

Introduction to Journalism

JOUR3310

Fall 2009

Instructors:

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Purpose:

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to key concepts of journalism (print and electronic) and the mass media. It will focus on the relationship between journalism and society. One outcome of the course is to make students more critical consumers of the media. Much of the course will focus on current media controversies and events. Through readings, videos, lectures and class assignments, students will gain a greater understanding of issues involving journalism and society. Students will be challenged to develop their own position on issues and to defend them. *Some of the media controversies that will be discussed deal with issues that may be offensive to some students. Students will be warned before such issues are discussed. Students who may be offended by the material will not be required to participate in the class.*

Readings:

There is one required text, which is available in the UGA Bookstore:

1. Robert D. Leigh (ed.), *A Free and Responsible Press: A General Report on Mass Communication: Newspapers, Radio, Motion Pictures, Magazines* by the Commission on Freedom of the Press (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1947).

Other readings appear below in the course schedule. These readings will be added to as the course progresses.

In addition, students must read a daily newspaper other than the *Red&Black*. It is strongly recommended that students subscribe to *The New York Times*. Student

subscriptions cost \$2.25 per week for Monday-Friday delivery and \$6.20 for Monday to Sunday delivery. Student subscriptions are available at:
<http://homedelivery.nytimes.com/HDS/StudentSearchCollege.do;jsessionid=0000e4BWFv57-2CZW4cpTFqQgN:10h7are90;?mode=StudentSearchCollege>

Grading:

Grades will be determined in the following way:

1. 30% based on the top four grades students receive on the six current-event quizzes that will be given during the semester. The dates of these current-event quizzes will NOT be announced ahead of time.
2. 20% based on each of two mid-term exams (40% total).
3. 30% based on the final exam. THE FINAL EXAM IS COMPREHENSIVE.

Course Schedule:

IMPORTANT: *The weekly schedule below is only a **TENTATIVE** schedule and it will be adjusted continuously throughout the semester. Current events--especially those relating to the news media--will determine the course schedule.*

Course Readings:

1. Aug. 17: Introduction and How to read a newspaper

How to read a newspaper:

<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/instruction/minutemodule/index.html>:Newspaper Sections and Terms

Tips for Reading and Using the Newspaper for Research:

<http://homeworktips.about.com/od/researchandreference/a/newspaper.htm>

Reading your newspaper on your computer isn't as far-fetched as it seems:

<http://www.depthreporting.com/2009/01/reading-your-newspaper-on-your-computer.html>

(A 1981 video about the future of online newspapers.)

Seven rules for reading the paper:

<http://www.salon.com/opinion/feature/2007/01/10/keillor/>

I'm reading newspapers again:

http://blogs.suntimes.com/ebert/2009/02/im_reading_newspapers_again.html

Where Bias Begins: The truth About Stereotypes:

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/199805/where-bias-begins-the-truth-about-stereotypes>

Stereotypes Revised - Theoretical Models, Taxonomy and the Role of

Stereotypes: http://www.ejop.org/archives/2007/08/stereotypes_rev.html

2. Aug. 24: The Structure and Nature of the Media

Anatomy of a Newspaper: Understanding the Business:
http://www.newsu.org/courses/course_detail.aspx?id=maynd_econlit05 (requires enrollment)

Watching TV News: How To Be A Smarter Viewer:
http://www.newsu.org/courses/course_detail.aspx?id=stony_tvnewslit08 (requires enrollment)

Gender Stereotypes: An Analysis of Popular Films and TV:
<http://www.thegeenadavisinstitute.org/pdfsrc.php> (site requires registration)

Blacks in the news: Television, modern racism, and cultural change:
<http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en-us&q=.Blacks+in+the+news:+Television,+modern+racism,+and+cultural+change.&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

3. Aug. 31: A brief history of U.S. journalism

History of Journalism in America:
<http://www.shmoop.com/intro/history/us/history-of-journalism-in-america.html>

OUT OF PRINT: The death and life of the American newspaper:
http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/03/31/080331fa_fact_alterman?currentPage=1

4. Sept. 7: How news is made and by whom

News Sense: The Building Blocks of News:
http://www.newsu.org/courses/course_detail.aspx?id=mah_newssense05 (requires enrollment)

The Be A Reporter Game:
http://www.newsu.org/courses/course_detail.aspx?id=knight_reportgame08

5. Sept. 14: Freedom of the Press

A Free and Responsible Press: Foreword; Chapters 1-3

6. Sept. 21: Freedom of the Press

A Free and Responsible Press, Chapters 4-6; Appendix

7. Sept. 28: Theories of the First Amendment

The First Amendment in the Colonial newspaper press:
http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/about.aspx?item=colonial_press

Overview Freedom of the Press:
<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/Press/overview.aspx>

Overview Freedom of Speech:
<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/Speech/overview.aspx>

Take the First 101 Challenge: <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/> (Click on the tab)

First exam Sept. 29

8. Oct. 5: Journalism ethics

PRINCIPLES OF JOURNALISM:
<http://www.journalism.org/resources/principles>
Ethics, frames, terrorism: <http://journalism.indiana.edu/uncategorized/ethics-frames-terrorism/>
What are the ethics of online journalism?: <http://www.ojr.org/ojr/wiki/ethics/>
SPJ Code of Ethics: <http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp>

9. Oct. 12: Journalism ethics

Before you publish a rape victim's name:
<http://www.asne.org/index.cfm?ID=4643>
Duke Lacrosse Case: Should We Name the Accuser?:
http://www.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=116123

10. Oct. 19: Your First Amendment Rights

Your First Freedoms: A Basic Guide to the First Amendment:
<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/pdf/Your.First.Freedoms.pdf>
Student Online Expression: What Do the Internet and MySpace Mean for Students' First Amendment Rights?
<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/PDF/student.internet.speech.pdf>
Seigenthaler lecture 1: Patriotism, dissent & the American flag, Part 1:
http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/flash/display_video.aspx?id=18818

11. Oct. 26: Your First Amendment Rights

Freedom of Speech on Public College Campuses:
http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org//speech/pubcollege/overview.aspx?id=166&SearchString=speech_codes
Free Speech Zones:
http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org//speech/pubcollege/topic.aspx?topic=free-speech_zones&SearchString=speech_codes
Hate Speech and Campus Speech Codes:
http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org//speech/pubcollege/topic.aspx?topic=campus_speech_codes&SearchString=speech_codes

12. Nov. 2: Politics and the Media

Perils of Polling in Election '08: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1266/polling-challenges-election-08-success-in-dealing-with>

Lessons of the Election:
http://www.stateofthemedial.org/2009/narrative_special_lessonsoftheelection.php?media=12&cat=1

MCCAIN VS. OBAMA ON THE WEB: <http://www.journalism.org/node/12772>

Second exam Nov. 3

13. Nov. 9: Advertising and Media

Readings to be assigned

14. Nov. 16: Business of the news media

Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism Annual Report on American Journalism:

http://www.stateofthemedial.org/2009/narrative_overview_intro.php?cat=0&media=1

New Habits of News Consumers: A Seminar Snapshot:
http://www.newsu.org/courses/course_detail.aspx?id=snap_heyward06 (requires enrollment)

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving

15. Nov. 30: New Media versus Old media

Paul MacArthur on future of papers: <http://www.ourblook.com/Future-of-Journalism/Paul-MacArthur-on-future-of-papers.html>

Chris O'Brien on Next Newspaper Project: <http://www.ourblook.com/Reporters-and-the-Media/Chris-O-Brien-on-Next-Newspaper-Project.html>

Interview with Gordon Crovitz, Former Publisher of the Wall Street Journal:
<http://www.ourblook.com/Reporters-and-the-Media/Interview-with-Gordon-Crovitz-Former-Publisher-of-the-Wall-Street-Journal.html>

Gov't Bailout for Newspapers?: <http://www.ourblook.com/The-Media/Gov-t-Bailout-for-Newspapers.html>

Don't dismiss journalism schools just because newspapers are in trouble:
<http://www.ojr.org/ojr/people/larryLTatkins/200907/1759/>

Citizen-based Media:
http://www.stateofthemedial.org/2009/narrative_speciacitizenbasedmedia.php?media=12&cat=0

FINAL EXAM: DECEMBER 11 (FRIDAY) 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Exam Policies:

Students are expected to take mid-term and final exams on the date and time scheduled. We realize that life is not predicable and it may be necessary for a student to miss an exam. **THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES WILL BE FOR A MEDICAL OR FAMILY EMERGENCY.** The student must provide independent evidence of such an emergency. A note from a doctor saying you were ill is **NOT** sufficient. The note must state that you were physically unable to take the exam at the assigned time.

If you have an acceptable excuse, you must make up the exam within one week from the date and time the exam was originally scheduled. No make-up exams will be given beyond this time.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS FOR CURRENT EVENT QUIZZES. SIX CURRENT EVENT QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN DURING THE SEMESTER. ONLY THE HIGHEST FOUR (4) GRADES WILL BE COUNTED.

We realize that there **MAY** be other acceptable (and many unacceptable) reasons for missing an exam. Here are some examples of both:

ACCEPTABLE

1. I have been invited to attend a national (international) meeting as an official representative of UGA.
2. I have been called for jury duty. (extra credit if you're empanelled).
3. I have the opportunity to go to Ethiopia for a week with the Carter Center.
4. Slug-the-dog ate my exam.

UNACCEPTABLE (all occurred)

1. I have another exam and need more time to study
2. I plum forgot the exam was today.
3. I got tickets to a UGA sporting event.
4. I accidentally booked my flight home for the day of the final exam

Other Information:

Office Hours: We are very concerned about all students and their progress. Our experience has been that holding regularly scheduled office hours does not work well with a course with a large enrollment. We have found that it works better for students to set up a specific time to meet with us. Students come first, always. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see one of us.

Students with disabilities: We would like to hear from anyone who has a disability which may require some modification of seating or class requirements so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please see one of us after class or in our offices.

Plagiarism: Webster's *New World Dictionary of the American Language* defines **plagiarize** as "to take ideas, writing, etc. from another and pass them off as one's own." The University provides penalties for plagiarism ranging from grade reduction to dismissal from the University. Please consult the Academic Honest Policy (<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/ahpd.htm>) for a full discussion of this and other issues regarding academic honesty.

Student complaints: "University of Georgia students have the right to appeal academic decisions. Usually the appeal goes first to the unit responsible for the decision. An unfavorable ruling at one level can be appealed to the successive levels (for example, a faculty decision can be appealed to the department; a department ruling can be appealed to the college in which the instructional unit is located; a college-level ruling can be appealed to the Educational Affairs Committee; the Educational Affairs Committee ruling can be appealed to the President of the University; and, except for grade appeals, the President's ruling can be appealed to the Board of Regents). All grade appeals must be initiated within one calendar year from the end of the term in which the grade was recorded." Taken from the *Undergraduate Student Appeal Process* (<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/eac/eacugrad.htm>).