



International  
Labour  
Organization



Asian Institute of Journalism  
and Communication

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# **REPORTING ON LABOR MIGRATION**

<https://aijc.com.ph/course-syllabus-reporting-on-labor-migration/>

**COURSE TITLE:** Reporting on Labor Migration

**COURSE UNITS:** Three (3)

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** Journalism Practices and Principles; News Reporting and Writing

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course will inform and educate journalism students on labor migration, help them generate story ideas, and enable them to report and write/produce news stories that uphold professional and ethical standards of journalism. It will introduce students to international instruments and national laws for the protection of labor migrants and familiarize them with guidelines on labor migration reporting.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Report and write/produce news stories accurately, adequately and with fairness on migrant workers and their rights, as protected by international instruments and national laws
2. Give voice to the stories and perspectives of migrant workers and their families
3. Apply professional and ethical journalism principles in reporting and writing/producing news stories on labor migration
4. Employ knowledge and skills in reporting that contributes to informed debate on labor migration, at a local, national or global level

**COURSE METHODOLOGY:**

The course will use a combination of lecture-discussions, guest lectures by migration journalists and migration experts, video presentations, individual writing exercises, group exercises, and field work with course-relevant outputs. Digital and online activities may be added for blended teaching-learning, including consultations. The teacher will act as facilitator and collaborator of an interactive and participatory teaching-learning process.

For completely remote teaching-learning, if the situation so warrants, a learning management system (LMS) will have to be provided by the school. The LMS will be used to host course materials, share supplementary resources, communicate formally with students, and receive student assignments. Synchronous and asynchronous sessions will be held.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

<p>Week 1</p>	<p><b>Introduction:</b>  <b>Role and responsibilities of media in reporting on labor migration issues</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give adequate media coverage since labor migration is a relevant social phenomenon</li> <li>Recognize that reporting on migration presents difficulties in sourcing information</li> <li>Expose the truth about migrants without causing unnecessary harm to them</li> <li>Strike a balance of perspectives, between those of migrants and those of local communities or countries of destination</li> <li>Avoid sensationalism, stereotyping, generalizations, underreporting</li> <li>Observe fundamental principles of journalism, including seeking the truth, acting independently, avoiding harm, pursuing transparency and engaging the community</li> </ol> <p><b>ILO toolkit on forced labour and fair recruitment - Introduction</b>  <a href="https://readymag.com/ITCILO/1292461/">https://readymag.com/ITCILO/1292461/</a></p>
<p>Weeks          2 &amp; 3</p>	<p><b>General overview of labor migration</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facts, figures and trends of labor migration</li> <li>Key definitions and basic concepts related to labor migration, including definition of “decent work”</li> <li>Opportunities and challenges of labor migration</li> <li>The recruitment process</li> <li>Other forms of contemporary migration (e.g., forced migration, irregular migration, climate change induced migration), including human trafficking</li> </ol> <p><b>ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers – Results and Methodology</b>  <a href="https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_652029/lang--en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_652029/lang--en/index.htm</a></p> <p><b>Panos Europe Institute and UNAOC (2014), Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration.</b>  <a href="https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_310235/lang--en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_310235/lang--en/index.htm</a></p> <p><b>General principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment and definition of recruitment fees and related costs</b>  <a href="https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/WCMS_536755/lang--en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/WCMS_536755/lang--en/index.htm</a></p>
<p>Weeks          4 &amp; 5</p>	<p><b>Rights-based approach to labor migration</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The international legal framework</li> <li>The national legal framework</li> <li>Most common violations</li> </ol> <p><b>Timeline of International Labour instruments</b>  <a href="https://h5p.org/h5p/embed/285832">https://h5p.org/h5p/embed/285832</a></p> <p><b>National legal framework/policies</b></p>

	<p><a href="https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11110:0::NO:11110:P11110_COUNTRY_ID:102970">https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11110:0::NO:11110:P11110_COUNTRY_ID:102970</a></p>
Weeks 6 & 7	<p><b>The economics of migration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The economic agents of labor migration: migrants, employers, recruiters, intermediaries</li> <li>b. The economic impact of labor migration: remittances, migration and development</li> <li>c. A sectoral approach to labor migration, overview of the main activities related to labor migration: construction, fishing, domestic work, agriculture, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development</b>  <a href="https://www.knomad.org/">https://www.knomad.org/</a></p>
Week 8	<p><b>Labor migration and society</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Labor migration in culture and the arts</li> <li>b. Social and political impact of migration</li> </ul>
Week 9	<p><b>Introduction to labor migration reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identifying good and bad practices in current labor migration reporting</li> <li>b. Ethical journalism and recommendations from the field</li> </ul> <p><b>ILO (2018). <i>Fair Perspective: Stories of Filipino Migrant Workers in the Media.</i></b>  <a href="https://bit.ly/2GmXDGW">https://bit.ly/2GmXDGW</a></p> <p><b>5 principles of ethical journalism</b>  <a href="https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/who-we-are/5-principles-of-journalism">https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/who-we-are/5-principles-of-journalism</a></p>
Weeks 10 & 11	<p><b>Finding a story on labor migration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Getting prepared</li> <li>b. Do's and don'ts in doing research</li> <li>c. Story ideas</li> </ul> <p><b>ILO toolkit on forced labour and fair recruitment – Finding the story</b>  <a href="https://readymag.com/ITCILO/finding-the-story/">https://readymag.com/ITCILO/finding-the-story/</a></p>
Weeks 12-14	<p><b>Getting the story</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Working with sources of information (survivors, stakeholders, abusers)</li> <li>b. Resources: documents and statistics</li> <li>c. Safety and security</li> <li>d. Reporting on sensitive issues: forced labor, child labor and human trafficking</li> </ul> <p><b>ILO toolkit on forced labour and fair recruitment – Getting the story</b>  <a href="https://readymag.com/ITCILO/getting-the-story/">https://readymag.com/ITCILO/getting-the-story/</a></p>

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	<p><b>DART center for journalism and trauma</b> - <a href="https://dartcenter.org/">https://dartcenter.org/</a></p> <p><b>IFJ Safety mission</b> - <a href="https://www.ifj.org/what/safety.html">https://www.ifj.org/what/safety.html</a></p>
Week 15	<p><b>Visual journalism</b></p> <p>a. Photography in labor migration          b. Videography in labor migration          c. Other graphical tools, e.g., typography, illustrations, cartoons, maps, infographics</p>
Week 16 & 17	<p><b>Telling the story</b></p> <p>a. Choosing your medium/platform          b. Writing/producing your story          c. Editing your work          d. Collaborating with others covering the same beat</p> <p><b>ILO toolkit on forced labour and fair recruitment – Telling the story</b>  <a href="https://readymag.com/ITCILO/telling-the-story/">https://readymag.com/ITCILO/telling-the-story/</a></p>
Week 18	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>a. Course synthesis          b. Submission of Final Course Outputs and Course Assessment</p>

**COURSE ASSESSMENT:**

Class participation and attendance	10%
In-class and take-home tasks	20%
<p>Midterm requirement:            Paper on the rights-based approach to labor migration.</p> <p>The paper should describe and discuss the key principles and major provisions (international and national) on the rights of labor migrants, and relate these concepts to the responsibilities and challenges of the news media in reporting on labor migration.</p> <p>Length of paper: 1,500 – 2,000 words</p>	30%
<p>Final output:            News report on OFWs and the challenges they face</p> <p>Grading Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of critical understanding of concepts and principles of labor migration and professional and ethical reporting</li> <li>Provision of context</li> <li>Ability to relate course lessons with real-life scenarios</li> <li>Extent of research</li> </ul>	40%

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Credibility/reliability of information sources</li><li>• Quality of copy</li></ul> <p>Length of story: 1,200 – 2,000 words</p>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## KEY RESOURCES:

Ethical Journalism Network. (2016). Five Point Guide for Migration Reporting [Infographic]. Author. <https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/resources/infographics/ethical-guidelines-on-migration-reporting>.

General principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment and definition of recruitment fees and related costs. [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/WCMS\\_536755/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/WCMS_536755/lang--en/index.htm)

International Labour Organization. (1996-2018). Reporting on Forced Labour and Fair Recruitment: An ILO Toolkit for Journalists. <https://bit.ly/3d4I2Ja>

International Labour Organization. (2018). *Fair Perspective: Stories of Filipino Migrant Workers in the Media*. International Labour Organization. <https://bit.ly/2GmXDGW>

Panos Europe Institute and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. (2014). *Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration*. Panos Europe Institute and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS\\_310235/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_310235/lang--en/index.htm)

## STATISTICS AND TOOLS FOR MIGRATION REPORTING:

Accountable Journalism Database

The largest resource of international codes of media ethics in the world.

<https://accountablejournalism.org/ethics-codes#:~:text=The%20Accountable%20Journalism%20database%20compiles,created%20or%20updated%20and%20country.>

Big Data for Migration

<https://data4migration.org>

Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

<https://dartcenter.org>

Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development

<https://www.knomad.org>

GIJN - Migration Reporting: Guidelines and Assessment

<https://gijn.org/migration-reporting-guidelines-assessment/>

Global Internal Displacement Database

<https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>

Global Migration Data Analysis Centre

<https://gmdac.iom.int>

IFJ Gender Equality

<https://www.ifj.org/what/gender-equality.html>

IFJ Safety Mission

<https://www.ifj.org/what/safety.html>

Journal of International Migration and Integration (JIMI)

<https://www.springer.com/journal/12134>

Migration Data Portal

<https://migrationdataportal.org/>

Migration Governance Indicators

<https://gmdac.iom.int/migration-governance-indicators>

Recruitment Advisor - a global recruitment and employment platform with information on workers' rights and recruitment agencies

<https://www.recruitmentadvisor.org>

The 100 Questions Initiative - a tool developed by migrants and other communities to start asking the most important questions on migration, gender, etc. that can lead to transformative change.

<https://migration.the100questions.org>

The Pyramid of Journalism Competence: What Journalists Need to Know

<https://www.poynter.org/reporting-editing/2014/the-pyramid-of-journalism-competence-what-journalists-need-to-know/>

The Irina Project

<http://www.theirinaproject.org>



#### OTHER RESOURCES ON MIGRATION REPORTING:

Abu-Fadil, M. (2019). *Migration and Media: A Journalist's Handbook*. International Centre for Migration Policy Development. <https://openmediahub.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Migration-and-Media-A-Journalists-Handbook.pdf>

Bryant, Heather. (2020). *Collaborative Journalism Handbook*. Center for Cooperative Media. <https://www.collaborativejournalismhandbook.org/building-a-tool-set-for-journalism-collaborations/>

International Organization for Migration. (2019). *Glossary on Migration*. International Organization for Migration. [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml\\_34\\_glossary.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf)

Meli, A. (2012). *Guidelines for the Application of the Rome Charter: A Working Tool for Accurate Media Coverage on Migration and Asylum*. Federazione Nazionale della Stampa Italiana (Italian National Press Federation). <https://www.cartadiroma.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Guidelines-English.pdf>

Minority Rights Group International. (2020). *Covering Migration: Tools and Resources for Quality Migration Coverage*. European Union. <https://coveringmigration.com/>

National Association of Hispanic Journalists. (2020). *Cultural Competence Handbook*. National Association of Hispanic Journalists. <https://nahj.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NAHJ-Cultural-Competence-Handbook.pdf>

Respect Words Project (Ed). (2017). *Reporting on Migration & Minorities: Approach and Guidelines*. Ethical Journalism Against Hate Speech. <https://www.respectwords.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Reporting-on-Migration-and-Minorities..pdf>