

**“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

Practice Working as a Foreign Correspondent

Develop professional stories and video for your portfolio

Help create a web documentary about the city

**June 1 - June 29, 2017**

### Program Overview

*Benvenuti!* Get ready for an intensive month in one of the world’s greatest cities, where you’ll have a chance to practice working as a foreign correspondent.

Our challenge: to develop a web documentary about Bologna. This year’s theme will be **“People-Powered City.”**

Working from the European seat of the world-famous Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Affairs, in the heart of Bologna’s university district, students will be

organized into teams, and will have an opportunity to work on two different stories of their choosing.

You'll be invited to ask:

Who lives here?

What are residents thinking, dreaming and worrying about?

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

Classes will meet Monday through Thursday mornings, around three modules: 1) basic Italian; 2) international reporting; and 3) video storytelling.

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

During the last week of the program, you'll work one-on-one with the faculty to finalize your stories, and to assemble the web documentary.

Except for arrival weekend, devoted to orientation, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are free for travel within Italy. Please do not leave the country without clearing your plans with Prof. D'Ambrosio.

## Learning Outcomes

You'll learn about:

How to work as a foreign correspondent

How to navigate in Italian culture

How to work with an interpreter

How to tell stories through writing, photographs and video

How to work as a member of a team

What kinds of stories newspapers and digital publications want most

How to produce a web documentary

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

## The Faculty

**PROF. MARY D'AMBROSIO** (International reporting/program director)  
[mary.dambrosio@rutgers.edu](mailto:mary.dambrosio@rutgers.edu)

**PROF. KURT LANCASTER** (video storytelling) [kurtlancaster@gmail.com](mailto:kurtlancaster@gmail.com)

**LUIGI VALERI** (Program organizer) [luigi.valeri@gmail.com](mailto:luigi.valeri@gmail.com)

**CULTURA ITALIANA (TBA)** [info@culturaitaliana.it](mailto:info@culturaitaliana.it)

## **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 Ferrara and Ravenna, known for their palaces, artistic heritage and bike-friendly medieval lanes.

## **The Assignments**

Working in three-member teams, you’ll be assigned to two stories of your choice, and will develop them under the guidance of program faculty.

Each story should include 1) a reported and written piece of up to 1,000 words; 2) Several captioned photographs that tell a story, and 3) an audio slideshow or video component

You’ll read two books, and several articles. We’ll discuss these in class.

## **Books and Materials**

Please purchase, download and or bring the following materials:

### **Books**

1. Lancaster, Kurt, “Video Journalism for the Web: A Practical Introduction to Documentary Storytelling” (free PDF attached)

Have chapters 1-6 read by June 12

2. Barzini, Luigi, “The Italians” (any edition)

Have read by June 19

**Article Course Pack** (four short articles)

3. Please have these articles read by June 20.

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>

4. A small Italian-English dictionary, such as Langenscheidt's Universal Dictionary

5. When the multimedia segment of the program begins June 10, students must subscribe to Premiere for editing, at a cost \$20 for one month. Students with editing experience who prefer to use Final Cut Pro may choose that option (but the class training and lab will take place on Premiere). Prof. Lancaster will oversee the download and installation of the editing software on your laptop.

## Class Meeting Site and Times

Classes will meet at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies at:

Via del Belmeloro, 11  
Bologna

Getting from the dorm to class: Johns Hopkins is a 20-minute walk, or 10-15 minute bus ride, from your dorm. Bus 32 to Porto San Vitale is the fastest.

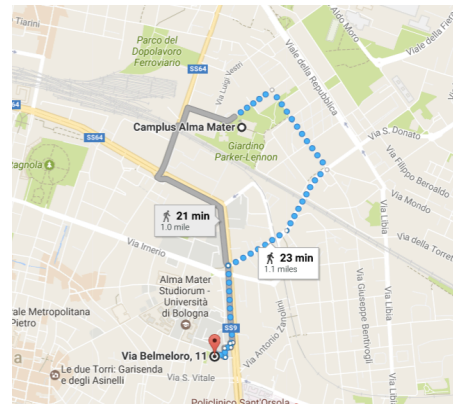
Classes will run Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 a.m. to about 1 p.m., and comprise three modules:

### **Italian Language and Culture (Cultura Italiana)**

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). What stories shall we cover in this region, and how? How reporting in Italy differs from reporting in the United States. Working under Italian press law. Interviewing techniques, and the most effective ways to connect with audiences back home. Feature story planning and execution. Working with interpreters.

**Multimedia Storytelling** (Prof. Kurt Lancaster) Introduction to video journalism, and one-on-one guidance and consulting for intermediate and advanced students. Shooting and interviewing techniques for videography. Editing in Adobe 6 Premiere. Instruction and workshop.



*Note: The first week will be devoted to intensive sessions in international reporting, and in the second week to intensive sessions in video storytelling. In the third and fourth week, students will participate in one-hour daily segments in each area.*

In the afternoons, you'll be out reporting your stories, typically with your team and your interpreters. Faculty members will rotate among student teams.

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

## The Rules

**Students registered for the Rutgers University course "04:567:453, "Topics in Journalism and Emerging Media: International Reporting" or the University of Jamestown course "COMM 490 Special Topics: International Reporting," must attend all classes, and are expected to complete all assignments.**

Registered 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 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 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

Half of your grade will be determined by your performance in the three modules (Italian 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 readings, participation and attendance)	50 percent
Web documentary project	50 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

## Provisional Schedule (subject to change!)

### Thursday, June 1

Depart from the U.S.

### Friday, June 2

**9:10 a.m. Group flight arrives.** After you exit customs, proceed to Tentazioni Café, on the ground floor of the airport arrivals building. 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 the airport by 10:30 a.m., or take a taxi directly to the dorm.

**How to take a cab:** Get into the back seat of the cab, hand the driver the address for the dorm, and insist he use his meter. The cost should be about €20 (about \$22), 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 dorm attendant to come speak to the driver.

**10:30 a.m.** (or after all on the group flight have gathered): Depart by bus for the dorm. Check in.

**1 p.m.** Lunch on your own or in informal groups

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

**4 p.m.** Optional: If you feel rested enough, meet in front of the dorm for an informal tour of the area and the university quarter (Prof. D’Ambrosio and Todd Waller)

### Saturday, June 3

**Breakfast** at the dorm

**10:30 a.m.** Go out to buy SIM cards for our local GSM flip phones. Meet in front of the dorm (Luigi Valeri).

**Lunch on your own**



captioning.

1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins

2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Field Reporting –

Meet with interpreters. Research and interviews on story #1. Go out on assignment.

### **Wednesday, June 7**

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

10:40– 12:40 p.m. International Reporting -- 1. Story pursuit: developing angles that interest readers back home. 2. Interviewing techniques and practice.

1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins

2:30 – 5:30 p.m. Field Reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment

5:30 p.m. City bike tour with Baja Bikes – meet at Via dell Indipendenza, 69  
<https://www.bajabikes.eu/en/bologna-bike-tour/#detail-calendar-content>

### **Thursday, June 8**

9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. NO ITALIAN CLASS TODAY

10:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. International Reporting – 1. Structuring the international feature story. 2. Writing compelling ledes. 3. Handling quotes, voices and dialogue.

Have read for Monday (June 12):

“Video Journalism for the Web: A Practical Introduction to Documentary Storytelling.”

1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins

2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Field Reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignments

### **Friday, June 9 through Sunday, June 11**

FREE FOR TRAVEL within Italy, or touring the city

See “Bologna Activities and Events,” on Sakai and in your packet

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## WEEK 2

### Monday, June 12

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

10:40 a.m. -1:10 p.m. Multimedia Storytelling

- Overview of documentary style video journalism (show examples).
- Developing a visual story (audio track and video track).
- Story: Character, conflict, and plot.
- The unanswered question.
- Overview of six components of a multimedia story (from Muse): Hook, Ask, Acceptance, Journey in overcoming hurdles, Answer, and Jab.
- Field Workshop 1: Working with audio. Take turns in recording ambient audio in the field. Recording interviews for story.

1:15 p.m. -2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins

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

Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment (video reporting begins). Do not shoot any video. Find potential stories with compelling characters (multimedia component of Story #2). As you work on your story, record an interview of a potential subject with clear and strong audio. Take note of compelling sound bites and transcribe them. Try to get two good sound bites and ambient sound.

### Tuesday, June 13

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

10:40 a.m. -1:10 p.m. Multimedia Storytelling

- Discuss potential characters for multimedia component of Story #2 (refer to transcriptions for potentially strong sound bites for a story).
- Listen to field recordings for quality of the recording.
- Canon 60D technical overview.
- Field Workshop 2: Recording visuals with composition, depth, and natural light; depth of field
- Field Workshop 3: Use natural light during interviews (backlight: using the sun when outdoors; side light: using windows while inside).

1:15 p.m. -2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins

2:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m. Field reporting --Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment. Shoot a variety of detailed shots at one location and record one brief interview of a potential subject for multimedia component of Story #2.

### Wednesday, June 14

9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. Italian Language and Culture – Italian music

10:40 p.m. -1:10 p.m. Multimedia Storytelling

- Screen footage of what you shot.
- Field Workshop 4: Observing reality; observing behavior
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1:15 p.m. -2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins

2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Field reporting

Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment. As part of the reporting assignment, use no interviews on video, shoot the behavior of your potential subject doing an activity in one location for the multimedia component of Story #2. Also, record detailed shots of behavior and the environment they're in. Finalize draft transcripts for compelling sound bites for tomorrow's class.

5:30 p.m. Foodie walk (details TBA) and visit to Bologna Photographed (sottopasso of Piazza Re Enzo, near the Piazza Maggiore <https://festival.ilcinemaitrovato.it/bologna-fotografata/>)

## Thursday, June 15

## BEGIN STORY #2

### Dr. Regina Marchi arrives

9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. Italian Language and Culture – Italian architecture

10:40 a.m.– 1:10 p.m. Multimedia Storytelling

- Overview of editing: input your audio and video materials into your editing software.
- Develop the audio track for the strongest sound bites, creating the underlying story structure. Can you begin to identify a hook, ask, acceptance, journey, answer, and jab? Take note of missing elements and collect them during field reporting.
- Develop a visual track—pull the audience in with compelling, cinematic shots. Take note of missing visuals and record them during field reporting.
- Overview of preproduction to finalize the story. Preproduction paperwork due on June 19.

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins

2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Field Reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment. Shoot a variety of detailed shots at one location and record one brief interview of a potential subject for multimedia component of Story #2.

## Friday, June 16 through Sunday, June 18

FREE FOR TRAVEL within Italy, or touring the city

See “Bologna Activities and Events,” on Sakai and in your packet

Students should not leave the country during the program without clearing their departure with Prof. D'Ambrosio

**WEEK 3****Monday, June 19**

- 9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. Italian Language and Culture – cross-cultural communication
- 10:40 a.m.-11:40 a.m. International reporting – Discussion of “The Italians”  
 Questions for discussion:  
 1. How would you compare some of Barzini’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 in Italy, than you might in the United States?
- 11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. Multimedia Storytelling:  
 Present preproduction pitches
- 1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins
- 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Field Reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment

**Tuesday, June 20**

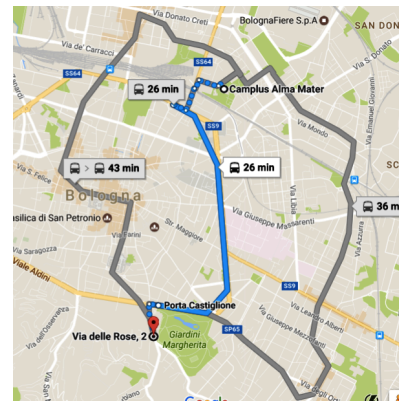
- 9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. Italian Language and Culture – cultural practices
- 10:40 a.m.– 11:40 International reporting – Navigating reporting challenges. Discussion of course pack readings about international reporting.
- 11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. Multimedia Storytelling  
 Discuss production issues; review technical use of camera and settings.  
 Screen any footage for critique.
- 1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins
- 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Field Reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment
- 8 p.m. Lucia de Lammermoor – opera at Bologna’s Teatro Comunale, Largo Respighi, 1. Meet at the theater.  
<http://agenda.comune.bologna.it/cultura/lucia-di-lammermoor>

**Wednesday, June 21****Dr. Jack Bratich arrives**

- 9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. Italian Language and Culture – practice and review
- 10:40 a.m.– 11:40 a.m. International reporting – Guest speaker: Dr. Regina Marchi.

- 11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. Multimedia Reporting -- Discuss production issues; review technical use of camera and settings.
- Screen any footage for critique.

- 1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins
- 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Field Reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment
- 8 p.m. Party at Prof. D'Ambrosio's house.  
Via delle Rose 58/2  
Take Bus 32 to Porta Castiglione



### Thursday, June 22

- 9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. Italian Language and Culture – practice and review
- 10:40 a.m.–11:40 p.m. International reporting -- Guest speaker: Dr. Jack Bratich
- 11:50 p.m. –12:50 p.m. Multimedia Storytelling-- Discuss production issues; review technical use of camera and settings.  
Screen any footage for critique (the professor will go into the field to help with each team, as needed)
- 1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins
- 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment  
Get intern stories into shape

### Friday, June 23 through Sunday, June 25

FREE FOR TRAVEL within Italy, or touring the city

See “Bologna Activities and Events,” on Sakai and in your packet

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## WEEK 4

### Monday, June 26

#### Dr. Regina Marchi departs

- 9:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. Italian Language and Culture – key grammar points
- 10:40- 11:40 a.m. International reporting – Where to find international reporting jobs, assignments and internships

- 11:40 – 12:10 p.m. Quick lunch break
- 12:10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Working one-on-one with your editors to  
 1) finalize written stories  
 2) complete video/photo editing  
 3) develop a rough cut  
 4) develop a final cut
- 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Field Reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment  
 Edit stories into final form

### **Tuesday, June 27**

- 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Italian Language and Culture – course review
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. Working one-on-one with your editors to 1) finalize written stories 2) complete video/photo editing with revisions
- 12:40 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own near Hopkins
- 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Field Reporting -- Meet with interpreters; go out on assignment

### **Wednesday, June 28**

- 9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Italian Language and Culture
- 10:40 -- 12:40 p.m. Team story presentations
- Afternoon Home to pack
- 7 p.m. Goodbye dinner – location TBA

### **Thursday, June 29**

7 a.m. Gather in front of the dorm to be picked up by airport bus (those taking the 10:05 a.m. group flight should be at the airport by 8)

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 \$22. Sit in the back seat, and insist the cabbie use his 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, buses #33 or #21 will take you from the dorm to the Bologna train station.

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

