

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



Global Journalism in Bologna, Italy

International Reporting: Practice working as a foreign correspondent

Practice working as a foreign correspondent

Develop professional stories for your portfolio

Publish your work in university and professional publications

June 7 - June 22, 2024

Syllabus and Schedule

Program Overview

Benvenuti! Get ready for our two-week adventure in one of the world's greatest cities, where you'll have a chance to practice working as a foreign correspondent.

Our challenge: to get a taste of the life of a foreign correspondent, while developing stories you can feature in your professional portfolio, and publish.

Working with University of Bologna undergraduate and master's students in interpretation and translation, Rutgers students will be organized into teams, and will have an opportunity to write and shoot a story of their choice.

You'll be invited to ask:

Who lives in Bologna?

What are the *Bolognese* thinking, dreaming and worrying about?

What defines this city, and how can we best tell its story?

Classes will meet weekday mornings, around two modules: basic Italian, and international reporting.

After lunch, you'll put your morning studies into action: you'll go out reporting in teams, accompanied by your interpreters, and sometimes by your professor or assignment organizer (who will revolve among the teams).

Arrival weekend will be devoted to orientation, and to local excursions and visits within the city. Your second long weekend – Friday, Saturday and Sunday – will be free for travel within Italy.

You may not leave the country during the program.

Learning Outcomes

You'll learn about:

How to work as a foreign correspondent

How to tell stories through written and visual journalism

How to work as a member of a team

How to navigate in Italian culture

How to work with an interpreter

What kinds of stories professional publications want most

The political, cultural and historical influences that have shaped today's Italy

Enroll in the JMS Global Media Specialization

This course counts toward the JMS specialization in Global Media. Undergraduate students who pass three qualifying courses can have the Global Media specialization noted on their degree. All JMS courses that take place partly or entirely abroad, such as Media and Struggles for Democracy, which travels to Guatemala; Global Media Abroad, which visits Paris and London; and Writing the Mediterranean, which takes students on reporting trips to Italy, Spain and Turkey, also qualify. To learn more about the specialization <https://comminfo.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/journalism-and-media-studies-major/curriculum/specializations> and to enroll, please see an advisor in the SC&I advising office.

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The City

Elegant Bologna is known as “la dotta,” for knowledge, “la grassa,” for its extraordinary food, and “la rossa,” for its leftist politics. This gorgeous university city is magnificently located in one of Italy’s most exciting regions, with Florence, Venice, Rome, Milan, the Italian lakes and the Adriatic coast all a short train or bus ride away.

The surrounding Emilia Romagna region is also well worth exploring: it’s home to some of Italy’s top food destinations and restaurants; to the luxury car empires of Ferrari, Lamborghini and Maserati; and to the sophisticated Renaissance cities of Parma, Ferrara and Ravenna, known for their palaces, artistic heritage and bike-friendly medieval lanes.

Field Trip

On June 13, we’ll take a working field trip to nearby Ravenna, to see the city’s famous mosaics, to visit Dante’s tomb, and to report and photograph in the city.

The Assignments

Working in teams, you’ll be assigned a story of your choice, and will develop it under the guidance of program faculty.

Each story should include 1) a reported and written piece of up to 1,500 words, which incorporates four to six interviews; 2) three to six captioned photographs, or a video of up to three minutes, to help you tell your story; and 3) social media features and hyperlinks, as appropriate.

You'll read two books, and several articles, which we'll discuss during the program.

Please feel free to consider these assignments minimums. You may also wish to blog, to post on social media and/or to write articles for student or professional publications back home.

Books and Materials

Please purchase, and/or print out and bring, the following materials:

Books

"The Italians" by John Hooper (any edition)

"La Bella Figura: A Field Guide to the Italian Mind" by Beppe Severgnini (any edition)

Please have both books read by **June 18**.

Bring a small Italian-English dictionary, such as Langenscheidt's Universal Dictionary, or download a dictionary or translation app.

Please bring a guidebook. The Lonely Planet guide to Italy would be an excellent choice.

Article Course Pack

These articles will be posted on Canvas. Please have them read by June 10.

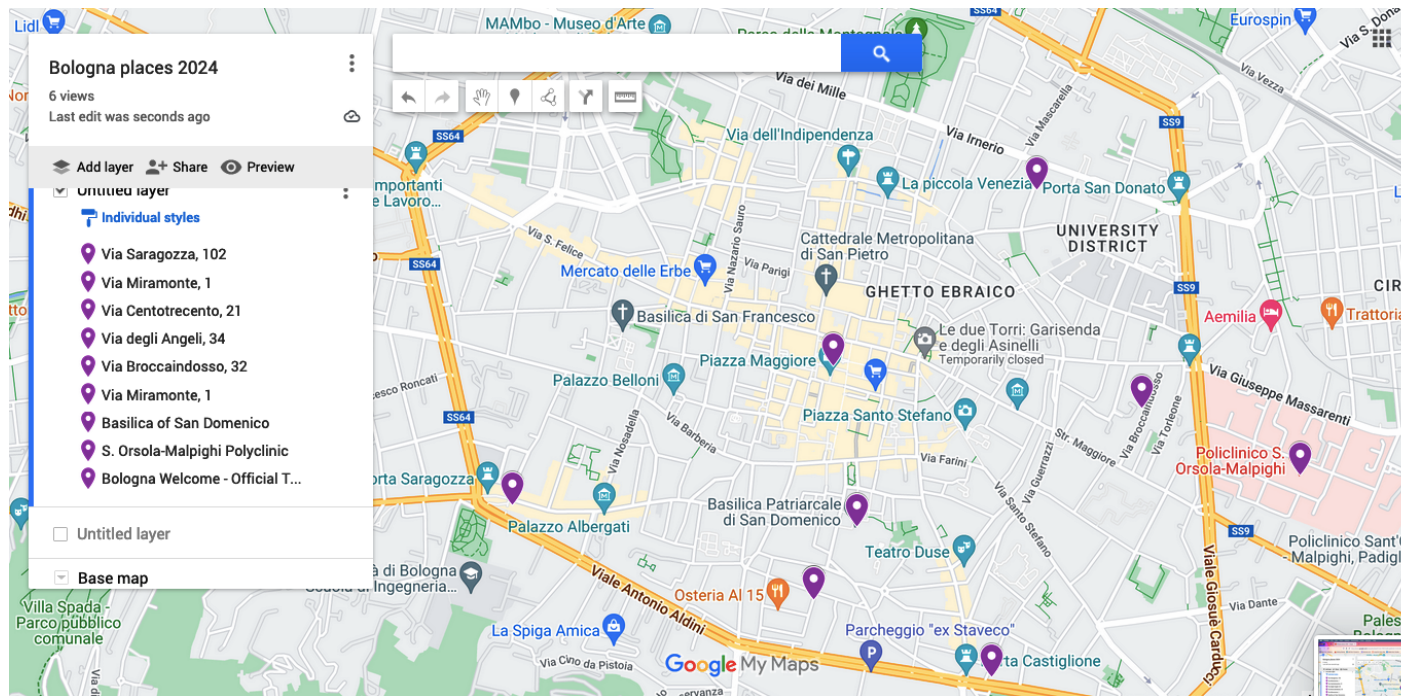
Correspondents may no longer be central to what we learn about the world; the new foreign reporting <http://www.niemanlab.org/2010/12/oxford-study-whats-the-future-of-foreign-reporting/> (no need to buy the report; just print the summary)

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>

Our Locations



Class Meeting Site and Times

Classes will meet at:

San Domenico Classrooms

Piazza San Domenico, 13
Bologna

Getting from your lodgings to class: The San Domenico Classrooms are very centrally located, within a short walk from all of our lodgings. Please refer to the map above.

Classes will run Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and comprise two modules:

Italian Language and Culture (Offered by a Cultura Italiana professor). Basic conversational Italian. Meeting and greeting; conversational and business phrases; using the phone; social and journalism etiquette; Bologna topics and controversies.

International Reporting (Prof. Mary D'Ambrosio). You'll get on-the-ground training in how foreign correspondents find, report, develop and write their stories; about how reporting in Italy differs from reporting in the United States; and about the most effective ways to communicate with audiences back home. You'll also learn how to work with interpreters, and how to incorporate photographs or video, and social media features, into your work.

In the afternoons, you'll go out to report your stories, with your team members and your interpreter. Your professor will rotate among student teams.

Feel free to assist other teams with their stories, or to join another group when yours doesn't have an interview scheduled. There's no limit to the number of stories you can tackle: consider your group's main assignment a minimum.

Deadlines and Practices

Students must attend all classes, and are expected to complete all assignments.

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

Students may not miss, or arrive late to, any classes. 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 professor – if you have a conflicting assignment that could not be scheduled for another time.

All stories must be followed by source lists, and 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

60 percent of your grade will be determined by the quality of your project; 25 percent by your performance in the two course modules (Italian language and culture, and international reporting); and 15 percent by the quality of your two favorite of the daily social media posts you'll be assigned to write, about things you have learned.

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due
Article, with photographs or video	60 percent	Draft: June 19, 11:59 p.m. Final: June 30, 11:59 p.m.
In-class work (including readings, participation & attendance)	25 percent	

Two best social media posts 15 percent

Generally, the grading standards are:

A= Excellent! The work is publishable with only minor changes.

B+ = Well-written, with appropriate use of facts. The article may need additional material, but is free of factual errors, and has no more than three grammar or punctuation errors.

B = Generally good work. Solid writing, but the lead needs work and the story may need more research and detail.

C+ = Acceptable. Awkward phrasing and numerous syntax, grammar or punctuation errors that distract from the article's strengths. More reporting may also be needed.

C = Average. Multiple organizational, writing and/or reporting problems. Contains factual errors or insufficient information. Many spelling, grammar and punctuation errors. Unimaginative or trite content.

D = Poor work. Shows minimal or no effort.

F= Completely unacceptable.

Academic Conduct

Disruptive classroom behavior (including arriving late and not completing assigned readings and exercises) or engaging in plagiarism will seriously jeopardize your standing in this class. Plagiarism, (the use of ideas, words, images, graphs, etc. other than your own, without appropriate attribution), will result in an automatic "F" and possibly further disciplinary action. Ignorance of the rules is no excuse. Make sure you understand how to properly attribute work for printed and online sources. You are responsible for reading and understanding the Rutgers policy on academic integrity located at:
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Rules For Our Time in Bologna

1. For liability reasons, you must stay within Italy during the dates of the course (June 7-June 22). Please restrict your travel outside the country to before or after the course.
2. No program participant may rent or drive an automobile. Only public transportation and commercial transportation services, such as trains, buses, subways, taxis and car services may be used.
3. All program participants must keep their cell phones with them and charged at all times to ensure that they can reach the program leader and the program leader can reach them, if necessary.

4. Program participants should travel in the company of at least one other program participant, with larger groups encouraged at night. Each person will be assigned a "buddy." We are all responsible for making sure that every person in our program *always* has someone to accompany him/her when they have to go somewhere or meet with someone for an interview; when going out at night; and when traveling on weekends.
5. All program participants are required to behave in a mature, professional and appropriate way at all times, never forgetting that they are representatives of Rutgers University and the United States of America while traveling with this program. **Any program participant found to be engaging in disruptive, damaging, or illegal behavior of any kind, or who is arrested by local authorities for legal or behavioral violations, may be sent home immediately.** This includes any use of illegal drugs and the excessive use of alcohol such that it causes disruption to our program, causes lateness or absences from class, or creates problems or disruptions for the participant's roommate or classmates.
6. **Note: Any student sent home for disciplinary reasons will automatically receive an "F" in the course.**

Communications

All students must have a handheld communication device; must keep it on and charged; and must maintain an active calling and email plan, throughout the program. For professional and social communications, we'll create a group in WhatsApp, the most widely used form of mobile communication in Europe. Please download the app to your phone before leaving the United States. If you haven't already done so, please send me the phone number you'll use in Europe.

Social Media Posting

The most successful professional journalists post extensively on social media, to build and expand the audience for their work.

I've therefore assigned you to make at least one social media post per day. The post should be accompanied by a strong visual, ideally your own photo or video.

You may post on 1) X 2) Instagram or 3) Facebook, or all three (TikTok doesn't count for the purposes of this assignment).

Please always use the hashtag:

#assignmentbologna2024

AND TAG

@rutgerscomminfo

@rutgers_global_journalism

These may differ from the kinds of personal social media posts you routinely create and circulate.

Rather, posts should focus on your work, your observations, and your learning experiences.

What kinds of posts would be of most interest to other readers, or social media users? What unique discovery could you share?

Powerful illustrations – by convention, your own photos and videos – boost reader interest dramatically – so please be on the lookout for these.

At the end of the course, you'll be asked to turn in your two best social media posts.

The will be evaluated and graded, and will constitute 15 percent of your grade.

Provisional Schedule (subject to change!)

Thursday, June 6

Depart from the United States

Friday, June 7

10:15 a.m. Group flight arrives. After you exit customs, proceed to Caffè Bottega, on the ground floor of the airport arrivals building, immediately outside the arrival gate. A program representative carrying a “Global Journalism in Bologna, Italy” sign will meet you there.

If you are not taking the group flight: You should either plan to meet us at Caffè Bottega by 11 a.m., or take a taxi directly to your lodgings.

How to take a cab: Get into the back seat of the cab, hand the driver the address for the dorm, and insist he or she use the meter. The cost should be about €20 (about \$23), paid upon arrival. If you have trouble, or believe you are being overcharged, once you have arrived at the dorm, and before paying, go inside and ask a desk attendant to come speak to the driver.

11:15 a.m. (or after all on the group flight have gathered): Depart by bus or taxi for your lodgings. Check in.

2 p.m. Lunch on your own or in informal groups

Afternoon: Unpack, shop for basic food and living items.

4 p.m. Meet in front of the Bologna Welcome tourism office <https://www.bolognawelcome.com/en> in the Piazza Maggiore for an informal tour of the area and the university quarter, with Prof. D'Ambrosio and program organizer Prof. Luigi

Valeri. We'll stop for coffee at Antico Café, and later move on to an "apertivo" in the city, likely at Lab 16. Before departure, we'll make sure our WhatsApp group is set up, and ready to use.

Saturday, June 8

Breakfast at home

10:30 a.m. Meet in front of **The Museum of the History of Bologna** in the Palazzo Pepoli – a great introduction to the life and times of the city. We'll follow this with a stop at the city's iconic fountain and Statue of Neptune. (Museum address: Palazzo Pepoli, Via Castiglione, 8)

Lunch on your own

2 p.m. Orientation, and meeting your interpreters. Gather at our classroom for orientation, to meet your interpreters, and for some practice exercises.

Social media postings.

6:30 p.m. Welcome dinner -- venue TBA

Sunday, June 9

8:30 a.m. Breakfast on your own.

10 a.m. Meet in front of the Bologna Welcome office in the Piazza Maggiore, for a walk under the porticos to the Sanctuary of the Madonna of San Luca, where we'll enjoy a hilltop picnic (with a stop for gelato along the way).

Social media postings.

WEEK 1

Monday, June 10 The Project Begins

9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. **Italian Language and Culture** -- An introduction to Bologna

10:40 – 1 p.m. **International Reporting**

Welcome & course overview.

The work of the foreign correspondent. An overview of accomplishments, practices and advice of great foreign correspondents from and within Italy: Margaret Fuller, Luigi Barzini, Oriana Fallaci, Beppe Severgnini, John Hooper and Sylvia Poggoli.

How reporting in Italy differs from reporting in the United States. A discussion of similarities and differences in reporting styles. A brief comparison of media laws. A story from my own

experience. Ways to approach field reporting in Italy.

Social media postings.

1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Field reporting

Meet with your interpreters, and firm up your interview plans. Finalize story assignments and angles. Conduct warm-up interpretation exercises.

Tuesday, June 11

9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. **Italian Language and Culture** – 1. Meeting and greeting. 2. An overview of the history, politics, and cultural life of the city.

10:40-1 p.m. **International Reporting**

1. Story pursuit: Developing themes and angles most relevant to readers back home. Introducing some of the most common story forms used in international reporting: 1. trend 2. explainer 3. profile 4. breaking news

2. Using your five senses to report on a place, and to evoke it for readers who live far away. To write well, see well. Acquiring the camera eye. Finding and using telling detail.

In-class assignment: Pick a fascinating nearby street or shop and “take us there,” by using your five senses to describe the life, and action, you see. Tell us how the place looks, smells, sounds and feels – and why we might want (or not want) to visit. Return to classroom and write a 300-word story evoking that place and/or, depending on available time, bring it with you tomorrow.

Social media postings.

1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Field reporting

Meet with interpreters. Begin work on your stories.

We’ll visit a winery near Bologna tonight. Meet at 6 in front of the Bologna Welcome office.

Wednesday, June 12

9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. **Italian Language and Culture** – Key words and phrases

10:40 – 1 p.m.

International Reporting

The art of the interview. A discussion of interviewing strategies and techniques. Steps to preparing for interviews, and what to do when there's no time to prepare. The difference between a news and a profile interview. Pros, cons and uses of tape recorders.

Voice, quotes and dialogue. Making your story sing. Getting humans into your story. Optimal use of quotes & anecdotes. The effective finish.

Review place narratives from yesterday.

In-class reporting exercise: Interview a class partner about a life-changing moment. Write 3-6 paragraphs describing it, and bring the results to Monday's class. Each reporter should write his or her own piece.

2. A discussion of photography techniques. A briefing on how to caption and ID your photos.

Social media postings.

1 – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch on your own

2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Field reporting

Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment

7:00 p.m.

The Wagner Opera "Das Rheingold" is playing at the Teatro Comunale on June 12 and 13. We'll aim to get tickets for tonight.
<https://www.tcbo.it/eventi/das-rheingold/>

Thursday, June 13

Group reporting trip to Ravenna

7:30 a.m.

Have an early breakfast, then meet in front of the Bologna Welcome office. We'll walk together to the train station, and take the 9:05 train to Ravenna, where we'll visit the famous mosaics of the city, stroll along the street of the poets, sample the distinctive local cuisine and visit Dante's tomb. We'll return on the 17:47 or 18:47 train.

During our trip, your team will be assigned to:

1. Conduct one 15-minute interview with an English speaker (and summarize it)
2. Undertake a photo scavenger hunt, and file images of a) a beautiful scene b) an iconic image of the city c) an action shot d)

- something delicious
3. Bring these assignments to class on Tuesday (June 18)

Social media postings

Friday, June 14 through Sunday, June 16

FREE FOR TRAVEL within Italy, or touring the city

Students may not leave the country during the program.

WEEK 2

Monday, June 17

9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. **Italian Language and Culture** – numbers and directions

10:40 a.m. -1 p.m. **International Reporting**

1. Making your story sing.
2. Great beginnings: honing your ledes.
3. Dealing with reporting challenges: what issues have you encountered so far in the field?

Social media postings

1 p.m. -2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

2:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m. Field reporting

Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment

Tuesday, June 18

9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. **Italian Language and Culture** – typical expressions

10:40 a.m. -1 p.m. **International Reporting**

Structuring the international feature story. Handling context and, if necessary analysis. Inclusion of links, social media and visuals.

Discuss last week's life-changing moment exercise, and Ravenna interview and photo scavenger hunt assignments

Social media postings

1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Field reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment.

- 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Ideas Salon: Readings and Refreshments (location TBA)
- Discussion of “The Italians” and “Bella Figura:”
What can we learn from the perspectives of these writers?
- Questions for discussion:
1. How would you compare Hooper’s and Severgnini’s observations about the Italian character to your experiences here so far?
 2. What differences do you detect in the styles of American and Italian communication?
 3. How are you reporting differently here in Italy, than you might in the United States?

Wednesday, June 19

- 9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. **Italian Language and Culture** – Italian music
- 10:40 p.m. -1 p.m. **International Reporting**
Managing your international reporting career: where to find international reporting jobs, assignments and internships
- 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near school
- 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Field reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment.
Social media postings.
- 11:59 p.m. **Draft story packages due on Canvas.** I will comment, and return them to you with suggested revisions.

Thursday, June 20

- 9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. **Italian Language and Culture** --review
- 10:40 p.m. -1 p.m. **International Reporting**
Draft discussion and revision. Consultations with the faculty.
- 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near school
- 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Field reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment.
Social media postings.

Friday, June 21

- 9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. **Italian Language and Culture** – final exam

- 10:40 p.m. -1 p.m. **International Reporting**
 Story presentations (15 minutes per team)
- 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near school
- 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Home to pack.
- 6:30 p.m. Celebrate a job well done, with interpreters, faculty and friends
 Il Duca D'Amalfi
 Piazza de' Celestini, 2

Social media postings.

Revised final stories are due June 30, at 11:59 p.m.

Saturday, June 22 Group flight home

- 8 a.m. For those flying home: Meet in front of the Bologna Welcome office
 to be picked up by taxi (those taking the 11 a.m. group flight must be
 at the airport by 9 a.m.)

Group return flight info:

RETURN: JUNE 22 ITA Flight AZ 1314 leaves Guglielmo Marconi airport in Bologna, Italy at 11 a.m., and arrives at Rome's Fiumicino Airport at 12 p.m. Change planes, and depart on ITA AZ 610 at 3:10 p.m. to JFK. Flight 610 arrives at JFK at 6:55 p.m.

If not taking the group flight, or if you need to go to the airport at a different time:

You can take a taxi to the airport, for about €20, or \$23. Sit in the back seat, and insist the cabbie use his or her meter. If you have trouble, ask an airport official to intervene when you arrive. If you are taking a train to other parts of Italy, or Europe, bus #11 or bus #30 will take you from the dorm to the Bologna train station.

Buon Viaggio! Best of success in all that comes next!

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