Universidad de Navarra

International Journalism
Teaching guide 2026-27

INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM

2026-2027

Introduction

International Journalism offers a **comparative introduction to journalism across different regions of the world, focusing on media systems, professional models, and news coverage of major international issues**. The course examines the main typologies of media systems and journalistic cultures through the perspective of media systems theory, with particular attention to Europe, the United States, and Spanish-speaking countries. Students will analyze how political, cultural, and social contexts shape journalism in different countries. The course also explores professional principles, ethical values, and newsroom practices across diverse journalistic traditions. Finally, students will engage with key issues shaping the current international news agenda through case studies and sessions with journalists, media professionals, and researchers, gaining a deeper understanding of contemporary global journalism.

- **Degree**: Journalism
- **Module**: 3. Journalistic Practice and Production [*Práctica y producción periodística*]
- **Subject [*Materia*]**: Integrated Journalism [*Periodismo integrado*]
- **Number of credits**: 3 ECTS
- **Year**: 2nd year
- **Semester**: 1st semester (from September to November)
- **Type of course**: Required [*Obligatorio*]
- **Instructors**:
  - Dr. Ramón Salaverría [professor in charge]
  - Dr. María Fernanda Novoa Jaso
- **Language**: English
- **Department**: Department of Journalism, School of Communication
- **Lecture schedule**: Tuesday, 15.30-17.15 hours
- **Classroom**: Classroom 3, School of Communication

Final exam: December 4th, 2026. Classroom 4, School of Communication

LEARNING OUTCOMES (Competencies)

The learning outcomes [*Resultados de Aprendizaje, RA*] and competencies indicated below correspond to those accredited for the Journalism Degree at the School of Communication, Universidad de Navarra.

1. KNOWLEDGE

2. SKILLS

- **RA11.** Express knowledge and ideas clearly and precisely through a variety of languages and media.

- **RA12.** To distinguish the socially relevant topics, actors, sources, and documents for the production of truthful journalistic texts in their different formal expressions.
- **RA14.** Apply the knowledge acquired in the characterization and practice of written, visual, sound, audiovisual and digital languages to different areas of professional specialization.

3. COMPETENCIES

- **RA20.** Apply critical and reflective thinking in the management of professional responsibilities based on a solid body of cultural, legal, anthropological, ethical and deontological knowledge.
- **RA26.** Identify the role of communication processes in the transmission of stereotypes and the intersection of gender inequality with other axes of inequality (age, class, race, sexuality and gender identity/expression, functional diversity, etc.).
- **RA28.** To value the importance of environmental awareness and individual and collective responsibility regarding the impact of communication processes on achieving goals in the face of climate change, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PROGRAM

Note: The following program may be subject to modifications throughout the semester. In particular, any of the scheduled sessions may be replaced by guest lectures delivered by journalists, media professionals, or researchers whose expertise is related to the topics covered in the course. These sessions are intended to provide students with direct insight into current international journalism practices and debates.

Session 1. Introduction to International Journalism

- Scope, objectives, and key concepts of the class. Work plan and team allocation.

Part I. Media Systems

Session 2. Media Systems Theory

- Journalism in a globalized communication environment.
- Comparative approaches to media systems. Hallin and Mancini's models and their contemporary relevance.

Session 3. Journalism in Europe

- Media structures, public service traditions, political parallelism, and professional cultures in European countries.

Session 4. Journalism in the United States

- Commercial media logic, objectivity, watchdog journalism, and the role of digital platforms.

Session 5. Journalism in Spanish-speaking countries

- Media systems and journalistic cultures in Spain and Latin America. Political, economic, and cultural influences.

Part II. Professional Models

Session 6. Professional Ideals and Journalistic Roles

- Objectivity, advocacy, interpretation, and public service across different journalistic traditions.

Session 7. Ethics and Professional Standards

- Comparative analysis of ethical principles, self-regulation, and press freedom in different countries.

Session 8. Newsroom Cultures and Professional Practices

- Editorial routines, newsroom organization, sourcing practices, and digital transformation.
- Censorship, polarization, disinformation, media ownership, and challenges to professional autonomy.

Part III. Key Issues in International Journalism

Session 9. War, Conflict, and International Reporting

- Coverage of armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, and geopolitical tensions.

Session 10. Global Challenges and International News Agendas

- Climate change, migration, public health, inequality, and other transnational issues.

Session 11. Technology, Platforms, and the Future of Journalism

- Impact of AI, social media, audience fragmentation, and the transformation of news consumption.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Lectures (23 hours). The course combines theoretical and practical sessions to foster a critical understanding of international journalism, media systems, and global political dynamics. Professors will explain the main concepts, theories, and debates included in the programme, encouraging active participation through questions, case studies, and guided discussions to promote reflection and critical thinking.

In addition to regular lectures, students will attend **seminars** led by professionals and specialists with experience in international journalism, war and conflict reporting, geopolitics, and international relations.

2. Group activities (22 hours)

Students will actively participate in classroom debates and analytical discussions based on lectures, news reports, and issues related to international journalism and current affairs.

Final project: Journalistic analysis of media systems. Students will conduct a study on journalism in a country from the Global North or South. The proposed methodology will involve applying Hallin and Mancini's typology. Each group should identify the main players and media ownership structures, examine the political, legal, and professional conditions shaping the practice of journalism, and highlight the most significant structural challenges. To complete this project, access to verified sources from official and journalistic outlets, as well as specialist reports, will be necessary.

3. Tutorials (2 hours). Students may request individual tutorials throughout the semester by contacting the lecturer in advance via email or during office hours.

4. Personal study (28 hours). Students are expected to review and study class notes regularly, complete the required and recommended readings for each topic, and keep informed about current international events and media developments.

5. Final exam (2 hours)

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ASSESSMENT

ORDINARY EXAMINATION (December)

- **60%** Journalistic analysis of media systems project
- **10%** Attendance and participation
- **30%** The final exam will include three medium-length questions on the course content and a case study focused on global journalism.

EXTRAORDINARY EXAMINATION (June)

The final exam will include three medium-length questions on the course content, and a case study focused on global journalism.

OFFICE HOURS

Dr. Ramón Salaverría [professor in charge]

Office 1531 (Department of Journalism, Ismael Sánchez Bella Building) or by appointment (rsalaver@unav.es).

Dra. María Fernanda Novoa Jaso

Office 0640 (Department of Public Communication, Ismael Sánchez Bella Building) or by appointment (mnovoa@unav.es).

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

1. Brüggemann, M., Engesser, S., Büchel, F., (...), Castro, L. (2014) Hallin and Mancini Revisited: Four Empirical Types of Western Media Systems. *Journal of Communication*. https://doi.org/10.1111/jcom.12127 Find it in the Library
2. Fernández-Lombao, T., Blasco-Blasco, O., Campos-Freire, F. (2024) Politicisation Persists and Is Increasing in European Public Service Media in the Digital Society. *Media and Communication*. https://doi.org/10.17645/mac.7759 Find it in the Library
3. Hellmueller, L., Vos, T.P., Poepsel, M.A. (2013) SHIFTING JOURNALISTIC CAPITAL?: Transparency and objectivity in the twenty-first century. *Journalism Studies*. https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2012.697686 Find it in the Library
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5. Mellado, Claudia, Hermida, Alfred (2021) The Promoter, Celebrity, and Joker Roles in Journalists' Social Media Performance. *Social Media + Society*. https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305121990643 Find it in the Library
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9. Zhang, X., Hellmueller, L. (2017) Visual framing of the European refugee crisis in Der Spiegel and CNN International: Global journalism in news photographs. *International Communication Gazette*. https://doi.org/10.1177/1748048516688134 Find it in the Library