



# University of Quantum Dynamics Foundation

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## Courses

Department: Journalism  
Code: Journ-202  
Teacher: Brennan Purtzer  
Cost: €200

### **Intelligently balanced and sensitive reporting in native environments:**

It is no bold statement to say that "most of the world is foreign to you." In fact, most people have a "realm of the familiar" that extends only several hundred kilometers. Given that reality, there is a strong chance that your work in journalism will lead you into unfamiliar territories.

Some foreign territories bear resemblance to places common to you, others are wholly unfamiliar. Occasionally journalists are asked to report in coverage zones in which they feel extremely foreign, where they are extreme minorities in communities exercising native customs they are largely unfamiliar with. Some native communities are generally friendly to visitors, and sympathize with the outsiders coming in - at most chuckling at their unfamiliarity. Other areas take their own customs very seriously, and may become vigilant to defend them, even against an unknown infraction.

Reporting in these zones requires special preparation, and an overwhelming sense of humility. In native cultures, specifically, one must respect the balance of the foreign system, which often doles out values, economic benefit and health considerations with the same or higher equality than our own home cultures - albeit through entirely different modes. Reserving judgment and showing respect for foreign cultural are key elements you will read about in the following texts.

At the same time, a foreign reporter, with fresh eyes, is often able to identify compelling news that slips by "in broad daylight" in front of a population that has become acclimated to a very serious situation they've been living with. But raising a flag will draw attention to yourself as an outsider, and it must be done when it is demanded by an appropriate circumstance.

The aim of this course is to teach you how to be an effective reporter in an environment wholly different than the one you are familiar with.

As you read the course texts, take special note of the following themes:

- 1) When it comes to selecting news, consider not what is interesting news to *you*, but what it news to the population you are writing for.
- 2) When values enter the content of your writing, consider the dominant perspective on this value shared by your audience, *not by you*.
- 3) What is considered private vs public knowledge is different from culture to culture. In Norway, for example, the salary of every private citizen is accessible online.



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When you have completed the following texts, you will be asked to choose one of the following prompts to write you 3,000 - word essay. Answer by telling a fictitious story, explaining your understanding of the textbooks and the concerns of this course.

1) As an international correspondent in a foreign language country (which you are familiar with), you are not certain on the translation of an important statement by a government minister at deadline. A key part of the story is related to the quote, and you are feeling pressure from your employer. Explain how you either adhere to local customs in seeking an immediate clarification, or else meet your deadline without the quote and still provide compelling copy for your employer.

or

2) You are working for a media outlet in a country or island with very different customs. There is a large festival approaching with very insular, esoteric and ancient activities. Though compelling in its own right, the festival details are hardly news to the natives; how do you report something fresh to yourself, yet appropriate for your audience?

### Course e-Textbooks

*Journalism across cultures: An Introduction:*

<http://www.coursesmart.co.uk/cart?page=0&isbn=9780230345249&targetpage=/9780230345249&offline=0&freetrialcart=d268d022-56fb-4b8c-b7c6-8313a4beb0cc>

*Framing Public Life*, Agustine E. Grant

[http://www.amazon.com/Framing-Public-Life-Understanding-ebook/dp/B001PDW7T8/ref=sr\\_1\\_17?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1356889147&sr=1-17&keywords=journalism+editing](http://www.amazon.com/Framing-Public-Life-Understanding-ebook/dp/B001PDW7T8/ref=sr_1_17?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1356889147&sr=1-17&keywords=journalism+editing)