



# COMM 309 - Spring '13

## Global Journalism

Benedictine University, Lisle, IL.

*“Do your best every day, to the best of your ability.”*

### CLASS OBJECTIVES:

Insight into the global perspective, especially when that perspective is viewed through media, is crucial to understanding the dynamics of today's interconnected world. In COMM 309 students will:

- Develop an appreciation and understanding of the differences in media and coverage between the United States and other cultures.
- Learn the skills and nuances needed in order to work as an American journalist covering stories in a foreign country.
- Increase interest and insight into other cultures via the experience of living in a foreign country for a period of time.

Com Arts, Graphic Arts or Writing and Publishing majors: Save all projects for Senior Portfolio class

### Assignments:

*Explained on following page*

- Global News reports (5) - 10 points each (50 total)
- Midterm test - 50 points
- Chinese Corner attendance - 50 points
- Stories - 200 points
- Production - 50 points
- Journal - 85 points
- Attendance - 15 points

**Total - 500 points**

500 - 450	A	<i>There is no rounding up of points</i>
449 - 400	B	
399 - 350	C	
349 - 300	D	
299 - 0	F	

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

**Instructor:** Chris Birks (pronounced: Burks)

**Office:** Kindlon 222

**Email:** cbirks@ben.edu

**Office hours:** Tues/Thur: 1:30-4pm

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### REQUIRED MATERIAL:

*The Student Newspaper Survival Guide* by Rachele Kanigel

ISBN: 978-1-4443-3238-4

*China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom

ISBN: 978-0195394122

→ You are also required to attend some of the Chinese Corner language discussions lead by Professor Steven Day (Friday afternoons). Exact dates will be determined once the semester starts.

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### NOTE:

This class will be run like a seminar. Feedback and student participation are crucial to the success of this class. Come prepared each class period to discuss the topic of the day.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**STORIES** - Students will write 2-3 stories from material gleaned while in China. Working with the DNU students, BenU students will cover some aspect of Chinese culture or event taking place in Dalian. We will also write travel stories from Beijing. Students should use video and photos to help cover their stories.

The purpose of this class is to understand global media by experiencing it ourselves. To do this, we will be producing a newspaper. The newspaper will run inside The Candor on May 1.

Students will supply content to this publication while in China by writing stories, making still pictures and creating video stories. We may also run some of the stories in Chinese from the journalism students at DNU.

**GLOBAL NEWS REPORTS (5)** - Each student will be assigned an area of the world to focus on. Using media from the indigenous cultures, each student will give a 2-5 minute presentation about the major news stories from their region

**JOURNAL** - Students will keep a journal of their expectations of media, their experiences in China and what they've learned. Specific assignments will be discussed in class.

**CHINESE CORNER ATTENDANCE** - Professor Day will provide basic Chinese language skills that students will need to work in China.

**MIDTERM TEST** - The test will cover basic world geography, news events we discuss in class and journalism topics.

**PRODUCTION** - Students are expected to contribute to the production of the website and newspaper.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Two or less classes missed - 15 points
- Three classes missed - 7 points
- Four to seven classes missed - 0 points
- Eight or more classes missed - **F** for the course (drop the class if you find yourself in this situation.)

*I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. **Save your two "free" days for when you really need them.***

*There will be an attendance sheet for you to sign every day. The sheet is the arbiter on missed classes, so don't forget to sign in.*

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## CHINA TRIP, MARCH 15 - 25, 2012

Students will travel to China from March 15 - 25, 2012. We will visit the cities of Dalian and Beijing. While in Dalian, we will work with students from Dalian Nationalities University to cover stories. In Beijing, we will write/photograph travel stories.

You will need a **passport and visa** to enter China. BenU will assist us in getting visas.

**Friday, March 15:** Leave Chicago, overnight flight to China

**Saturday, March 16:** Arrive in China (Beijing), transfer to Dalian flight. Arrive Dalian at night

**Sunday, March 17 - Thursday, March 21:** Dalian, China. Work with DNU students

**Friday, March 22:** Leave Dalian for Beijing, arrive Beijing in afternoon.

**Friday, March 22 - Sunday, March 24:** Beijing, write travel stories

**Monday, March 25:** Leave China, arrive Chicago same day

*\*You must take the trip to China to pass the class. Note: You will miss classes the Friday before spring break and the Monday afterward. Please work with your professors to make arrangements for material missed.*



## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. The search for truth and the dissemination of knowledge are the central missions of a university. Benedictine University pursues these missions in an environment guided by our Roman Catholic tradition and our Benedictine heritage. Integrity and honesty are therefore expected of all members of the University community, including students, faculty members, administration, and staff.


Actions such as cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, forgery, falsification, destruction, multiple submission, solicitation, and misrepresentation, are violations of these expectations and constitute unacceptable behavior in the University community. The penalties for such actions can range from a private verbal warning, failure of the assignment or class, or even expulsion from the University. The University's Academic

Honesty Policy is available at <http://www.ben.edu/AHP> and students are expected to read it.

2. A student whose religious obligation conflicts with a course requirement may request an academic accommodation from the instructor. Students must make such requests in writing by the end of the first week of the class.

3. If you have a documented learning, psychological or physical disability, you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations or services. To request accommodations or services, please call extension 6512. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements. The University will not waive any essential skill or requirement of a course or degree program.

## CLASS POLICIES

- All assignments must be turned in on the day they are due and at the beginning of class. **Late work will not be accepted and there are no extra credit assignments.** Assignments not turned in when they are due will result in a score of zero points for that assignment.
- Turn OFF all cell phones, beepers, .mp3 players, etc. If you are waiting for an emergency phone call, see me before class. **Do not check messages during class time,** but before class is fine. 
- Please do not bring laptops/netbooks into class. Do not surf the Internet during class time. If you need to take notes on a computer, please clear it with me first.
- Respect your fellow students and teacher. Disruptions (such as talking with friends during class, doing homework during class, reading newspapers during class, etc.) will not be tolerated.
- When overseas, you are a representative of BenU and must maintain the highest standards of conduct. Be aware of local customs and do not violate local laws. Actions not meeting the standards will result in (at least) failure of the class.
- You are responsible for the material if you miss a class; either get the notes from a fellow student or see me during office hours. Do not email me something like: "Did I miss anything important?"
- Your campus email address will be the official way I contact you with course and/or academic performance information. Check your email often. **"I didn't get your email," is not an excuse for missed work and/or information.**
- Follow my Twitter account: @birksland. Check D2L and the Twitter feed often. Your grades will be posted on D2L.
- You must attend the final on the date the university assigns; **do not plan on leaving early finals week.**

# CLASS SCHEDULE - COMM 309

## Week 1

Jan. 15: Introduction  
Jan. 17: Geography 101

## Week 2

Jan. 22: Global media  
Jan. 24: Global media

## Week 3 - News reports 1

Jan. 29: Global media  
Jan 31: Global media

## Week 4 - News reports 2

Feb. 5: Journalism 101  
Feb. 7: Creating the stories (*Newspaper book*)

## Week 5 - News reports 3

Feb. 12: Creating the stories (*Newspaper book*)  
Feb. 14: Creating the stories (*Newspaper book*)

## Week 6 - News reports 4

Feb. 19: Creating the stories (*Newspaper book*)  
Feb. 21: Creating the stories (*Newspaper book*)

## Week 7 - News reports 5

Feb. 26: **Midterm** & Intro to China (*China Book*)  
Feb. 28: Chinese culture and media (*China Book*)

## Week 8

March 5: Chinese culture and media (*China Book*)  
March 7: Chinese culture and media (*China Book*)

## Week 9

March 12: Chinese culture and media (*China Book*)  
March 14: Prep for trip

## Spring break in China

March 15 - 25, 2013

## Week 10

March 26: *No class*  
March 28: *No class*

## Week 11

April 2: Examine Chinese/American media (*China*)  
April 4: Putting the story together (*Newspaper*)

## Week 12

April 9: Editorial meeting  
April 11: Story / photo work day

## Week 13

April 16: Print production, **Stories, photos due**  
April 18: Print production

## Week 14

April 23: Print production  
April 25: Print production

## Week 15

April 30: Proofing (last Candor May 1)  
May 2: Wrap-up

## Week 16 - Finals week

Thurs, May 9: **Journals due**

*Schedule subject to change, please  
check class site for updates*

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