



Universidad
de Navarra

International Fortnight Abroad (Fcom)

Teaching guide 2023-24

INTRODUCTION

Climate change. Pandemics. Cross-cultural conflict. Social inequities. Many of humanity's most challenging issues are shaped by cross-border forces that affect people's lives in ways that adapt to local histories, social structures, natural ecologies and political institutions. At the same time, global-local interactions create enormous opportunities for artistic dynamism, innovation and collective action for social change. Journalists in the 21st century must understand the logic, operation and impact of global-local interactions, sometimes called *transnationalism* or *glocalism*, to be able to communicate about these challenges and opportunities in ways that deepen understanding, empathy and a shared search for solutions.

The School of Communication (SoC) is uniquely placed to develop pedagogies that form journalists with the conceptual and experiential knowledge to meet these challenges. Located in a US R1 research university on the rim of the Caribbean, we are a community of globally aware journalism educators, practitioners and scholars committed to using our teaching and professional talents to prepare globally literate, culturally competent and ethically centered journalists with a social justice ethos.

Our SoC is located in one of the most vibrant, multicultural urban areas in the United States. Officially trilingual, Greater Miami is a cultural crossroads and regionally embedded global city. Within a metropolitan area of 6.2 million people running through Miami-Dade and Broward counties, cross-border social and environmental phenomena are grounded within US institutions and historical legacies that shape opportunities for advancement, conflict and contestation. At the same time, greater Miami is a connection point in a network of world cities that facilitate global flows of people, ideas, commerce and culture.

Global-local interactions manifest on the ground in Miami through gentrification of low-income neighborhoods and a housing crisis, creative effervescence in the arts, responses (and inaction) to climate change, divergent modes of immigrant incorporation and acceptance, and a multilingual media system where Spanish-language media often garner higher ratings than those in English. All of this is represented in the narratives of a media ecosystem of journalism, documentary and narrative film that is both local and transnational, and houses some of the world's largest Spanish-language media companies as well as incubators, startups and community outlets representing people from across the Americas.

The international fortnight abroad is a required course for students in the Global Journalism Diploma. In particular, *Covering Global Issues in Miami* guides students on an intellectual and experiential journey of discovery, experimentation and learning about *grounded globalization* and how it could or should be communicated. Fortified with this knowledge, students practice their technical and critical storytelling skills in collaborative, multimedia journalism projects that have the potential to facilitate wider understanding and action. Students learn through praxis, or knowledge-driven practice, about how the inhabitants of Miami negotiate grounded global opportunity structures as they construct their daily lives and life projects. Students meet, learn about, and tell the stories of people and communities who contest challenges and negotiate opportunities with differing degrees of power and agency, joy and heartache, and success and failure. In doing so, students learn to practice a "global/local" journalism in ways that may increase understanding, empathy and positive collective action.



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- **Diploma:** Global journalism
- **ECTS:** 3
- **Year, semester:** Second, Spring semester
- **Type of course:** Required for Global journalism students
- **Instructor:** Aurken Sierra
- **Language:** English
- **Dates:** TBA

CAREFUL: The students enrolled in the International fortnight abroad program will automatically lose their spot if they accumulate failing grades or absences in two subjects in the previous December exam session. If that happens, the student could be asked to withdraw from the course in January.

PROGRAM

As we continue to refine the program used last year, we would like to provide an overview of its structure and components to offer prospective students a clearer understanding.

Covering Global Issues in Miami is a hybrid academic seminar and focused reporting lab on the experience of global flows in Miami's communities and neighborhoods.

Ten weekday sessions include **3½ hours in morning classroom sessions** at the School of Communication followed by a break for lunch and **afternoon assignments and field trips**. The weekend consists of mostly unstructured time, but **will require 4 to 6 hours of group reporting work**.

Schedule overview:

TBA

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Four principles guide the development of the program:

1. Immersion in global-local logics and issues.
2. Focus on how communities experience, negotiate and reshape grounded global forces in particular contexts.
3. Synthesis of critical, ethical and technical expertise for communicating empathetic, explanatory and contextualized stories.
4. Collaborative, multimedia journalism in projects that are accessible across differentially able audiences.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will have increased:

- understanding and practical expertise in culturally competent reporting practices.
- understanding of how global flows are localized in global cities, and how to produce stories that illustrate human beings' constraints and agency within these contexts.
- ability to report about global issues such as immigration, climate change, public health, artistic hybridity, and global city inequalities and social struggles.
- knowledge of ethical frameworks in journalism that foreground empathy, such as feminist care, Ubuntu, and buen vivir.



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- ability to communicate with empathy for understanding and action.
- knowledge about transnational audiences and media systems of global cities.
- ability to gather, analyze and visualize complex data for news audiences.
- ability to design, practice and produce multimedia stories through collaborative teamwork.

ASSESSMENT

To enhance clarity, we will upload an "assessment rubric" on ADI, which will outline the point values assigned to each action. We would like to remind students of the importance of consistent daily work. As instructors accompany them throughout the program, assessment will be ongoing and continuous.

ORDINARY CALL

Exam before the onsite – 20%

- Before arriving at UM, students will need to take an exam to assess their knowledge regarding some of the issues which will be discussed in Miami. This exam ensures the students know the basics to follow and make the most out of the lectures provided by professors and guest speakers at UM.
- All materials will be available online via URL or posted.

Readings, reflections, and participation in class – 20%

- On several evenings students will be assigned short readings or other materials to review and reflect upon in preparation for a class period. These will taper off as students engage in original reporting and production. Classes will mix lectures, guest lectures, discussions, and guided exercises. Participation is thus very important.

Collaborative team-based multimedia project about a global issue grounded in a Miami neighborhood – 40%

- Students will be grouped in teams to develop stories about global issues as experienced in Miami's neighborhoods and communities.
- Professors will guide the development of the stories and make sequential assignments that build up to the final project.

Project presentations – 20%

- Projects will be presented and critiqued on the last day of class.

EXTRAORDINARY CALL

To successfully complete the course, attendance at the onsite sessions in Miami is mandatory. If a student completes the course but does not pass the ordinary call, a special work plan will be devised for the extraordinary exam.

FACULTY

Aurken Sierra

Public communication department, Ismael Sánchez Bella building, Ground floor.

Office: 621



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Email: aurken@unav.es

You can book an appoint at [Google appointments](#).

Faculty at **Miami University**:

Alberto Cairo: Associate professor and knight chair visual journalism

Professor Cairo is a journalist and designer with many years of experience leading graphics and visualization teams in several countries. Alberto teaches courses on infographics and data visualization around the world. With Grinfeder, he is the director of the [Center for Visualization, Data Communication & Information Design](#) at UM's Institute for Data Science and Computing, and a Faculty Fellow at the Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy. He is author of *How Charts Lie: Getting Smarter About Visual Information* (W.W. Norton, 2019) and many other works on data visualization. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Scientific American* and other publications.

Gina Presson: Lecturer and UMTV Advisor

Professor Presson is an award-winning, multiplatform reporter and producer who specializes in long form storytelling. Gina's work focuses primarily on environmental, social, political and cultural issues and has been published on both network and PBS affiliates and in major news papers. She founded Presson Perspectives: news, documentary and digital production; and created MedForum, one of the first health news websites in the United States. Her most recent production "The Peafowl Predicament: Friend or Foul?" is being screened in several film festivals. Sheserves on the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Suncoast Chapter Board of Governors and is co-chair of the Student Production Awards Committee. She also serves as a judge for national and international television awards for the Emmys, Society of Professional Journalists and Broadcast Education Association. Her interests include Global Journalism, which she on the University of Miami study abroad program in London.

Hannah Artman: Graduate coordinator

Professor Artman is a third-year Ph.D. student at the University of Miami, where she was awarded the Graduate School's Dean's Fellowship. Her research interests focus on mass media, news production and consumption, communication for development, and intercultural communication. She earned her BA and MA in Latin American Studies at the University of Miami, focusing on linguistics, production, and Spanish-language mass media in the United States. Before returning for her Ph.D, Artman's previous positions include senior account executive at a [public opinion polling firm](#) focusing on multicultural publics in Miami, executive producer of a national current events podcast, and freelance digital marketing associate for a South Florida hospitality group. Her current research focuses on the political economy of diasporic media and transnational circuits of disinformation.

Kim Grinfeder: Associated professor and Chair, Interactive Media

Professor Grinfeder is a multidisciplinary media producer and designer who uses emergent technologies to practice new ways to communicate social and environmental issues. Km's work often explores new media tech across the spectrum including immersive storytelling, interactive installations, UI Design, branching narratives & emerging communication technologies. His current research and creative work interests are in producing 360° films, immersive storytelling, and non-linear narratives. With Cairo, he is the director of the [Center for Visualization, Data Communication & Information Design](#) at UM's Institute for



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Data Science and Computing. His work has been recognized at film and technology festivals globally, but he's most proud of his students' accomplishments.

[Kyle Walkine \(tbd\): Graduate assistant](#)

Professor Walkine, a native of the Bahamas, is a first-year PhD student at the School of Communication. A journalist for 10 years before entering academia, Kyle was senior reporter at *The Nassau Guardian* and news anchor at *Our News* in The Bahamas reporting on major events such as live coverage of Hurricane Dorian, the strongest to ever hit the country, to general elections and most recently continuous coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kyle is an adjunct professor at The University of the Bahamas and holds a Masters of Science in Global Strategic Communication.

[Sallie Hughes: Professor and Associate Dean](#)

Professor Hughes began studying journalism and Spanish at age 14 and hasn't stopped. Sallie is now a journalism educator, social scientist and 20-year Miami resident. Living in Miami prompted her to write *Making a Life in Multiethnic Miami: Immigration and the Rise of a Global City* and develop the university's first course on Latinx media and audiences. She is a member of the scientific advisory committee for Reporters Without Borders and coordinates the Latin American region of the Worlds of Journalism Study, which uses comparative survey research to understand journalists' work environments, practices and worldviews in more than 60 countries. Her research has received numerous awards and has been published in her field's highest-impact journals, as well as received mentions in *The New York Times*, *The Columbia Journalism Review* and elsewhere. She sits on the editorial boards of *Journalism Practice* and *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, and especially enjoys mentoring young academics.