Instructor: Shahan Mufti  
Email: smufti@richmond.edu  
Office: Weinstein Hall 425  
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Media coverage has always been an intrinsic element of terrorism as an instrument of violent politics and conflict. At the same time, the public that the news media serve relies heavily on local and international news – fast-evolving itself - to stay informed about the constantly shifting ground-truths in global conflicts that involve such violence. This seminar places itself at this complex intersection of news and terrorism in order to explore and better understand how reporting on terrorism works. This seminar will focus on the work of journalists in the professional field covering terrorism around the globe, including in the United States. Participants in the seminar will explore different geographical regions and various conflicts with the goal of creating an original framework for understanding news media coverage of terrorism.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To be successful in this course, you should expect to devote an average of 10 to 14 hours each week to prepare for class, participate in class sessions, study course related materials, and complete course assignments. This course will enable participants to create a framework for understanding the methods and complexities of reporting matters of terrorism through the news media. Among other things, students will understand the processes through which news is formed before it is published or broadcast. Students will also be able to evaluate how technological developments in news media are transforming the global information environment and influencing the coverage of terrorism. In the end, students will help produce a public resource that will allow others in the field of journalism, or those studying the profession, to better understand the issues.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

- *The New New Journalism* by Robert S. Boynton
- Book chapters, articles and web-links will be available on Blackboard
ASSIGNMENTS & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Presentations: 60 percent
Thrice during the semester, you will make a formal presentation as you progress toward delivering your final project. All presentations carry equal weight.

You will be evaluated on: 1) the amount of knowledge of the course material that you exhibit 2) the depth and sophistication of your critical analysis; 3) your clarity, organization and creativity in conducting the session.

Final Project: 40 percent
The final project, which will be developed through conversations, discussions and presentations through the semester, will be due after the final week of classes. Detailed instructions on the final project will be posted to Blackboard later in the semester.

WRITING GUIDELINES
You are required to meet all deadlines on the syllabus without exception. A late submission will not be read and may receive an “F” grade. If you foresee trouble meeting a deadline you must inform me at least one week before the date and we will discuss whether an extension might be useful or possible.

On the first page of each assignment, in the upper left corner, please list your name, a one or two word title description, the date and the word count. This can all be done in the “header” space on a Microsoft Word document.
Example: Richards — Inauguration – 1/16/17 – 1005 words

Include your surname in the title of the Word document. Please include page numbers at the bottom of each page.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Observe the honor code. You need to cite all the sources you use in papers and reports (including those that we are reading for this class). You must include citations within your paper any time you quote someone or simply paraphrase his or her idea. You may use any style for citations as long as you are consistent. All work submitted should be done by you in preparation for this specific course. (You may not, for example, hand in a paper for this class that you are also preparing for another course). Evidence of plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in an “F” on the assignment and this may be reported to the university administration for further consideration. If you have difficulty understanding how to cite sources or have questions concerning any of the above contact me immediately.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION
Students with disabilities who have been formally granted accommodations by a University of Richmond Disability Advisor must show their “Disability Accommodation Notice” to me within the first week of the academic term. The student and I will agree upon an accommodation in advance for each scheduled major assignment. You must meet with me at least one week prior to any deadline to discuss your accommodation.
NOTES ON THE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE:
This syllabus is a roadmap and detours are inevitable. The aim is to cover most useful ground in the limited time available, and the course of events in and outside of class may influence our direction and focus. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced by me in class and reflected on Blackboard at least two weeks in advance.

SCHEDULE

I. SEED
Week 1
1/16, 1/18
Introduction

Week 2
1/23, 1/25
Discussion on The New New Journalism

Week 3
1/30, 2/1
Discussion on themes of terrorism

II. GERMINATE
Week 4
2/6, 2/8
Presentations on region/country

Week 5
2/13, 2/15
Discussion on themes of news reporting

Week 6
2/20, 2/22
Presentations on journalist

Week 7
2/27, 3/1
Workshop interview scripts

III. GROWTH
Week 8
3/6, 3/8
Interviews (No class)

Week 9
Spring break
Transcribing

Week 10
3/20, 3/22
Exchange/ discuss transcripts

Week 11
3/27, 3/29
Preparation for final presentations (no class)

IV. PRODUCT
Week 12
4/3, 4/5
Final Presentations

Week 13
4/10, 4/12
Final Presentations

Week 14
4/17, 4/19
Production of public resource

Week 15
4/24, 4/26
Production of public resource