Course title: Social Justice, Action and Media: Stories that Matter
Course code: COMM 3007 SCMJ / JOUR 3005 SCMJ / SOCI 3001 SCMJ
Programs offering course: Advanced Liberal Arts, Business and Society, Communications, New Media and Journalism Spanish, Liberal Arts
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

"Nobody liberates anybody, and nobody liberates themselves all alone. People liberate themselves in fellowship with each other." (Paulo Freire)

This course reflects on how we communicate justice through analysis and practice of case studies about human rights and social action (cooperation, volunteerism, NGOs, development education or other related projects around the so-called Third Sector). The impact of technology and the alleged homogenization caused by the phenomenon of globalization makes stories that really matter invisible: those stories that free us, by which we are freed. An emancipatory education and inclusive communication play a crucial role in the relationship between community, social networking and media.

For this reason, the course will tackle human rights and communication departing from a theoretical approach to then reach practice, analyzing the complex and changing power relations which determine our place in the world. To do this, we will have the cooperation of professionals from different organizations, researchers, journalists and artists who show a clear commitment through the exercise of their profession to revalue, from an intersectional perspective, the representations, stories and lives of the most vulnerable social groups according to variables such as age, sex, ethnicity or social class/economic class.

"Social Justice, Action and Media: Stories that Matter" is a process-oriented course in which we will ask ourselves about the past, present and future of communications in order to make the currently non-visible stories visible.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Acquire essential tools and mechanisms for the creation of essays, articles and promotional campaigns for programs.
- Investigate the theory of Human Rights and social action from a critical point of view, linking cooperation, volunteerism and everything related to the so-called Third Sector.
- Analyze the indispensable and liberating role of journalism in a complex world.
- Categorize the different structures and strategies typically involved in information processes.
- Adopt a critical perspective in the analysis of the world in which we live through readings, films, videos and different lines of thoughts.

Course Prerequisites

4 semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent). Students need to have a GPA of at least 2.5.

Methods of Instruction

The methodology we will follow during 'Social justice, action and media: stories that matter' will be based on theoretical concepts by which, from different disciplines, we will link common practices in media that we consider improvable. This methodology will be based on constant debates and discussions during the classes, as well as references to books, films and other kinds of documents.

Our methodology also includes activities outside the classroom. In addition, students can benefit from at least two Spanish professionals invited to give a master class in two sessions over the course.
The course work will be based on the composition of different essays and the creation of one article (one story that matter) along the classes. The production in groups of campaigns and programs development towards the end of the course will be important too.

Linguistic resource center

It is recommended that students use the writing center.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Journalist Report 15%
2. Mid-term Exam 15%
3. Fieldtrips Reports 15%
4. Final Project and Oral Presentation in Class 35%
5. Participation, positive attitude in sessions and activities 20%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Journalist Report

Students should write a high-quality professional article about the real story of a person considered to be part of the most vulnerable social groups. What new stories can we tell to help create the world we wish we could live in?

Mid-term Exam

Students should do an exam. Theory and practice in human rights studies and communications.

Fieldtrips Reports

Students enrolled in this course will visit different media spaces (newspapers, radio stations, etc.), where they will learn different ways of social and committed journalism. In addition, they will visit the buildings and offices of a variety of development and cooperation institutions, where they will meet the professionals working for communication and marketing campaigns.

Final Project and Oral Presentation in Class

In groups, students should create campaigns of programs development by using a strategic effectiveness method. Students will work as citizens, volunteers or workers inside non-governmental organizations.

Participation, positive attitude in sessions and activities

Evaluation criteria are: assimilation of the concepts developed in the course, self-critical skills, skills to relate things, creativity and teamwork skills. The other criteria used for scoring students will focus on the quality of his or her writings and campaigns, with special emphasis on social justice. Class participation will be of great importance in determining the final grade for the course.

Attendance

Students are not allowed to miss class for unjustified reasons. For each unexcused absence, the participation portion of the grade will be lowered. Hence, it will be very difficult to receive a 100 in the class. Please keep this in mind. If a student misses class twice without a valid excuse (a note from a physician in the event of an illness), then the professor will automatically lower the final grade by 5 points (on a 100-point scale) for each class missed thereafter. Students with 6 or more absences will fail the course.

Students should arrive to class on time. Arriving more than 15 minutes late for a class will count as an unexcused absence. Please note that an excused absence is one that is accompanied by a doctor’s note: signed stamped and dated. Travelling and/or travel delays are not considered valid reasons for missing class.

*Notes from a physician will only be valid and admitted by the Program Manager if the doctor confirms that the visit could not have been arranged at another time, or that the student was too ill to attend class that day.

Academic honesty

Students are expected to act in accordance with their university and CIEE’s standards of conduct concerning
plagiarism and academic honesty. Use of online translators for work in Spanish will result in an automatic failure.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: 1.1 Introduction to the contents of the course

introducing to each other and practical issues: excursions, volunteering and evaluation criteria. Analyzing the objectives of the course and the work system empathizing on participation and team building.

Reading: Syllabus

Class: 1.2 Justice and Human rights: concept and core issues.

Reading: A selection of Spanish newspapers the instructor will provide

**Week 2**

Class: 2.1 Human rights and communication

Historical overview of the notion of communication

Reading: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Class: 2.2 Yesterday and today’s media

Equality in the benefits of technological development.

Reading: Development Millennium Goals

**Week 3**

Class: 3.1 Citizen journalism. Collective intelligence projects.

Reading: The rise of citizen journalism (The Guardian)

Class: 3.2 Other media. Alternative ways of storytelling.

**Week 4**

Class: 4.1 Key concepts for thinking about development communication.

Class: 4.2 Vulnerable people: their presence in the media. Effects of the economic crisis.

Reading: Course material provided by the instructor

**Week 5**

Class: 5.1 Children and communication / Child Rights

Class: 5.2 Convention on the Rights of the Child

Child trafficking: the slavery of the 21st century.

Reading: Unesco Children’s Rights Declaration

**Week 6**

Class: 6.1 Gender perspective, human rights and communication.

Gender guide: identities and care work / Co-education

Reading: 8M: Orgullo feminista (eldiario.es)
Class:  6.2  Midterm Exam

Week 7
Class:  7.1  Migration and communication
     Reading: Inmigración y Medios de Comunicación. Manual recopilatorio de buenas prácticas periodísticas

Class:  7.2  Intercultural and peace education.
     Fieldtrip 1: Entreculturitas.

Week 8
Class:  8.1  Communication and social transformation processes.
     Reading: Asociación de la Prensa (dossier)
     Fieldtrip report 1 DUE

Class:  8.2  Communication and social transformation processes.
     Fieldtrip 2: APS - Asamblea de Mujeres Periodistas. Gender violence workshop. In collaboration with AAMMA (Asociación Andaluza de Mujeres de los Medios Audiovisuales)

Week 9
Class:  9.1  Communication and social transformation processes.

Class:  9.2  Cooperation and NGO volunteering.
     Fieldtrip report 2 DUE
     Journalist article draft DUE

Week 10
Class:  10.1  Community radio stations.
     Fieldtrip 3: Radiópolis

Class:  10.2  Theoretical and practical approaches to the non-utopian perspective.
     Screening: The true Cost (Andrew Morgan, 2016)
     Fieldtrip report 3 DUE
     Journalist article DUE

Week 11
Class:  11.1  Debate after screening

Class:  11.2  Fieldtrip 4: OXFAM Intermón

Week 12
Class:  12.1  Oral presentations of the final project in class.
     Fieldtrip report 4 DUE

Course Materials
Readings
Albert Gómez, María José. La educación en derechos humanos a través del ciberespacio. Ed. Universitaria Ramón
Areces, 2011.
Martín-Barbero, Jesús. De los medios a las mediaciones, Anthropos, 2010.
Rodríguez, María Eugenia. Claves para entender los nuevos derechos humanos. La Catarata, 2011.

**Online Resources**
http://www.aecid.es/ES
http://www.congde.org
http://comerciojusto.org
http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/aacid
https://www.newtactics.org
http://www.caongd.org
http://www.festivaldecineyderechoshumanos.com
http://genderobservatory.com

**Media Resources**
http://www.rtve.es/alacarta
http://www.historiasdeluz.es