

Journalism Department Course Descriptions

Spring 2018

This schedule should be used as a guide only.
Check SPIRE to verify times and locations.



Journal 201: Introduction to Journalism

(4 cr.) Cap. 100

Open to First Year Students and Sophomores of any major. Gen Ed: SB

TTh 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Sibii

ILC S131

Introduction to Journalism is a survey class that covers the basic principles and practices of contemporary journalism. By studying fundamentals like truth telling, fact checking, the First Amendment, diversity, being a watchdog to the powerful and public engagement, students will explore the best of what journalists do in a democratic society. Students will also assess changes in the production, distribution and consumption of journalism as new technologies are introduced to newsrooms. Toward the end of the semester, students look at case studies across the media, and learn how different audiences, mediums and perspectives affect the news.

Journal 250: News Literacy

(4 cr.) Cap. 40

Open to Freshmen and Sophomores of any major. Gen Ed: SB

TTh 10:00 a.m.-11:15 p.m.

Fox

ILC N255

What is fact? What is fiction? Can we even tell the difference anymore? Today's 24-hour news environment is saturated with a wide array of sources ranging from real-time citizen journalism reports, government propaganda and corporate spin to real-time blogging, photos and videos from around the world, as well as reports from the mainstream media. In this class, students will become more discerning consumers of news. Students will use critical-thinking skills to develop the tools needed to determine what news sources are reliable in the digital world. Through readings, class discussions and written assignments, students will deconstruct stories, breaking down broadcast, print, web and social media stories to determine those that are well-sourced and can be considered real news. Students will also discuss concepts such as objectivity, opinion, bias and fairness and how all contribute to the mix of news in today's digital landscape.

Journal 300: Newswriting & Reporting**(4 cr.) Cap. 16**

Required for major. Fulfills Junior Year Writing requirement
Prereq: ENGLWRIT 112 College Writing

Sec. 1:	MW 10:00-12:00 p.m.	Sibii	ILC S413
Sec. 2:	TTh 1:00-3:00 p.m.	Foudy	ILC S407
Sec. 3:	MW 9:05-11:05 a.m.	Forcier	ILC S413
Sec. 4:	MW 5:45-7:45 p.m.	Parnass	ILC S413

This course covers the basic requirements of newswriting and reporting, including interviewing, covering news events, and more. This class will include in-class and outside reporting assignments, and fulfills Junior Year Writing requirement.

Journal 301: Introduction to Multimedia Reporting**(3 cr.) Cap. 16**

Prereq: Journal 300. Open to Journalism majors only.

Sec. 1:	TTH 11:30-12:45 a.m.	Roche	ILC S407
Sec. 2:	TTH 4-5:15 p.m.	Kyle, Olga	ILC S413

This class enables students to build on the reporting and writing skills learned in Journalism 300, while gaining the technical skills for storytelling in online platforms, such as basic web production, using digital images, and creating audio podcasts. Students write in-depth stories on topics of serious public concern that may include education, the environment, the economy and technology. Students learn how to find and use government and advocacy group sources, and how to navigate the wealth of online data and documents. Students gain experience and confidence in reporting, writing and revising longer news stories. Attendance is required. This course is a pre-requisite for more advanced multimedia courses.

Journal 320: History of American Journalism**(3 cr.) Cap. 30**

Sophomore, Junior and Seniors of any major. Gen Ed: HS

TTH 8:30-9:45 a.m.	Forde	ILC N155
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We will examine the major innovations and styles in journalism, including the historical context into which print fits, the arrival of press freedom, the invention of faster presses, the Penny Press of the 1840s, the story press period in the 1890s, and the Muckrakers, objective reporters, investigative journalists, the literary journalists of the 20th century and today, and the arrival of the Internet. The institutional framework for journalism, including the First Amendment and the business structures of publications, will fill out the historical context in which these innovations took shape. We will have a special interest in the history of technologies in journalism.

Journal 332: Sports Journalism**(4 cr.) Cap. 16**

Sophomore, Junior and Senior majors enrolled in Sports Journalism Concentration.
Prerequisite: Journal 300

MW 12:20 -2:20 p.m.**Fox****ILC S407**

A hands-on course aimed at how to write, edit and cover sports stories. Interviewing skills will be honed in this class, and you will need a flexible schedule in order to cover games outside of classes. Students will learn to write a variety of stories ranging from straight game stories to previews to features and breaking news. Students will read and analyze successful writing styles from sportswriters in all mediums, including broadcast and the web. *This course fulfills one of the Advanced Writing / Reporting courses the journalism major requires.*

Journal 333: Introduction to Visual Storytelling**(4 cr.) Cap. 60**

Sophomore, Junior and Senior majors only. GenEd: AT

MW 2:30-3:45 p.m.**McDermott****N101**

In Introduction to Visual Storytelling, students will become better producers and consumers of visual media. Students will develop a deeper visual literacy by studying topics like visual ethics, aesthetics, agency, and the currents of modern visual journalism ecosystem. By reporting their own video, photography and data visualization projects, students will learn how to control exposure with a SDLR camera, how to capture quality video and how to use different editing and production software.

Journal 341: Images in Sports**(3 cr.) Cap. 16**

Open to Junior & Senior Journalism majors

MW 5:30-6:45 p.m.**Lollis****ILC S407**

This course will closely examine the role of the sports photographer and how it has evolved over the decades. There will also be special emphasis on various sports and methods of photographing them. Students can expect to shoot, edit and transmit photos from a wide variety of local events to gain real world skills in covering games and meeting tight deadlines.

Journal 383: Entrepreneurial Journalism**(3 cr.) Cap. 16**

Junior and Senior Journalism majors only.

Juniors and Seniors of other majors may be enrolled with instructor consent.

MW 2:30-3:45 p.m.**Roche****ILC S405**

How do we keep fact-based journalism going? In this class, students explore the answer to that question by looking at, and developing their own, digital news startups. We'll learn about business models of successful and unsuccessful digital news outlets as well as the "news entrepreneurs" who are navigating the new digital landscape of news. You'll pick up new tech tools, as well as skills in collaboration and public speaking. The "final" for this course is a pitch competition, where you'll present your idea to a media entrepreneur. Several other shorter projects will also be required. Attendance in the classroom is required.

Journal 390SD: Short-Form Documentary**(4 cr.) Cap. 16**

Prereq: Journal 300 or permission of instructor

MW 12:20 -2:20 p.m.**Kyle****ILC S308**

This class is where documentary filmmaking and traditional journalism meet. Here we give the headlines depth, alternate perspectives, ask deeper questions and explore topics of interest to the producer. David Wilson, a co-founder of the True/False Film Festival calls this a "new era of journalism." The challenge of modern day videos are no more than 5 minutes. This course will teach you how to produce short, sharp, strong micro-documentaries. The course will introduce, through hands-on assignments, important skills to move beyond basic video and audio work, giving students multiple experiences in producing and directing their own documentary content.

Journal 392P: Writing for Public Relations**(4 cr.) Cap. 16**

Prerequisite: Journal 300

TTH 4:00-6:00 p.m.**Carey****ILC S405**

Public relations writing requires a narrative arc and good storytelling in which essential information gets delivered, along with a feeling of positive connection to an organization. Students in this course will learn how to translate an institutional mission statement in to various narratives. They will learn how to gather information in a complex environment, and how to evaluate that information according to constituency needs. Writing projects will be required, ranging from basic press releases and news briefs to interviews, speeches, profiles, a roundtable report, a position paper, first-person essays, and possibly a full-

length magazine feature story. Course materials will include examples of excellent magazine writing, and books and articles on effective public relations programs. *This course fulfills one of the Advanced Writing / Reporting courses the journalism major requires.*

Journal 392T: Issues in Sports

(3 cr.) Cap. 30

Open to Junior & Senior Journalism majors

TTH 5:45-8:15 p.m.

Daglas

ILC N255

The range of news topics in sports—concussions, performance-enhancing drugs, money, gambling, cheating, college conference realignment, sex scandals, homophobia, racism, crime, labor, etc.—requires journalists to be prepared to determine how those issues will be covered. In doing so, journalists face their own collection of ethical, legal and financial questions, their own potential conflicts of interest, their own bosses and internal company political pressures. This class will cover a wide variety of those issues and more in sports. Students will be expected to fully participate in weekly discussions on current topics in the news, including ethics, reporting, writing, newsroom management, diversity, etc. Students will create their own blogs for class, and must report, write and present a long-form, multimedia story as their final.

Journal 395N: Broadcast News Reporting

(4 cr.) Cap. 16

Prereq: Journal 300. Open to Journalism majors only.

TTh 10 a.m.-noon

Kyle

ILC S308

This class is an introduction to broadcast news writing, videography, editing and visual storytelling. Students will learn the basics of reporting, videography and broadcast journalism. They will produce a variety of reports to expand their understanding of the various formats, styles and types of reports used in the media. Students will also work on news judgment, sourcing stories, interviewing subjects and writing and editing their stories for broadcast and the web. *This course fulfills one of the Advanced Writing / Reporting courses the journalism major requires.*

Journal 397G: Multimedia Journalism**(4 cr.) Cap. 16**

Prereq: Journal 300 and 301, or instructor consent

TTH 1:00-3:00 p.m.**Fox****TBD**

Almost all journalism job descriptions these days require some level of multimedia experience. In this class students will continue to develop their online writing skills through blogging while at the same time learning how to create packages and tell stories with audio and video. This class will focus on ways to merge the traditional methods of storytelling and present them on the Web. Students will learn what makes for good Web presentations and will be introduced to tools to help them with editing photos, video and audio. Students will enhance their skills in what makes for a good web link and a good web headline and will discuss the business and ethical implications of publishing online. *This course fulfills one of the Advanced Writing / Reporting courses the journalism major requires.*

Journal 425: The Politics of Sport**(3 cr.) Cap. 30**

Open to Journalism majors only, with preference to students enrolled in the Sports Journalism Concentration.

TTh 4-5:15 p.m.**McBride****TBD**

This course will examine how the politics of gender, sexual identity and race are played out in the arena of sports. Through readings, writing, documentary viewing and discussion, students will explore the ways in which sports either construct or break down barriers among individuals and groups and how journalism is involved in that process.

Journal 445: Journalism & Law**(3 cr.) Cap. 30**

Open to Junior & Senior Journalism majors

TTh 1:00-2:15 a.m.**List****TBD**

Students will become familiar with legal concepts underlying freedom of the press: censorship, obscenity, libel, privacy, free press/fair trial, contempt, access and other legal problems affecting the mass media. The case study approach generally is used, but emphasis is on the principles and philosophy underlying various aspects of communication law as these affect the daily work of journalists.

Journal 460: Journalism Ethics (fulfills I.E. requirement)

Sophomore, Junior and Senior Journalism majors only

(3 cr.) Cap. 30

Sect. 1	TTH 10:00-11:15 p.m.	List	TBD
Sect. 2	TTH 2:00- 3:45 p.m.	Braun	TBD

This course focuses on responsible journalism—no matter the medium. Its aim is to help those who plan to become journalists make ethical decisions and those who are consumers of the news recognize and appreciate responsible journalism. Students will develop an understanding of the ethical questions faced by journalists in a democratic society at a time when journalism is shifting from print/broadcast to online and when much of the mainstream media is focused on profit over news values and on entertainment over substance. Discussion will include: foundational ethical principles, the shift to online journalism, accuracy and fairness, relationships with sources, diversity, conflicts of interest, privacy, deception and photojournalism.

Journal 491CJ: Community Journalism II

Open to Sophomore, Junior & Senior Journalism majors

(3 cr.) Cap. 15

Wed 12:20-3:20 p.m.	McBride	ILC S412
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This course continues the work begun in Community Journalism 1, an intermediate reporting class that sends students to ghettos, barrios and poor white and working class communities in the region. The working class, the poor, and minority populations are often overlooked by the mainstream media. This course puts students into the homeless shelters, food pantries, health clinics and public schools in hope of finding solutions and answers from the real experts. This Class includes intensive field work, substantial newswriting and devotion to reading. We will travel to the High School of Commerce once a week to work on collaborative news projects with the high school students.

Journal 492M: Magazine Writing

Prereq: Journal 300. Open to Journalism majors.

(4 cr.) Cap. 16

Sect. 1	TTH 4:00-6:00 p.m.	Tuttle	ILC S407
Sect. 2	MW 10:10-12:10 p.m.	Adolph	ILC S405

This course will introduce you to the different styles and genres of magazine writing, including travel, food, the personal essay, the profile and the issues piece. We will tell these

stories in a digital-first format that goes beyond text to include photos, audio and video. We'll also work on audience engagement and use social media to connect readers to the work we produce in this class. The best work will be published on Amherst wire. *This course fulfills one of the Advanced Writing / Reporting courses the journalism major requires.*

Journal 494MI: Media, Technology & Culture (fulfills I.E. requirement)
Open to Junior & Senior Journalism majors **(3 cr.) Cap. 30**

TTh 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Braun

TBD

This course satisfies the Integrative Experience requirement. This course aims to provide students with a framework for critically examining the intersections between media messages, the digital revolution and the wider sociocultural environment. That journalism has been profoundly impacted by the development of Web 2.0 applications is nowadays axiomatic. However, the precise ways in which such “new media” phenomena as Facebook & Twitter, the personal blog and the smart phone have transformed news gathering, packaging and dissemination still need to be researched and understood. Students will reflect critically on the manner in which their communication (e.g., their use of language, imagery and technology) creates and, in turn, is determined by, the social and cultural world(s) in which they live. Investigating their meaning-making processes in this way should translate into an increased awareness of the causes and consequences of their storytelling choices. The course readings will deal with such issues as identity formation, social and cultural diversity, linguistic and technological determinism, ritual, perception and subjectivity, and cultural competency.

Journal 495BP: Broadcast Performance

(4 cr.) Cap. 16

Prereq: Journal 395N or instructor consent

TTh 1-3 p.m.

Kyle

ILC S308

This class is designed to help you understand the principles of broadcast presentation, including procedures and methods to use the voice, face and body as tools for communicating. There will be an emphasis on performing journalism on television, radio and online media. Through in-class exercises, drills and homework assignments, students will develop and practice skills for narration and on camera news delivery, including field reporting and instudio anchoring. Upon completion of this class, students should be comfortable performing on-mic and on-camera. They'll understand how a broadcast studio operates, and they'll be well practiced in recording reports as well as doing live broadcasts.

Journal 497B: Diaries, Memoirs & Journals**(4 cr.) Cap. 16**

Prereq: Journal 333, or instructor consent

MW 1:25-3:25 p.m.**Blais****ILC S412**

This class will read from a variety of memoirs and subsequently write a personal history that combines rigorous emotional honesty with high literary and journalistic standards. Readings may include the works of Mary McCarthy, Tobias and Geoffrey Woolf, Russell Baker, George Orwell, Edwidge Dandicat, Mary Karr, Norma Watkins, Joan Wickersham, Ernest Hemingway, Vivian Gornick, Joan Didion, Marjorie Williams and others. *This course fulfills one of the Advanced Writing / Reporting courses the journalism major requires.*

Journal 497G: Journalism Launchpad**(1 cr.) Cap. 25**

Junior Senior Seminar meets for five weeks only on these Wednesdays:

Wed 4-5:30 p.m.**Roche****TBA**

Juniors and seniors face lots of decisions as they start to plan for life beyond UMass. In this course, we'll look at some of those issues, focusing on the decision-making process, and career exploration and development. We'll explore the career possibilities for journalism majors, and through exercises and readings, students will develop a career plan and build a resume and online portfolio that highlights their strengths and interests. We'll also look at some areas like budgeting and interviewing and negotiating skills.

Journal 497P: The Politician & the Journalist**(3 cr.) Cap. 30**

Open to students of all ranks and majors, including First-Year Students

Mon 9:05-11:35 a.m.**Neal****ILC N155**

The relationships among reporters, publishers, and politicians, and how each uses the media. Using historical biographies and other texts, the class will examine past strategies by politicians and media figures. Topics include campaign strategies, Washington politics, day-to-day effectiveness in office, making arguments through the media, and how those not elected use the media. Taught by Congressman Richard Neal of the First District, Massachusetts, the class offers an opportunity for students to hear how elected officials work with the press.

Journal 4990: Honors Project Seminar – Second Semester

Truth Telling: Reading and Writing Narrative Nonfiction

Fri 9:05 -12:05 p.m.

Griffin

ELM Room 212

As a collaborative community of writers, TRUTH/TELLING will establish a writing workshop providing one another with constructive critique, generous guidance, and mutual mentorship as students draft and revise narrative nonfiction and literary journalism works in progress over the course of the fall and spring semesters. Frequent writing workshops will provide you with ample opportunity for presenting and revising your works-in-progress. Giving and receiving constructive critique as peer writers and revision helps to deepen and develop your writings in preparation for inclusion in your final portfolio. In addition to the wide range of readings in the genre, we will use one another's works-in-progress as primary texts as we discuss literary techniques, thematic content, and the process of revision necessary to bring each of your pieces to their fullest potential. Such a focus will not only assist you in the revision process, but it will sharpen your critical capacities. You will also meet in individual conference with me to discuss your work in progress. As writers who are critical readers for one another we will be probing each piece for its greatest potential. Only then will each piece be ready for inclusion in your honors project portfolio. The multimedia project, as well as an oral presentation of a portion of your honors project. For more information contact Connie Griffin:

Contact cgriffin@uww.umass.edu .

Other opportunities by permission only:

- Ask Beth Wallace to enroll you in independent studies.
- Talk to B.J. Roche about enrolling in an internship.
- For questions about honors contact Josh Braun, Honors Program Director:

jabraun@journ.umass.edu

Please note: Advanced writing and reporting classes are classes that are four credits AND have Journalism 300 as a pre-requisite. A few courses carry four credits because they qualify as Gen Eds but do not require 300 - These classes are NOT Advanced Writing/Reporting classes.

