**JMB020/21 SEMINAR K AKTUALITAM A/B CONTEMPORARY ISSUES A/B**

**Mondays 14:00- 15:20, Online at Zoom link** [https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/94614661900](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/94614661900&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1602396171150000&usg=AOvVaw0mRh62eMcZ8D5FRrXykjUn)

**CONTACT INFORMATION AND OFFICE HOURS**

**Lecturer:** Pamela Cotte M.A. [pamela.cotte@fsv.cuni.cz](mailto:pamela.cotte@fsv.cuni.cz)

**Office hours:** online; please email to arrange; by request it is often possible to discuss topics or issues with students before or after the Monday lessons

**CLASS ORGANIZATION**

**First part (50 minutes) - detailed analysis of a topic in current affairs**

10 minutes – expert presentation

5-10 minutes- opponent’s critique and questions for the expert

20-25 minutes – open discussion

3-5 minutes - formal critique

**Second part (30 minutes) - week in review**

10-15 minutes for each of the 2 events

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**See details below.**

**1 Carry out all four roles**

Expert presentation role

Opponent role

Formal critique role

Week in review role

**2 Attendance**

**3 Active participation in the lesson discussions**

**4 Final paper**

**ROLES AND DUTIES**

**Expert presentation:** Based on the topics listed in the schedule, you will be responsible for preparing a 10 minute presentation which will be the basis of class discussion. You will also be responsible for leading the open discussion part of the class.

The presentation should provide a deep analysis of the given topic. Do not simply tell us what we already know. For this you will need to consult a minimum of 12 sources, from a variety of different perspectives and topics. You also need to make an argument. Do not just summarize the topic. You need to say something which is possible to either agree or disagree with. Once you have prepared your presentation, test yourself using this question: Can someone agree or disagree with what I have just said? If that is not possible, you need to refine your thesis/argument.

The presenter will:

* Prepare and deliver the 10 MINUTE presentation. The presentation will include background and contextual explanation of the topic, the argument you are making and the supporting reasoning behind your argument. It is very important that your presentation is not longer than 10 minutes.

(For information on structuring your presentation, please see the handout: 2\_Structure\_Presentats\_Papers)

* **Prepare a one to two page position paper which will be sent by Friday 9:00 am to me. I will put it in the folder on Moodle with the date of the lesson in which you will be presenting so the opponent and class can access it.** The position paper should focus only on the argument and supporting your reasoning, not the background data and material. It is mainly for the opponent and instructor so you can assume the reader is familiar with the background and context of the topic. It should be written in essay format.

(For information on structuring your position paper, please see the handout: 2\_Structure\_Presentats\_Papers)

* Prepare a bibliography with a minimum of 12 sources which should be sent along with the position paper.
* Prepare questions for the class discussion. Please work hard on these questions. Good questions are not easy to formulate. Remember that they should be open ended (not yes or no) and should be interesting enough that others will want to answer them.

**Opponent:** The opponent’s role is to provide an alternative viewpoint. You will receive the presenter’s position paper on Friday afternoon, but I would advise you to start independently researching the topic beforehand.

The opponent will:

* Prepare and deliver a 5-8 minute critique and alternative viewpoint to the argument made by the presenter. For this role, you need to disagree no matter what your personal opinion on the topic.
* Prepare two difficult questions for the presenter.

**Formal critique**: Your job is to watch, listen to and observe the presenter’s formal presentation style and to provide the presenter with valuable feedback. That means that your feedback cannot be only positive. You should try to find several positive parts of the presentation, but at least one thing that the person should work on. You can be given a copy of the attached guide to structure your comments and see what to look for http://www.brunel.ac.uk/learnhigher/giving-oral-presentations/Assessing\_Oral\_Presentations.pdf.

The formal critique will:

* Provide a brief critique of the formal elements of the presentation, including both strengths and weaknesses.

**Week in review:** Your job is to lead a discussion on the 2 most interesting current events that occurred in the past week. Notice that I say interesting, not important. You might decide that they coincide but they do not need to. Try to choose events that will be good for discussion. For each of the three events you will begin with a brief summary, then pose your questions and lead the discussion. We will spend 10-15 minutes on each event.

The week in review will:

* Prepare a brief 2-3 minute summary of the 2 most interesting current events of the past week.
* Prepare 1-2 questions for discussion on each of the 2 events. Keep in mind the point on formulating questions in the Expert Presentation role above.
* Lead an open class discussion.

**Final paper**

An 8-page paper (1 standard page = 1800 characters with spaces) must be submitted by each student by 22 January 2021. This should be an argumentative essay expanding on your position paper, clearly stating your main argument and supporting arguments and supporting each argument with concrete evidence and examples. All information which is not your own should be clearly referenced.

(For information on structuring your paper, please see the handout: 2\_Structure\_Presentats\_Papers)

(If you do not already have a referencing system you prefer, the handout Resource\_in\_Text\_References may be useful.)

**TOPICS:**

To be agreed with the group.