Whether it be media coverage of the controversy over racial imbalance of the Academy Awards or an immigration march in downtown Denver, or campus newspaper articles about transgendered students, or health organizations with a blog about intercultural health issues between doctors and immigrant or refugee patients, cultural and intercultural communication understanding and skills are vital today for journalists, media producers and writers.

This ranges from multicultural issues related to gender, race/ethnicity, class, and sexuality, to disabilities, religion, and nationality, to name a few. Globalization has created more opportunities for intercultural exchange and dialogues, but also presents challenges ranging from intercultural misunderstanding to conflict including armed conflict and war. The media and journalists play a vital role in these dynamics, either by promoting intercultural understanding or fueling discrimination and stereotypes.

So a primary focus of this class is to explore issues of culture and intercultural communication and apply these to journalistic writing as a creative process and craft. This will enable you to find and develop your own “voice” as a multicultural writer and journalist through a variety of creative exercises and writing assignments.

Basic expectations of students taking this journalism class

Students who take this course are expected to have prior journalistic coursework (e.g., MFJS 2140: Newswriting & reporting at DU), or its equivalent (including writing experience), but those with less/no journalistic or media experience will be provided with supplemental introductory material. All students will be provided with material to refresh their knowledge and skills. Course is 4 credits.

For more information, contact Margie Thompson (mthompso@du.edu).