

JOURNALISM

Courses

JOUR 100 - Introduction to News Reporting and Writing (4 Credit Hours)

This course focuses on the fundamentals of news reporting and writing. Students will explore storytelling and narrative, lead writing, point of view, information gathering, interviewing, ethics, and more. The class aims to help students develop overall research, writing, and thinking skills; questioning, listening, and interviewing skills; and a more sophisticated understanding of the practice and ethics of contemporary journalism.

JOUR 199 - Introductory Topics in Journalism (1-4 Credit Hours)

A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

JOUR 200 - Literary Journalism (4 Credit Hours)

Surveys literary nonfiction writing in the 20th and 21st centuries and introduces students to the many genres of nonfiction writing, to the creative possibilities of contemporary journalism, and to the ethics of writing about other people. Students read extensively and write in the genres of personal essay, immersion, news, and narrative journalism.

Crosslisting: ENGL 221.

JOUR 201 - Multimedia Storytelling (4 Credit Hours)

This course explores nonfiction storytelling across multiple platforms. Students will learn how to edit audio and video stories using relevant and up-to-date programs. Most importantly, they will learn which is the most effective vehicle for the story they are telling.

Crosslisting: ENGL 386 and DH 230.

JOUR 210 - (4 Credit Hours)

These are special topics courses at the 200 level, distinguished from the 300 level special topics courses because they are survey courses as opposed to specific craft, genre, or issue.

JOUR 220 - Science Writing for Everyone (4 Credit Hours)

It is one thing to do science. It is another to write about science in a way that is compelling, understandable and relatable to the public. With our current political and cultural climate, this means science writing is in a vital role in educating people on how science works, how it impacts our daily lives, and how we can defend against misinformation. You don't need to be a scientist to learn how to write about science, you just need to be interested in how we can write effectively about scientific ideas, research, and people. This course will develop your skills in writing about science so that, by the end of the semester, you will have created new science media articles, podcasts, and more that delve into science being done on campus and around the world. We will read examples of excellent science writing, converse with people who are active writers in science media and workshop our writing to hone our stories.

JOUR 231 - Doing Journalism with Ethics and Empathy (4 Credit Hours)

In this course we will do research and reporting, and we will advance our skills in writing and self-editing. The larger goal of this course is to understand how our writing affects humanity and our humanity can affect our reporting and writing. We will learn about media law and the difference between ethics and the law. We will work to develop skills that allow reporters to develop a moral compass based on high standards of ethics and empathy to identify, report and write stories that will have an impact in the community.

JOUR 250 - Documentary Film and Media (4 Credit Hours)

This class is an introduction to the study of documentary filmmaking. We will cover this subject as a topic of film analysis (attending to the formal characteristics of film), history (examining landmark films and film movements in the development of documentary), and theory (exploring larger, more philosophical questions raised by non-fiction films). Students will work in a variety of formats (short and long writing assignments, in-class exercises, and oral presentation), as we address the following questions. Who are the most vital documentary filmmakers both historically and of our time? What defines a documentary as opposed to other film genres or modes? What are the subjects that are particularly suited to exploration through documentary filmmaking? How variously do documentarians define truth and by what ethical contracts do they consider themselves bound? Feature-length films are the central focus of the class, but we will also work with television series, radio programs, and non-fiction writing.

JOUR 299 - Intermediate Topics in Journalism (1-4 Credit Hours)

A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

JOUR 300 - Experiential Reporting (4 Credit Hours)

Experiential Reporting gives students a better understanding of the ethics of reporting in communities other than their own. Each class will focus on a specific geographic location. This class will include significant on-the-ground reporting trips. Students will develop ethical and effective ways of finding stories within communities, conducting interviews, connecting and building relationships with interviewees, and networking with community experts.

JOUR 302 - Audio Storytelling / Podcasting (4 Credit Hours)

This course will help students learn how to make nonfiction character-based audio stories, as well as making them comfortable with the technical elements of sound recording and editing. Students will also learn the ethics of telling stories about and with people.

Prerequisite(s): JOUR 201 or permission of instructor.

JOUR 303 - Journalism and Documentary Filmmaking: A Workshop (4 Credit Hours)

In this course we will learn how to make nonfiction character-based short films, as well as become comfortable with the technical elements of image and sound. We will also explore the ethics of telling stories about and with people.

Prerequisite(s): JOUR 201 or permission of instructor.

JOUR 310 - Special Topics in Journalism (4 Credit Hours)

These are special topics courses at the 300 level, distinguished from the 200 level special topics courses because they are focused on a specific craft, genre, or issue, and are not survey courses.

JOUR 320 - Opinion Writing (4 Credit Hours)

In this course you will learn how to write your own editorials and columns. We will examine this style of essay writing and the ethical expectations and obligations that it carries through close readings of contemporary practitioners. We will have spirited discussions in the classroom. This is all part of the process – and one that will test your abilities to present reasoned arguments. This is a good thing because the goal is to help you become better and more confident opinion writers.

JOUR 360 - Telling Stories about Place (4 Credit Hours)

Place is fundamental to storytelling, and therefore to good reporting. Understanding where a story takes place means knowing which descriptive details to put in and leave out. Place is reflected in and shapes the people we write about. Good reporters need to understand that someone from a small rural village is going to have a different worldview than someone from a city, and they need to understand why, and how it affects their motivations and shapes the institutions that govern their lives. Understanding and respecting the places where we report from helps us produce authentic and compelling stories with depth and insight. This course will explore "places" that are easily accessible to students and faculty—Rural America, Appalachia, the City, the Suburbs, Rust Belt America—for example.

JOUR 361 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

JOUR 362 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

JOUR 363 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

JOUR 364 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

JOUR 380 - Advanced Topics in Journalism (4 Credit Hours)

This is a special topics course crosslisted with ENGL 310.

JOUR 381 - The Future of News (4 Credit Hours)

This is a special topics course crosslisted with COMM 381.

JOUR 382 - Beyond Good Intentions (4 Credit Hours)

This is a special topics course crosslisted with ENGL 310, EDUC 283.

JOUR 399 - Advanced Topics in Journalism (1-3 Credit Hours)

A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

JOUR 401 - The Reporting Project practicum (1 Credit Hour)

Students work as reporters and/or editors for The Reporting Project (a platform for community-focused media) under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Students participate in editorial meetings at least once a week, pitching, reporting, and producing written and/or multimedia stories. The experience of working in an organized and collaborative storytelling project is invaluable. Course will include written reflection on the experience throughout the semester. Requires permission of the instructor.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of instructor.

JOUR 451 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)

Individually designed projects on selected topics in Journalism.

JOUR 452 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)

Individually designed projects on selected topics in Journalism.

JOUR 453 - Journalism Senior Project (4 Credit Hours)

Journalism majors must complete at least one semester of senior research. This semester you'll write a deeply reported and substantial work of narrative journalism or a portfolio of shorter works (in any medium). This is an opportunity to work on something that you care about deeply within a supportive environment. We meet weekly as a group and one-on-one. Class will be a mix of workshops, discussions, and guest speakers.

Prerequisite(s): Must be a Senior Journalism major.