

## **COM 291 International Journalism: Asahi Shimbun Special Lecture Series**

**2009 Fall Semester: Friday 15:00-17:40**

**Instructor: Asahi Shimbun reporters and Michio Katsumata**

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**Office hours: Anytime while Katsumata is at Director's office in the Library**

### **Course Description**

The lecturers are staff writers at Asahi Shimbun, a leading newspaper with high-quality in Japan with over 8 million copies of daily circulation. They have long experiences in international reporting, stationed in various countries and areas such as USA, Europe, Africa, Middle-East and Asia. They share their rich experiences in journalism with students, inviting discussions on a wide range of topics from nuclear issues to terrorism, global warming and world economy.

### **Course Objectives**

The course aims to teach students: (1) how to read the international news in English newspapers, (2) how the news materials are obtained and filed for articles in the newspaper, (3) why and in what ways the news values are decided in the process of editing, and (4) how to write news articles in English. The international correspondents always have to fight with the several dimensions of the perception gaps between the local people and their readers, between local media and Japanese media, and between reporters and home editors. With their rich colorful examples, the instructors expect students get deeper understanding of the role of mass media in Japan and foreign countries.

### **Course Materials**

There is no textbook nor pre-assigned readings. The International Herald Tribune and Asahi Shimbun (IHT&A), an English daily paper, is basically used as the class material. All the materials will be provided by a lecturer in each class, but students are highly recommended to read the IHT&A on a daily basis. Asahi Shimbun offers a special bargain price of IHT&A for AIU students. For those who are interested in further reading on the topics and/or journalism, some recommendable book lists will be offered during the course by instructors.

### **Classroom Activities**

Each lecture stands alone, with information and materials provided in the class. As the class basically consists of lecture and discussion, students are highly encouraged to participate in the Q&A session and in the discussion. Students will also be assigned to write their response essays or reports on the topics discussed in the class.

**Prerequisite:** None

### **Evaluation**

**Class attendance and participation 40%** : Participation in the Q&A session and class discussion will be evaluated according to its clarity, presentation skills and development of ideas on the topics. Some writing workshops will be included.

**Essays and reports 50%**: Students are expected to write 3-5 essays and reports during the course, each around 2 pages, depending on the instructor's requests. These short essays and reports will all be evaluated and reviewed in some classes by Katsumata.

**Final paper 10%**: Students must submit the final paper as the review of the whole course in 3-4 pages. The paper is evaluated for its clarity, writing skills and thoughts on journalists and journalism.

**Class schedule ( 1 class: 160 minutes =75 minutes × 2 + 10 minutes break)**

( Note: Revised on July 28. Lecturers and topics are subject to change)

1. (09/04) How to Read and Write English Newspaper (1): NAKAGAWA Koichi, Deputy Director of the International Division, former managing editor of IHT&Asahi
2. (09/11) How to Read and Write English Newspaper (2): NAKAGAWA Koichi (中川浩一)
3. (09/18) Africa Today: KAWASAKI Takeshi, former Nairobi Bureau Chief
4. (09/25) Africa and the International Community: KAWASAKI Takeshi (川崎剛)
5. (10/02) Israel and Palestine: MURAKAMI Shinichi, former Jerusalem Bureau Chief, former New York Correspondent
6. (10/09) United Nations and the Role of Media: MURAKAMI Shinichi (村上伸一)
7. (10/23) Southeast Asia and Japan (1): OHNO Takushi, former Manila and Sydney Bureau Chiefs
8. (10/30) Southeast Asia and Japan (2): OHNO Takushi (大野拓司)
9. (11/06) President Obama and New Age of Nuclear Non-Proliferation: UMEHARA Toshiya, former Vienna Bureau Chief, former Washington Correspondent (梅原季哉)
10. (11/13) Preventing Global Warming: OGINO Hiroshi, Manager at Asahi Forum Coordination Office
11. (11/20) Environmental Issues and International Politics: OGINO Hiroshi (荻野博司)
12. (11/27) World Financial Crisis (1): NISHIZAKI Kaoru, former Washington correspondent
13. (12/11) World Financial Crisis (2): NISHIZAKI Kaoru (西崎香)