

Ben Kahn: Welcome to the UP Tech Talk podcast, coming to from the academic, multimedia studio, on the University of Portland campus, produced by Academic Technology Services.

Welcome to the UP Tech Talk podcast, where we explore the use of technology in the classroom, one conversation at a time. This is Ben Kahn. Today I'm joined by my co-host, Maria Erb. Hello, Maria.

Maria Erb: Hey, Ben.

Ben Kahn: Today we're happy to have with us, in the studio, Hala Jadid al Kash, who's a professor with IES and she teaches out of Granada, Spain. Thanks for joining us, Hala.

Hala Jadid: Thank you so much. Hi, Ben. Hi, Maria.

Maria Erb: Nice to have you here.

Hala Jadid: [inaudible 00:00:50]

Ben Kahn: We're really happy to have you on campus to share your perspective with our community and for our students to have ... Some of our students, at least, to have the chance to come over and learn from you abroad. We wanted to talk a little bit, you cover some very important, crucial and very interesting topics in your teaching and it has a lot to do with international affairs, with the Arab Spring, and with the ongoing humanitarian crisis out of Syria. Since we're a technology podcast, we wanted to talk a little bit about the role that technology plays in helping us understand and empower and act on some of these humanitarian crisis's.

Specifically going off of social media, can you talk a little bit about the role that you see social media playing in your practice as a teacher?

Hala Jadid: Yes. Actually, I work in ES, in IS, in Granada. It's a program that they have offices in all over the world. Our office in Granada, because Granada also, in Spain, it's very emblematic city and it has the mix between the Islamic heritage and now the West. In our program, we decide to do this because we find it very important now. You see, also because it's part of my PhD dissertation so we try to prepare all this courses very well, to do it on the best way that maybe the American student that we receive can accept it, you see? And can understand it because also it's a very big issue. It's not easy to understand it in the three months, but at least we try to give them the tools to find out later, by themselves, or in their origin university, to do more research about this. This is ... It's happen. I mean, all the student that we have, when they go back to their school, to their universities, they keep in touch with all the people that they know during the course and they update the information. Some of them, they do presentation about what they did in Granada so they get really involved in this.

I can see that we're a [inaudible 00:03:12] in this because all this other IS program, we're the first. I mean, the first program that they do this. We find it very important and very recent, very-

Need Help? <mailto:support@rev.com>

[Get this transcript](#) in a paragraph format

Ben Kahn: Current.

Maria Erb: Current.

Hala Jadid: Very current.

Maria Erb: When your students keep in touch with each other, are they using social media to do that?

Hala Jadid: Yeah.

Maria Erb: Primarily? Is it Facebook usually or Twitter. How are they-

Hala Jadid: Yeah.

Maria Erb: What are they using?

Hala Jadid: We try, at the beginning, to explain to the student that this is ... I mean, all what's happened in the Arab world, okay? We try to explain something very important that this is not Facebook revolution and not Twitter revolution, but also, Twitter, all the social media that you mention, it's very helpful. It's help all this people, the revolutionary people, to spread the voice, to get the message to all the world, because nobody knows what happen there inside, because many of the government, they cut all the kind of connection with the journalist, all the media. They always portray their opinion or their point of view. You see their version so this is not enough. That's why social media help this people to spread the voice to portray the image that this people wants to portray to the West, or to the world actually.

In the class, also, the student, they use it a lot to connect with this people, to the Facebook. They look for bloggers or people they write about this system about what's happened and they connect with them. I support them with emails and websites and all this to be able to connect. Also, they have to find the news. The news, they have to use the internet, they have to use newspaper, electronic newspaper. Also, I supply them with all the [inaudible 00:05:19], all the links that they can find the news and they find it. They study it. They analyze it and they explain it in class.

Maria Erb: The Arab Spring was sort of one of the very major issues that kind of made Twitter kind of rise to the forefront of being accepted as a platform for sharing authentic experiences, right? And on the ground experiences. I'm just wondering, since you're trying to help your students to really understand what is going on, how do you teach them to evaluate what's coming out of social media? How do you teach them to look for what's valid and what's authentic?

Hala Jadid: Actually, they find this by themselves. You can ... Yeah, believe it or not, because we analyze the title. I mean, the headline, that they have is from the news. Slowly, they discover, by themselves, oh, hold on, this headline, it's not the same that ... For example, one title of the news in Syria that explaining something and the same, they explain it in

other country in a different way, so they see, inside the class, they see the [inaudible 00:06:35] between two news, and for the same even. This, for them, was very new, I see. Oh, this is new. We're learning now how to compare, at least, between the news. Also, when they connect with the people inside, because it's not the same, the view inside and outside. When they connect with people inside, also they have a bigger view of all what's happened. The way to connect with the people inside, it's this tools, what we say, the social media, Facebook or Twitter. Usually, they use Facebook.

Actually, we already, at the very beginning of the course, we open Facebook, a secret group, you see, for us to share all the information, all the [inaudible 00:07:22] for example. Meanwhile, they are searching for information, maybe they can find a very interesting video, so they put it in our web. I mean, in our Facebook page and they post it. This is very helpful, so for all the class.

Ben Kahn: It sounds like it's really, not only a connection point to voices that are not being represented in the traditional old-media from inside these countries, but also, as another connection point between students, even after they continue on from the class and go home.

Hala Jadid: Yeah.

Ben Kahn: It's not just ... When you have the traditional media giving their one story and then there's thousands of people on the ground with ... They're telling another story and their voices kind of combine together to re-enforce this point of, hey, this is real. This is actually happening.

Maria Erb: I'm just wondering if your students find it kind of overwhelming to try to piece together what's really going on from all these sources that they have to look at now?

Hala Jadid: Yes. They find this at the very beginning, so I try to say, "Okay. Don't worry. Calm down. We're trying now. I mean, you're not going to understand every, single thing that happened there. At least we start." For me, to start this, it's very important, you see. Also, I want to mention, also, that in classes, we have, we did, this morning, here in Portland, we have Skype meeting also with expert. Once we had, for example, meeting with the [inaudible 00:08:53] News and the News Director in [inaudible 00:08:59]. He's very important. I mean, he is who many [inaudible 00:09:07] the news that we should know. So they ask him a lot of question. It was very interesting. They ask him a lot of question about, "Is it true what ..." [inaudible 00:09:18] is one of the most famous media in the Arab world. They ask him if it's real what they hear from [inaudible 00:09:26] they manipulated the news or they leave it just like this. That was very interesting. This kind of Skype meeting, it's really helpful for the student also.

Maria Erb: You do that once a week, did you say?

Hala Jadid: The Skype meeting, we have four Skype meeting program, four for the course, you see, because it's not easy, also, to arrange it all for [inaudible 00:09:53] he's not available all the time, so if we can catch him, we find ... Yeah, we do also, presentation, you see? All

the student, they do presentation. They have to do four presentation during the course. Studying one case, for example, one case of our program, like woman and revolution. This is very important subject. Also, one very important something. The consequences of all what's happen now because nowadays, we hear a lot about [inaudible 00:10:28] and terrorism and what about Islam, Islamist? All this confusion, we try to analyze it also in class. As a consequences of all the what's happen in the Arab world.

Ben Kahn: Okay. We're almost out of time, Hala. Thank you for joining us.

Hala Jadid: Thank you.

Ben Kahn: I wanted to close with just asking if you'd like to share how people can get in touch with you using the social media to find out more or find out if there's anything that they can do to help our understand or to help the cause?

Hala Jadid: Yes. They can do it by Twitter, Facebook, email, all the social media. That's what we're talking about now. They can call. I mean, they can do anything they want. Try to, if I can help these people to find a way or to find any information that they can, I will be happy to do it.

Ben Kahn: Okay. All right. Well, thanks for joining us for another episode of UP Tech Talk. Until next time, I'm signing off.

Hala Jadid: Thank you so much.

Ben Kahn: Thank you for joining us for another episode of the UP Tech Talk podcast. We post new episodes on Friday mornings. If you want to hear more, please subscribe through iTunes or check out the Tech Talk blog at techtalk.up.edu.