

COM / JO 545, Reporting Military Affairs, (Prof. H. Joachim Maitre)
Spring 2007

A survey of the Press and the Armed Forces, the Pentagon, the Defense Industry, the Politics of Procurement, and International Alliances and Conflicts.

A seminar open to senior and graduate students. Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 08.00 to 09.30 hours. Place: Room 220, 152 Bay State Road (Department of International Relations).

Course Objective:

You will gain an understanding of the workings of the defense media, the governmental institutions and processes, the functioning of the armed forces, and of effective defense coverage. You will be able to analyze major developments in the field and communicate your findings with competence, lucidity and (even) elegance.

Writing Modules:

JO 545 is not a pure journalism class; students unfamiliar with the “Who, What, When, Why and How” approach to newswriting will not feel intimidated. Good newswriting or feature writing is, more often than not, simply good writing. Writing modules are designed to give you some realistic experience with the challenges of defense reporting: comprehending complex material quickly, taking good notes, and preparing a solid news article or news analysis that informs rather than distorts.

Study Space / Reference Library at the Center for Defense Journalism, 67 Bay State Road. Mandatory Reading: Jane’s Defence Weekly, Aviation Week and Space Technology, Defense News, Army Times, The Economist, The New York Times. No reading material may be taken from the Center.

Final grade is based on MidTerm, Final Exam, TermPaper, and Participation/short Assignments (25 percent each). Attendance is mandatory.

Term paper (topics) to be determined by January 30 and handed in by April 17. Length: 15 pages plus bibliography.

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 09.30 to 11.30 hours,
67 Bay State Road.

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Reading List

- * Jon Lee Anderson, The Lion's Grave: Dispatches from Afghanistan, Grove Press, 2002
- * Chris Hedges, War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning, Anchor Books, 2003
- * Edward Offley, Pen and Sword: Covering the Military - An Insider's Guide to the Defense Beat, Center for Defense Journalism, 1991
- * George Packer, The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006
- * Perry Smith, Assignment Pentagon - The Insider's Guide to the Potomac Puzzle Palace, Brassey's, 2002
- * George Wilson, This War Really Matters - Inside the Fight for Defense Dollars, Congressional Quarterly Press, 2000

Mark Bowden, Black Hawk Down - A Story of Modern War, Penguin Books, 1999

Peter Braestrup (editor), Battle Lines - Report of the Twentieth Century Fund Task Force on the Military and the Media, Priority Press, 1985

Malcolm Browne, Muddy Boots and Red Socks - A Reporter's Life, Times Books, 1993

William Greider, Fortress America - The American Military and the Consequences of Peace, Public Affairs Press, 1998

Michael Herr, Dispatches, Avon Books, 1978

Michael Kelly, Martyr's Day – Chronicle of a Small War, Vintage Books, 2001

Nick Kotz, Wild Blue Yonder - Money, Politics and the B-1 Bomber, Princeton University Press, 1989

Dina Rasor (editor), More Bucks, Less Bang: How the Pentagon Buys Ineffective Weapons, Fund for Constitutional Government, 1983

*** Mandatory for all**