Reporting Live Capstone
UNST 421-SEA
Spring 2015

Instructor: Kate Kangas
Phone: 503-438-5702
Email: kangask@pdx.edu
Online office hours: M and W, 9-11am, or by appointment
Teaching Assistant: Anna Snook

Course Description:
Reporting Live is a capstone course connecting local middle school classrooms with study abroad students via interactive blogs. The course is grounded in peace journalism, engaged pedagogy, and intercultural competence theory, and consists of three main components: ten weeks of blogging, online coursework, and a final celebration in which students visit their assigned classroom in person upon re-entry (or online if still abroad).

Course Objectives:
● To support local middle school teachers by facilitating learning and growth around the topics of geography, world history, culture, and storytelling via interactive blog.

● To explore the role and value of story finding and telling as a classroom reporter, and also more generally, as a study abroad student, traveler, and citizen of the world.

● To support the study abroad experience and to maximize student learning by creating a vibrant online community through regular, respectful, and thoughtful participation in readings, reflections, and discussion.

● To identify and analyze how the University Studies’ goals (critical thinking, communication, the diversity of human experience, and ethics and social responsibility) connect and contribute to the Reporting Live blog project.

Course Content and Grading
● Pre-term prep 5%
● Blogging assignments and secondary posting 60%
● Reading, reflection, and responses 25%
● Final celebration 10%

Pre-term prep
You are expected to do two things before the start of spring term: 1) Connect with your assigned middle school teacher, either by phone or in person, to discuss the details of your Reporting Live partnership, and 2) Personalize your Wordpress blog, which includes
uploading a custom header photograph, and updating the About page.

*Blogging assignments – Due every Monday by 7am (PST) for ten weeks*

*Secondary posting – Due every Friday by midnight (PST) for ten weeks*

Minimum requirements for blogging include one substantive post (see “Reporting Live Assignments” document for details) and at least 15-30 minutes of secondary posting every week. Secondary posting must consist of one “Photo of the Week” post, and should also include responding to middle school student questions and comments when applicable.

*Reading, reflection and responses – Due every Friday by midnight (PST) for ten weeks*

In addition to maintaining Reporting Live blogs, you are expected to participate in the D2L online forum, where you will be reading, reflecting, and responding to one another - a reflexive process designed to support and complement your experience abroad.

Every week, you will be expected to post a thoughtful reflection in response to a selected reading or video by Friday. Links and prompts will be located in the Course Content section of the D2L site. You will have one week to read through each other’s reflections and provide feedback to at least two other students. Also, there will be a space for you to post a link to your latest blog assignment. You are required to give blog feedback to at least one other student weekly. See “Reporting Live Online Forum Guidelines” for further instruction.

*Final celebration – Due at the end of the term. Exact date is to be arranged by the study abroad student and his or her assigned middle school teacher.*

The final celebration is an opportunity for you to visit your middle school classroom upon re-entry. This face-to-face assembly brings closure to the journey, and allows for final questions and group reflection. Regional music, dance, food or a cultural activity might be incorporated into this final gathering, as well as a review of the Reporting Live blog and perhaps additional sharing of poetry, artwork, a play, or research essays prepared by the class. I am happy to give ideas and feedback as you prepare for this event, however you and your middle school teacher are ultimately responsible for working out the specific details. You are expected to provide documentation of the final celebration in your last blog entry. Note: Those of you still out of the country the final week of term will need to conduct the final celebration remotely using Skype or Google Hangout. We will discuss the particulars on D2L.

*Final Grading Scale*

93-100% A, 90-92% A-, 87-89% B+, 83-86% B, 80-82% B-, 77-79% C+, 73-76% C, 70-72% C-, 67-69% D+, 63-66% D, 60-62% D-, <60% F.

*Late Work Policy*

I do not accept late work unless an alternate arrangement has been discussed previous to the assignment deadline. Please contact me in advance if you foresee late submission. Grace periods will be granted at my discretion according to individual circumstance, and are not
guaranteed.

**PSU Code of Conduct**
It is strongly encouraged that you read the Student Conduct Code (see http://www.pdx.edu/dos/conduct.html). It details your rights and responsibilities as a student and as a member of Portland State Community.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students with accommodations approved through the DRC are responsible for contacting the course instructor prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through the DRC should contact the DRC immediately (see http://www.drc.pdx.edu/).