

**COM291-1 International Journalism: Asahi Shimbun Special Lecture Series** (2008 curriculum 3 credits)

**COM291-1 International Journalism: Asahi Shimbun Special Lecture Series** (2004 curriculum 3 credits)

Michio KATSUMATA, Asahi Shimbun reporters and editors

Year: 2011

Semester: Fall

Meeting-time/day: Thurs 14:00 - 16:40

Office: Library Director's Office

Office Hours: Mon & Tues 13:00-17:00

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Website:

**Course Description:**

This is a special course offering a wide variety of topics and issues of international journalism by the reporters and editors at Asahi Shimbun, a leading newspaper with high quality in Japan with 8 million copies of daily circulation. Speakers have rich experience in international reporting, stationed in various countries and areas including USA, Europe, Africa, MiddleEast and Asia. They will invite students to discuss about global issues such as terrorism, religion, environment, politic and economy.

**Objectives:**

The course aims to teach students: (1)how to read and write news in English newspapers, (2)How the news materials and sources are obtained and filed for the newspaper articles, (3)why and how the news values are decided in the process of editing, (4)what are the conflicts of perception gaps between local media and Japanese media, and between foreign correspondents and Tokyo editors, and (4)how to evaluate and critically analyse the news stories.

**Expected Academic Background:**

Any students can take this course as long as they are interested in journalism, international relations and global issues.

**Textbook:**

No textbook, but each speaker and instructor will recommend several books and materials for deeper understanding of the topics.

**Reference Books/Other Study Materials:**

The instructor will suggest several books and internet websites which will help students get wider and deeper knowlege of international journalism and the issues discussed in the classes.

**Assessment:**

Class attendance and participation in the Q&A sessions: 40%  
Short essays and reports (each 3-5pages) :50%  
Final Paper as the course review (4pages):10%

**Policies & Remarks:**

Each lecture stands alone, with materials provided in the class.  
Each class basically consists of lecture and discussion, and students are highly encouraged to participate in the discussion.

**Class Schedule:**

**Week 1:**

(9.08) orientation and introduction of the course: By Katsumata  
1. What is international journalism? Difference of mass media in the world  
2. What are the characteristics of Asahi shimbun?

**Week 2:**

(9.15) Writing and Editing the news articles in English: By Jo, Toshio, managing editor of Asahi Japan Watch

**Week 3:**

(9.22) A Licence to Kill? -- Why America needed to eliminate Osama bin Laden: By Sugimoto, Hiroshi, former US correspondent

**Week 4:**

(9.29) The Hotbed for terrorists -- Dark side of Pakistan: By Ohno, Takushi, former Asian correspondent

**Week 5:**

(10.06) Embedded reporting on US rescue operation for Japan's great earthquake: By Miyaji, Yu, reporter of "The Globe"

**Week 6:**

(10.13) Analysing News photos: By Aida, Noriyuki, photo journalist

**Week 7:**

(10.20) Globalization-- The power of "free market": Yamawaki, Takeshi, chief editor of "The Globe"

**Week 8:**

(10.27) Mid-term summary: By Katsumata

**Week 9:**

(11.10) Working with Wikileaks: By Umehara, Toshiya, foreign news deputy editor

**Week 10:**

(11.17) Reporting on "battlefields" in Afghanistan: By Aoki, Yukio, former Vienna and Moscow correspondent

**Week 11:**

(11.24) Human security and humanitarian crisis: By Wakisaka, Noriyuki, former Bangkok and Brussels correspondent

**Week 12:**

(12.01) "Nuclear War"-- Multi-national diplomacy at IAEA: By Aoki, Yukio

**Week 13:**

(12.08) Live reporting from earthquake and nuke powerplant area: By Kawasaki, Takeshi, Soma bureau chief in Fukushima prefecture

**Week 14:**

(12.15) Course review and discussion: By Katsumata & Aoki

**Week 15:**

Final paper deadline is Monday, Dec.19

**INT291-1 Debating World News (2008 curriculum 3 credits)**  
**INT291-1 Debating World News (2004 curriculum 3 credits)**

KONISHI, Katsuya

Year: 2011  
Semester: Fall  
Meeting-time/day: Fri 12:50-15:30  
Office: C1-1A  
Office Hours: by appointment  
E-mail: k-konishi@aiu.ac.jp  
Website:

**Course Description:**

It is a cliché that the Japanese in international settings often suffer language handicaps. I believe it is true not because we lack vocabulary or pronunciation skills, but primarily because we tend to gloss over the importance of logic and argumentative practice.

Now we all know that AIU focuses on liberal arts which take its historical roots back to the Renaissance. Part and parcel of the Renaissance knowledge is a study and practice of rhetoric and argumentation. Debate is deeply embedded in this Western tradition of argumentative modes of persuasion, and is taught and practiced extensively at many English-speaking academic institutions.

The course intends to incorporate perspectives from latest international news and practice of argumentative skills and debate. Students are expected to understand a given issue in global context, and present its pros and cons in debating format. You should be acquainted with a set of systematic strategies to think critically and dialectically to develop arguments. By debating and analyzing the both sides of issue, you should be able to appreciate news in depth, and better equipped to form your own opinion.

So, if you want to break off the old mold of Japanese stereotype and join the great tradition of Western civilization, this is the course.

It is especially suited for students interested in careers in business, law, education, media, and/or international public service.

**Objectives:**

Throughout the course, students are expected to:

- 1) audio-visually understand latest international news, and make a quick summary;
- 2) analyze a given issue, and present its pros and cons;
- 3) learn to muster reasons, and construct a clear-cut, coherent, sequenced arguments supported by evidence and illustrations;
- 4) engage in vigorous classroom debate;
- 5) master elementary skills in "parliamentary and policy debate";
- 6) improve the ability to focus on the substantives and to decipher the peripherals;
- 7) develop the competence to integrate scattered discussions and highlight a core argument.

**Expected Academic Background:**

none

**Textbook:**

latest news from CNN, BBC, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Economist, The Financial Times

**Assessment:**

Class contribution	50%
Final exam and/or report	50%
A	90-100
B	89-90
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

**Class Schedule:****Week 1:**

Introduction -explanation of key terms and vocabulary; purpose and structure of debate; parliamentary and policy debate

**Week 2:**

"Should we make government bigger or smaller?"

Major advanced democracies suffer fiscal deficits. Yet, the gap between the rich and the poor persists. Should we expect more of governmental interventions to help resolve social and economic woes?

**Week 3:**

"Should Japan allow more immigrants?"

With ever shrinking population, is Japan better off with its door closed to international migration? Would multi-ethnic Japan an answer to mounting pension deficits and dwindling economic productivity, or is it a security and national identity nightmare?

**Week 4:**

"Is it true that feminism devalued parenthood?"

Feminism's contribution to the advancement of women's position in contemporary society seems indisputable. Wasn't it, however, at the expense of devaluating parenthood?

**Week 5:**

"Is the (East) Asian Community possible, and/or desirable?"

Despite some outstanding territorial disputes with China and South Korea, should Japan reach out to seek for an Asian model of the EU?

**Week 6:**

"Should we fear of China?"

Will increasing assertiveness by China in international economy, military build-up, and diplomatic overtures in Africa lead to instability in the world? Or will it provide an antidote to the American world order?

**Week 7:**

"Commercialization of sports: should it be encouraged, or discouraged?"

Olympic games cannot continue without official sponsors and American major networks which exert not a few influence on scheduling. Japanese networks commercialize volleyball, swimming, and track and field athletics. Is it a good scenario for the promotion of sports?

**Week 8:**

"Israeli-Palestinian conflict: who is to blame?"

Has Israel internally colonized Palestine? Do the Palestinians intend to terrorize Israel with the help of outsiders?

**Week 9:**

"If you were an American, do you vote Democratic, or Republican?"

Based on the mid-term election returns, you are asked to play a candidate role and engage in mock debate.

**Week 10:**

"The Cove" -an Academy-winning documentary: Are you for or against its message?

It describes annual dolphin hunting operations in a small Japanese village from the oppositional point of view. Should ecology be weighed against local culture? Should economy weighed against conservation?

**Week 11:**

"Should Japan abolish capital punishment?"

Many advanced democracies have already banned it. Does it have "deterrent effect" on felony? How do you justify continuing false accusations?

**Week 12:**

"Does WikiLeaks jeopardize or strengthen democracy?"

Massive leaks by the website on commander intelligence from Afghanistan caused an uproar in Washington. On security grounds, Obama administration tries to curb their activities. Is it legitimate? Or are the leaks justifiable?

**Week 13:**

"Do we need more action on global warming?"

Does "Climategate" -the alleged manipulation of CO2 data- delegitimize anti-global warming efforts? More action on climate change stifle economic growth?

**Week 14:**

Final debate on latest news topic I

**Week 15:**

Final debate on latest news topic II