

**“The world is flat only if you observe it from an airplane window at 30,000 feet.” – Mort Rosenblum, in “Little Bunch of Madmen”**

## Assignment: Istanbul

*Hoşgeldiniz!* Get ready for an intensive month in one of the world’s greatest cities, where you’ll try out the life of a foreign correspondent. You’ll report, write, photograph and shoot basic video about Istanbul’s culture, neighborhoods, politics, life, people and arts, and create a web magazine and book that will feature your work.

### You’ll learn about:

How to work as a foreign correspondent

How to navigate in Turkish culture

How to work with an interpreter

How to work as a member of a team

What kinds of stories papers, magazines and digital publications want most

About the political, cultural and historical influences that have shaped today’s Istanbul

### Your Professors:

**MARY D’AMBROSIO** (International reporting/program director)  
[editor@bigworldmagazine.com](mailto:editor@bigworldmagazine.com)

**BRENT FOSTER** (Visual journalism) [info@brentfosterphotography.com](mailto:info@brentfosterphotography.com)

**FAIK GÜR** (Turkish language and culture) [faikgur@yahoo.com](mailto:faikgur@yahoo.com)

**VENISE WAGNER** (International reporting) [vwagner@sfsu.edu](mailto:vwagner@sfsu.edu)

**CEMIL GÜLER** (program assistant) [cemil.guler@bahcesehir.edu.tr](mailto:cemil.guler@bahcesehir.edu.tr)

### The City:

The Ottoman Empire ruled the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa for nearly 800 years, and the cultures, languages and religions of this vast territory converged in the cosmopolitan capital Istanbul. Istanbul is criss-crossed with sumptuous palaces, mosques and gardens where the sultans played; it’s also an energetic modern city of Greek, Armenian, Russian, Arab, religious and secular influences, where people from around the world still come to make their fortunes. It’s easy to explore by public transportation, and on foot.

Though foreign correspondents often use Istanbul as a base for covering the Middle East, we'll focus mainly on life and stories within the city, or at least stories that can be reported here. One practical reason for that is that we have but a month.

That said, if you have your heart set on a broader topic, we'll be happy to help you with it, as long as it can be reported in Istanbul.

## **The Assignments:**

You'll develop stories and visuals for two projects: a print-on-demand book of profiles, and the web magazine *In Istanbul*. Your best work will be featured in both venues, as long as it achieves an appropriate standard.

**Everyone should now have, and be researching, their provisional assignments.**

### **Assignment #1 OUR BOOK**

#### **Faces of Istanbul Portraits of the city**

Profile a compelling character or figure who seems to you to represent an aspect of Istanbul. It might be a boatman or a builder, a singer or a student, a food historian or a fashion model, an important public figure or someone entirely unknown.

Our aim is to develop an anthology that will generate a strong sense of Istanbul identity --- and to practice the art of telling a story about a place through its people.

Besides interviewing your character, you'll need to background yourself in his or her area, and interview several other people who can shed light on his or her life or work. Other interviewees might include parents, colleagues, neighbors, friends and competitors. Please consult your advisor, and our program assistants, for ideas.

Cemil is helping us arrange many of these interviews, and will also be organizing the Bahçeşehir students who will work with you as interpreters. (Some of these students will be attending ieiMedia journalism programs in other countries next year.) Sometimes you'll work with your interpreter to set up interviews -- or, if your subject speaks English, you may work on your own, or with a fellow student.

Your profile must also include a visual element, at minimum a photo of your subject. If you'd like to expand this into a slideshow or video, the profile could be featured in the web magazine too.

Length: up to 1,000 words

### **Assignment #2 - THE WEB MAGAZINE "IN ISTANBUL"**

Cover a political, economic or cultural story you think will interest U.S. readers. Aim to work within one of these general subject areas: a) A cultural story b) the lives of young people c)

The situation of ethnic or religious minorities, such as Armenians, Greeks, Kurds and Jews  
d) Turkish-foreign relations e) Istanbul's modernization battles

You may choose to produce a visually-driven piece. This story may incorporate an audio slide show, a video or audio piece, as seems appropriate to the material. A story primarily dependent upon text should run no longer than 1,200 words.

## Classes

Classes will meet Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., as follows:

**9:30-10:20 Turkish language and culture** (Prof. Faik Gür) Conversational Turkish. Meeting and greeting; everyday and business phrases; using the phone; social and journalism etiquette. Intercultural communication. Working with an interpreter. Hot topics and controversies.

**10:30-11:20 International Reporting** (Profs. Mary D'Ambrosio & Venise Wagner). How reporting in Turkey (and abroad generally) differs from reporting in the United States. Cross-cultural communication: how it differs in Turkey. Practice in interviewing. Cultivating sources, and building rapport, when you don't have much time. Staying safe. Getting the full story: good international reporting gathers information from several levels of sources, from the official to the grassroots: how to navigate between the various levels. Turkish press law. The most effective ways to connect with an audience back home: You will be acting as a bridge between your home audience and the citizens of Istanbul. Story planning and execution. Several speakers have been invited to join us.

**11:30-12:20 Visual Journalism.** (Prof. Brent Foster) Intro to multimedia journalism. Shooting and interviewing techniques for still photography and videography. Intro to Photoshop and Final Cut Express. Editing instruction and workshop.

In the afternoons, you'll be out reporting your stories, with your interpreters, and often with a fellow student, with whom you will share an interpreter. Faculty members will rotate among student teams.

Feel free to team up, and to assist one another with stories, as logistics and collegiality dictate. There's no limit to the number of stories you can tackle; consider these two assignments minimums.

## The Rules

**Students registered for the San Francisco State University course Jour 667 must attend all classes, and are expected to complete all assignments.**

Graduate interns are welcome to attend all classes, though participation is not mandatory. We assume that, while not attending class, interns will be out on assignment.

Registered students may not miss any classes, or arrive late. Two or more missed classes can lower your grade by a full letter.

The only reason to miss class is for a medical emergency or illness, or – only with permission of your advisor – if you have a conflicting assignment that could not be scheduled for another time.

## Deadlines and Practices

All assignments must be turned in on deadline, unless your advisor approves an extension.

All articles must be followed by source lists, along with source contact details.

It goes without saying that we:

- 1) Don't make up characters or amend quotes;
- 2) Don't copy or plagiarize, meaning take printed material from elsewhere and use it in your story without crediting it.

Any fabrication or plagiarism is grounds for an "F" in the course.

## Grades

Half of your grade will be determined by your performance in the three modules (Turkish language and culture, international reporting and visual journalism), and the other half by the quality of your two projects.

The projects will be evaluated collectively by your professors.

Class work (including quizzes, readings, participation and attendance)	50 percent
Book project	25 percent
Web magazine project	25 percent

Generally, the grading standards are:

- A** Exceptional work; assignments handed in on deadline; publishable as is
- B** Very strong work; assignments handed in on deadline, publishable with minor editing/revisions
- C** Average work; assignments may not be on time; significant editing needed
- D** or below: Poor work; late assignments; factual inaccuracy; below standard

## Readings - Required

### Books about Turkey

Pamuk, Orhan *Istanbul: Memories and the City*

Pope, Nicole and Hugh *Turkey Unveiled: Ataturk and After*

A Turkish-English dictionary, such as Langenscheidt's Universal Dictionary

### **Article Course Pack**

Please print out the following articles, and bring them to Istanbul as your course pack. They'll make useful companion reading. (The videos you'll just watch, of course).

### **About Turkey**

Europe's New Party Capital <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jan/02/dispatch-istanbul-most-dynamic-city?INTCMP=SRCH>

Pico Iyer's Istanbul  
<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/city-guides/istanbul-traveler/>

The Self-Appointed Superpower  
<http://www.worldpolicy.org/sites/default/files/uploaded/image/WPJ-Winter2010-11-Zalewski-Turkey.pdf>

Turkey Looks East, at Last  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/23/opinion/23Shafak.html?scp=65&sq=turkey&st=cse>

The Headscarf – and the barriers it erects  
<http://www.eurasianet.org/node/62356>

Turkey's Lost Generation <http://lotuseditions.wordpress.com/2010/12/11/turkisk-film-festival/>

The Kids Aren't All Right  
<http://blogs.wsj.com/emergingeuropa/2010/10/21/in-turkey-the-kids-arent-alright/?mod=rss> WSJBlog

Turkish Armenian bride shot to death by brother  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=soneys-funeral-held-in-istanbul-2010-12-14>

Turkish University to begin teaching Armenian & Hebrew  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=0526125936805-2010-05-26>

Cool Istanbul blogs <http://www.expatharem.com/expat-harem-expeditions/istanbul-capital-of-culture-2010-blog-carnival/issue-11-12-nov-dec/>

Turkish Art Walk attack <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-0927-turkey-gallery-20100927,0,7529675.story>

On Turkish Manners  
[http://www.todayszaman.com/columnistDetail\\_getNewsById.action?newsId=236151](http://www.todayszaman.com/columnistDetail_getNewsById.action?newsId=236151)

Review of Barbara Nadel's "River of the Dead" <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-236150-river-of-the-dead---by-barbara-nadel.html>

Urban poverty study

<http://inuraistanbul2009.wordpress.com/workshops/poverty-in-istanbul/>

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=locals-protest-the-urban-transformation-in-historical-peninsula-2010-02-17>

Censorship of Youtube

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=report-youtube-faces-new-ban-in-turkey-2010-11-02>

Repression against the media

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=from-the-bosphorus-straight-----scratch-one-journalist-all-of-them-bleed-2010-05-25>

Genocide controversy

Prof. Taner Akcam's commentary on Youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOCNaTiXFts>

## **About Global Reporting**

Correspondents may no longer be central to what we learn about the world; the new foreign reporting <http://www.niemanlab.org/2010/12/oxford-study-whats-the-future-of-foreign-reporting/> (no need to buy the report; just print the summary)

The correspondent is dead, long live the correspondent

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/dec/08/long-live-the-foreign-correspondent>

No more reporting behind readers' backs

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/15/weekinreview/15GIRIDHARADAS.html>

Is it true people aren't interested in foreign reporting? By Maria Balinska

<http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/reports/article/102449/A-Former-BBC-Producer-Takes-a-Fresh-Look-at-Foreign-News-Its-the-Audience-Stupid.aspx>

## **Readings - Recommended**

### **Books About Turkey**

Ziyalan, Mustafa and Spangler, Amy (eds), *Istanbul Noir*

Orfa, Irfan *Portrait of a Turkish Family*

Kinross, Lord John Patrick Douglas Balfour, *The Ottoman Centuries*

Kinzer, Stephen, *Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds*  
Shafek, Elif, *The Bastard of Istanbul*  
Pope, Hugh *Dining with Al Qaeda*  
Ashman, Anastasia, and Gokmen, Jennifer *Tales from the Expat Harem*  
Choices from Elif Shafek's Reading List <http://fivebooks.com/interviews/elif-shafak-on-turkey>  
Hikmet, Nazim, *Poems of Nazim Hikmet* (Turkey's most famous poet)

## Books About Global Reporting

Waugh, Evelyn, *Scoop*  
Rosenblum, Mort, *Little Bunch of Madmen*  
Rosenblum, Mort, *Coups and Earthquakes*  
Goodman, Alan, et al. *The World on a String: How to become a freelance foreign correspondent*

## Class Schedule (provisional)

### Week 1

#### Day 1 – Mon., June 27

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** Welcome to Istanbul! An introduction to reporting in the city.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Intro to international reporting. How reporting in Turkey differs from reporting in the United States. The U.S. Freedom of Information Act vs. Turkish press law. Staying safe. The big stories and the media climate.  
**Possible speaker.**

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** Intro to multimedia journalism. Examples, convergence, and how photojournalism and video have collided.

#### Day 2 – Tues., June 28

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** Cross-cultural communication: how communication differs in Turkey. How to meet and greet.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Quiz on the syllabus. Planning our projects: your profile and your web story.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** Shot techniques The basics of still and video journalism shot techniques.

#### Day 3 – Wed., June 29

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** Practicing basic words and phrases.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Story planning: the profile. Brainstorming and pitching. How to write a great profile. Book example: Vermont People. Intern briefings.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** Interview techniques. Recording audio and conducting an interview or "A" roll for video, and how that differs from print.

#### **Day 4 – Thurs., June 30**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** How to work with an interpreter.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Discussion of readings: Pamuk, Memories and the City.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** Apertures. Using the camera's aperture to control the look and feel of your images.

### **Week 2**

#### **Day 5 – Mon., July 4**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** Working with interpreters.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Cultivating sources, and building rapport, when you don't have much time. Tackling your general interest story. Brainstorming, pitching and briefing.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** Shutter speeds. Using the camera's shutter speed to freeze and blur action.

**Midnight: Profile due (please email this to your advisor, cc'ing the whole team)**

#### **Day 6 – Tues., July 5**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** Cultural practices.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Speaker: Turkish Political Scientist Atilla Yesilada, of Istanbul Analytics

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** White balance. Proper white balances, and how they are set for given situations

#### **Day 7 –Wed., July 6**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** Cultural practices.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Interviewing techniques and tips. Profile review and editing. Intern briefings.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** Camera modes, and moving into manual on the camera.

#### **Day 8 – Thurs., July 7**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** Language practice.

**10:30 a.m.–11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Discussion of course pack articles.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** Shot principles. Learning the 5 shot principles in video journalism

### **Week 3**

#### **Day 9 – Mon., July 11**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** Language practice.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Possible speaker.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** Finding "the moment"  
Learning how to anticipate and prepare for action in front of your lens.

**Midnight: Political/cultural story due -- Email/submit this to your advisor, and cc the rest of the team.**

#### **Day 10 – Tues., July 12**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture.** Language practice.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. International Reporting.** Discussion of political/cultural stories. The most effective ways to connect with an audience back home: You will be acting as a bridge between your home audience and the citizens of Istanbul. Coping with reporting problems: wary interviewees, difficulties of access.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Visual Journalism.** Intro to Final Cut Express.  
Introduction to video editing.

#### **Day 11 – Wed., July 13**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Turkish Language and Culture**

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**      **International Reporting.** Editing the political/cultural story. Intern briefings.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m.**      **Visual Journalism.** Compressing files, and managing DSLR files. Learning how to handle and import files

#### **Day 12 – Thurs., July 14**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.**      **Turkish Language and Culture.** Language practice

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**      **International Reporting.** Discussion of Hugh & Nicole Pope’s “Turkey Unveiled.”

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m.**      **Visual Journalism.** Editing.

#### **Week 4**

#### **Day 13 – Mon., July 18**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.**      **Turkish Language and Culture.** Language practice.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**      **International Reporting.** Making your story sing. Enfranchising readers.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m.**      **Visual Journalism.** Editing. Full class of editing.

**Midnight: Final revisions due on both stories. Email or deliver your package to your advisor, cc'ing the rest of the team**

#### **Day 14 – Tues, July 19**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.**      **Turkish Language and Culture.** Summing up.

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**      **International Reporting.** Final revisions.

**11:30 a.m. -12:20 p.m.**      **Visual Journalism.** Editing. Full classes of editing

#### **Day 15 – Wed., July 20**

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.      **STORY PRESENTATIONS** Each student will make a 15-minute presentation about one of her pieces (reading an excerpt, screening a video or presenting photos or a slideshow).

**2:30 p.m. Goodbye lunch**