Practices,* Sage, 2006, pp. 1-58, 157-173.

2. Donald Matheson and Stuart Allan, *Digital War Reporting.* Polity Press, 2009, pp. 92-129.

3. Chris Hedges, *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning,* Anchor, 2003, Inroduction.

April 16, 21: ***The National Security State and Journalism***

**ASSIGNED READINGS**

1. Marc Pitzke, “Snowden Backlash: US Media Get Personal,” SpiegelOnline, July 15, 2013, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/nsa-spying-scandal-focus-on-edward-snowden-by-us-media-a-911185.html>

2. Anthony Moretti, “Whistleblower or Traitor:Edward Snowden, Daniel Ellsberg and the Power of Media Celebrity,” Paper Presented at the 2013 Moscow Readings Conference Nov. 14-15, 2013 Moscow, Russia.

**V. WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE WAR CORRESPONDANT?**

April 23, 28:

TBA