

Journalism Course Descriptions



Journalism Office: (631) 632-7403

www.stonybrook.edu/journalism

JRN 101-B or JRN 103-G News Literacy

How do you know if you're getting the truth from the news media? This course is designed to prepare students to become more discriminating news consumers. It will examine standards of reliability and accuracy in news gathering and presentation, and seek to establish the differences between news and propaganda, assertion and verification, bias and fairness, and infotainment and journalism. Students will be encouraged to critically examine news broadcasts, newspaper articles and Web sites. Visiting journalists will be questioned about the journalistic process and decision-making. Previously offered as a topic to EGL 390-G, spring 2006. Not for credit in addition to EGL 390 with that topic.

Students have the option to take News Literacy either as a DEC B or a DEC G, but not both.

3 credits

JRN 102 Colloquium on the News

This course is designed to introduce students to the journalistic process and expose them to some of the leading newsmakers in the area. Students will be expected to do research on timely issues in the news and prepare questions for visitors who will conduct periodic press conferences. Students will be expected to learn basic research and interviewing skills, as well as develop an appreciation of current news issues. Previously offered as JRN 285. Not for credit in addition to JRN 285.

1 credit

JRN 108-F The History and Future of the American Press

This course traces the history of the American press from pre-American Revolution to post-Internet revolution. It examines the political, economic and technological forces that shaped the news media and how the press, in turn, influenced American government, politics and society. Topics will include freedom of the press, the rise of the popular press, war and the press, the press and presidents, the impact of investigative journalism, the evolution of radio and TV news, and the advent of 24/7 online news. Previously offered as JRN 280. Not for credit in addition to JRN 280.

3 credits

JRN 110 News I: Basic News Reporting and Writing

An introduction to reporting and writing the news, including defining what is newsworthy. This is a foundation for all other courses in the journalism program. Through weekly assignments students will develop a mastery of the basic elements of writing a news story that conforms to standards of clarity, accuracy and fairness. An emphasis is placed on gaining practical experience through reporting on classroom, campus and community events. The development of basic skills is accompanied by the exploration of the role of the press in a free society. The course includes a six-week writing immersion lab in grammar, punctuation and sentence structure. Students who pass a proficiency test will be exempt from the lab. All other students must take the lab and pass the test to advance in the journalism program. Previously offered as JRN 287. Not for credit in addition to JRN 287.

Prerequisite: DEC A2

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 101-B or JRN 103-G

3 credits

JRN 111 - Writing Immersion Lab

To progress in the major or minor program, students must pass a grammar proficiency test as part of JRN 111, a grammar course that is corequisite with JRN 110. The grammar course includes an eight-week immersion lab in grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. In the ninth week, all students take a proficiency test. Those who pass are excused from the lab for the rest of the semester. All other students must continue attending the lab and will be required to take a second test on the last day of class. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Students must receive a Satisfactory grade in JRN 111 in order to continue in journalism skills courses.

Mandatory corequisite: JRN 110

0 credits S/U grading

JRN 201 Journalism That Changed The World

This course is designed to give students an appreciation for the power of the press to work on behalf of the public interest. It is designed as a case study course in which students examine major, contemporary stories in broadcast and print that have had a significant impact on society. Included are case studies of Watergate, coverage of the Civil Rights movement, revelations of local corruption on Long Island, and the disclosure of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, among other stories. Students also will be assigned to read, watch and study earlier examples of public service journalism. Journalists who participated in the case studies will visit class and discuss their stories.

Prerequisite: DEC A

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 101-B or 103-G

3 credits

JRN 210 News II: Advanced Reporting and Writing

This course is a continuation of JRN 110, with an emphasis on developing advanced reporting and newswriting skills. Students move beyond the basic breaking-news report (speech story, obituary, crime report) and begin writing using more advanced forms: the news feature, the profile, the in-depth news story, the trend story. Classroom drills include scene-setters and human-interest stories. Emphasis is placed on improving reporting skills, developing story ideas, researching, interviewing, expanding the number and type of sources used and using numbers and statistics accurately and effectively.

Prerequisite: JRN 110/111 or JRN 287

Mandatory corequisite: JRN 211

3 credits

JRN 211 – Digital Photojournalism Lab

In this lab, which must be taken in conjunction with JRN 210, students develop an appreciation for news photography and fundamental skills, including photo composition, lighting, approaches to subject matter and other aspects of news photography. In addition to being able to illustrate and enhance the stories they produce in JRN 210, students will acquire the ability to apply these skills in many of their subsequent print, broadcast and online journalism courses.

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Students must receive a Satisfactory grade in order to continue in journalism skills courses.

Mandatory corequisite: JRN 210

0 credits S/U grading

JRN 220 Media Law and Ethics

This course examines how journalists do their work from the perspectives of legal and ethical parameters. It will provide an introduction to the legal foundation that supports freedom of the press and examine current law on such subjects as source confidentiality, access to documents, libel and invasion of privacy. Students also will examine ethical codes that guide journalists, including standards regarding independence, accountability, truth-telling, protecting sources, and study conflicts that arise when journalistic principles clash with real-life dilemmas.

Prerequisite: JRN 110/111

3 credits

JRN 288 On-Campus Internship

Students work for up to two semesters on a campus news publication or broadcast outlet for credit. Students will keep a weekly log and attend monthly meetings with their faculty sponsor. Not for credit in addition to the JRN 288 that was offered prior to Fall 2006.

Prerequisite: 12 credits of journalism; JRN 210/211 for print or online internship; JRN 310 for broadcast internship; permission of internship coordinator

1 credit. May be repeated for a maximum of 2 credits

JRN 301 Journalism 24/7

This course examines the rapidly evolving media landscape and the implications for journalism and journalists. Students examine the revolutionary changes in digital technology, dramatically shifting patterns of media consumption, the rise of non-traditional competition, the challenges of serving a more diverse audience, accelerating media consolidation and explore alternative visions for the impact on content, standards, business models and jobs in the next decade.

Prerequisites: JRN 108, JRN 110/111

3 credits

JRN 310 News III: Reporting and Writing for Broadcast

Students learn to report and write news stories for radio and television. Students will become acquainted with the proper use of sounds and visuals in broadcast reporting and learn how to write news scripts to time. Class is held in production/workshop environment. Additional hours in television studio and editing facilities are required.

Prerequisite: JRN 210/211

3 credits

JRN 320 The Promise and Perils of Online Journalism

This course examines the challenges presented by the explosion of journalism on the Internet and assesses the role of the journalist in an online society. Students are exposed to both practical skills and a broader understanding of issues. Topics include how journalists add value to information online, writing and editing for the Web, the use of interactive tools, blogs and podcasts, and an elementary understanding of Web design. At the same time, students explore issues of privacy, the Internet's potential threat to traditional journalistic standards and how online publishing is creating new audiences. Students will critique news Web sites, participate in a blog and podcast, create a news Web page, and produce an online story package. Course includes a lecture and a weekly three-hour lab in the use of digital tools.

Prerequisites: JRN 210/211

3 credits

JRN 330 Investigative & In-Depth Journalism

This course emphasizes development of investigative and in-depth reporting techniques, including the use of public records, developing documented sources, confrontational interviewing and organizing and analyzing complex data. Students also will become familiar with the elements of computer-assisted reporting. Students will be required to complete a team and an individual project. Previously offered as JRN 389. Not for credit in addition to JRN 389.

Prerequisite: JRN 310

Advisory prerequisite: AMS 102-C Elements of Statistics

3 credits

JRN 331 Specialized Beat Reporting (Government)

Students become acquainted with the skills and knowledge necessary to become a specialist in the area of government and public affairs reporting. In seminar format students meet and question broadcast and print beat reporters in the areas of government, politics, the courts, police and education. Four class sessions meet at SBU Manhattan campus. Students may participate via video conferencing to the main campus. Note: This class is only offered in the fall semester. Students may take either JRN 331 or JRN 332, but not both, to satisfy a requirement of the major.

Prerequisite: JRN 310

Advisory prerequisite: POL 367-F Mass Media in American Politics

3 credits

JRN 332 Specialized Beat Reporting (Culture and Lifestyle)

Students become acquainted with the skills and knowledge necessary to become a specialist in the areas of culture, arts and lifestyle and sports. In seminar format students meet and question beat reporters in the areas of film, theatre, art, fashion, food, architecture and sports. Four class sessions meet at SBU Manhattan campus. Students may participate via video conferencing to main campus. Note: This course is only offered in the spring semester. Students may take JRN 331 or JRN 332, but not both, to satisfy a requirement of the major.

Prerequisite: JRN 310

Advisory prerequisite: SOC 330-F Media and Society

3 credits

JRN 333 Business Reporting

This course provides practical training for journalism students interested in a possible career

in business reporting. It seeks to provide the basic understanding and skills to report on business and consumer news and economic trends. Goals include learning how to read and understand financial statements, how to identify and access relevant public documents and how to interpret basic economic data and statistics. Students profile a public company on Long Island or in New York City, and learn how to write a business story that conforms to standards of accuracy and context. They will be encouraged to visit major financial institutions, public markets and regulatory agencies in New York City. Students also will examine business stories and controversies in the news from the perspective of the business community and journalists.

Prerequisite: JRN 310

Advisory prerequisites: ECO 108-F Intro to Economics, BUS 110 Business in the 21st Century.
3 credits

JRN 334 Science and Health Reporting

This course examines the various components of reporting and writing science and health news, areas of increasing importance and complexity. Topics include identifying major sources of news, the process by which research becomes news, scientific ethics and potential conflict-of-interest, accurately interpreting scientific data for the public, reporting on risk assessment, and translating scientific jargon. Students explore science and health controversies in the news from the dual perspectives of scientific uncertainty and media coverage. Students will report and write one news story based on a journal study and an in-depth story based on the work of a scientist or health researcher on campus.

Prerequisites: JRN 210/211, completion of DEC category E and F courses.

Advisory prerequisite: AMS 102-C Elements of Statistics

3 credits

JRN 335 Reporting in New York City

Students are based in the news bureau at the university's Manhattan extension, reporting from key sources of news in New York City, including City Hall, the federal courts, the New York Stock Exchange and the United Nations. This course is only offered during the summer and winter semesters.

Prerequisite: JRN 310; permission of instructor

3 credits

JRN 336 Sports Reporting

This course provides practical training for students interested in a career in sports journalism, from the basics of game coverage to more complex stories that reflect the importance of sports in cultural systems. Students will work toward an understanding of how to report and write about such topics as the business of sports and gender and racial issues in sports. Students will cover events and practice writing on deadline, study the differences in reporting for print, online and broadcast, and learn how to inject interpretation and color into their coverage without losing professionalism.

Prerequisite: JRN 310

Advisory prerequisites: PHY 113-E Physics of Sports, PSY 240-F, Survey in Social Psychology
3 credits

JRN 337 Introduction to Narrative Journalism

Building on students' experiences in news writing, this courses examines the reporting and writing of longer stories and more textured feature stories. There will be an emphasis on focus, structure and storytelling, including the rudiments of developing style and a narrative voice. Students will be expected to write several original enterprise stories. They also will explore the similarities and

differences in telling stories in print, online and in broadcast formats. Previously offered as JRN 288. Not for credit in addition to JRN 288.

Prerequisite: JRN 210/211

Advisory Prerequisite: EGL 399 Special Topics: Journalists as Novelists

3 credits

JRN 340 – Beat Reporting

This course is designed to develop the ability of students to effectively cover a specific area of news coverage, a beat. Emphasis is placed on developing sources, doing deep research into people, controversies and trends on the beat and balancing coverage of breaking-news events on the beat with writing longer, in-depth news features. Students will study the work of professional beat reporters, and will hear from one or more guest speakers. By the end of the semester, students are expected to demonstrate a clear familiarity with their beats and to have produced a solid portfolio of four to six beat stories. The class will be run as a newsroom with the instructor in the role of editor. (Note: Students taking JRN 210 before Spring 2009 are not eligible for JRN 340.)

Prerequisite: JRN 310

3 credits

JRN 345 The Global and Ethnic Press

An increasingly diverse society requires media that understand and respond to diverse information needs. Developments in travel and communications, and recent immigration patterns, have produced a vibrant domestic press that focuses on ethnic communities, including a booming ethnic press in New York City. Students will examine the role these publications and TV channels play, how they differ from traditional media, how well they do their job, and whether they provide any lessons for the mainstream American press. Students also will study English-language overseas media and compare to U.S. media in terms of ethical standards, objectivity and political independence.

1 credit

JRN 350 The Principles of Editing

This course is about journalistic judgment – how and why decisions are made in the newsroom. It examines the fundamentals of editing in print, broadcast and online news with emphasis on the editors' role in critical thinking, decision-making, maximizing accuracy, removing bias and providing context. Students will discuss editing for print, broadcast and online news and do case studies. A culminating project will address fundamental judgment issues.

Prerequisites: JRN 310

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 320

3 credits

JRN 360 Techniques of In-Depth Reporting

This course explores explanatory, interpretive and issue-based journalism for both print and the Web. Students will produce analytical and explanatory stories that combine authoritativeness of material with clarity of writing. In addition to weekly assignments, students will undertake a culminating project designed to showcase their ability to illuminate a complicated topic on both platforms. (Note: JRN 360 and JRN 364 cannot both be taken for credit.)

Prerequisite: JRN 310

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 350 or permission

3 credits

JRN 361 News Editing and Presentation / Print

Students master editing and presentation skills for newspapers and magazines, with emphasis on story selection and news play, copy editing, headline writing, choosing photographs, producing graphics and page design. Previously offered as JRN 395. Not for credit in addition to JRN 395.

Prerequisite: JRN 350 or permission

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 364

3 credits

JRN 362 Magazine Editing

This course is designed for students who may be interested in a career in magazine journalism. Students will study magazine writing, editing and production for general interest magazines, the booming market in specialty magazines, and the growing market in sports, lifestyle and entertainment magazines. Students will report and write a major magazine story for possible publication in a targeted magazine.

Prerequisites: JRN 337; JRN 350 or permission

3 credits

JRN 363 Magazine Writing

Creating compelling stories for print requires observation, description, dialogue, action, development of characters, setting of scene and voice. This class is designed to teach students advanced techniques of narrative writing. Students will write a number of original stories.

Prerequisite: JRN 337 and permission of department

3 credits

JRN 364 City Editor

This course is designed to prepare student journalists to get to the bottom of complex stories through probing reporting that will seek rich detail and context. Students will work independently under the supervision of a "City Editor" to produce one in-depth story of approximately 1,500 words during the semester. These stories will delve deeply into the subject matter. Students will meet regularly with the City Editor in a seminar setting to discuss procedures, ideas, progress, to brainstorm and to share their experiences and assess their progress. They also will work independently on all aspects of developing their stories. Students will be graded on a number of benchmarks such as story proposal, revised proposal, quality of research and reporting, drafts of the story and the final story. It is the goal that the stories be published. (Note: JRN 364 and JRN 360 cannot both be taken for credit.)

Prerequisite: JRN 310

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 350 or permission

3 credits

JRN 370 Advanced Reporting and Writing for Broadcast

This course builds on the work of JRN 310 and is similarly offered in a workshop/production environment. There is focus on mastering the art of live reporting and developing story ideas for television. Emphasis also will be on shooting techniques. Students will report and write longer-form reports.

Prerequisite: JRN 310

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 350 or permission

3 credits

JRN 371 Television Production

This course teaches video editing in both linear (tape to tape) and non-linear (digital formats). Students will work individually and in groups to report, write, edit and produce complete television news packages. Students will alternate between producing packages in the field and practicing techniques in a lab environment, Both on and of-camera skills will be emphasized. Classes will conclude each week with group critiques of student work.

Prerequisite: JRN 310

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 370; JRN 350 or permission

3 credits

JRN 379 Radio News

Principles of radio news, including writing and announcing, field reporting and editing. Students will cover spot news and features, research, script and produce radio newscasts.

Prerequisite: JRN 310

3 credits

JRN 380 Advanced Editing & Presentation / Web

This course is designed for students who are considering entry-level jobs in online journalism. Students will study real-time content management and production. There will be emphasis on how information should be effectively organized and packaged for the Web, the process of integrating multi-media and text, how to work in collaboration with broadcast and print colleagues, and the use of hypertext and layering techniques.

Prerequisites: JRN 310, JRN 320

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 350 or permission

3 credits

JRN 381 Advanced Digital Storytelling.

Combining elements of text, art, video, music, and computer graphics to create interactive digital presentations.

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 380

3 credits

JRN 382 Desktop Publishing

This course is designed for students who want to learn how to self-publish on the Web. Work will include a brief examination of the development and structure of the Internet (concepts and terminology), with the bulk of the course devoted to introductory page design and publishing. Students will learn the basic use of HTML (the hypertext markup language), with special emphasis given to the study of tables, forms and cascading style sheets. Students will explore the role of self-publishing in developing careers.

Prerequisite: JRN 320

1 credit

JRN 390 Special Topics: Issues in Contemporary Journalism

This special topics course deals with timely and contemporary issues that affect journalists and journalism. The issues could range from the press in wartime, an examination of the role of the press covering war from World War II to the war in Iraq, and the role of the press in covering presidential campaigns.

Prerequisite: JRN 101-B or JRN 103-G

3 credits

JRN 391 Journalism Workshops

One-hour-a-week workshops on topics of interest to student journalists. Topics vary.

Prerequisite: Varies by topic; permission of department

1 credit

JRN 410 Web / Print Practicum

Print and online students collaborate to report, write, edit, design and produce a weekly online newspaper. The newspaper will focus on the campus and surrounding community, and include breaking news, features, and strong interactive elements.

Prerequisites: JRN 364 or JRN 380; permission of the department

Pre- or corequisites: JRN 361 or JRN 381

3 credits

JRN 411 TV Practicum

Working in teams, broadcast students produce a weekly television newscast. Students will be assigned to different newsroom roles each week, including anchors, field reporters, producers, editors, directors and studio producers. The newscast will focus on the campus and surrounding community, including breaking news, features and enterprise reporting.

Prerequisites: JRN 370; permission of the department

Pre- or corequisites: JRN 371

3 credits

JRN 433 Business & Financial Reporting Seminar

An in-depth follow-up to JRN 333 Business Reporting. Students examine, analyze and discuss issues of importance in business, finance and the economy, conducting case studies of significant developments in these areas and assess their impact on the nation and the world.

Prerequisite: JRN 333

3 credits

JRN 435 Journalism Without Walls

Students research an issue and then, with faculty, travel to where the news is happening and report their findings in print, broadcast and online mediums. Summer or winter only.

Prerequisite: JRN 360 or 370 or 380; permission of the department

3 credits

JRN 475 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I

Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled courses. The student must attend all classes and carry out tasks assigned by the faculty member to assist in teaching the course. The student will meet with the instructor on a regular basis to discuss intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. ***Not for major or minor credit.***

Prerequisite: U3 or U4; permission of instructor and undergraduate program director.

3 credits

S/U grading

JRN 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II

Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled courses. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that already have been graded. The course in which the student is permitted to work as a teaching assistant must be different from the course in which he or she previously participated. ***Not for major or minor credit.***

Prerequisite: JRN 475; permission of instructor and undergraduate program director.

3 credits

S/U grading

JRN 487 Independent Study

Intense study of a special topic undertaken with close faculty supervision. May be repeated.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and undergraduate program director.

3 credits

S/U grading

JRN 488 Off-Campus Internship

Students work for a professional news outlet. Professional feedback is required; faculty sponsor evaluates work, as well. Student has regular conferences with faculty sponsor, prepares weekly journal and completes a semester project. May be repeated, but the internship must be different from the one previously completed. ***Note: Students must work with internship coordinator before they seek an internship.***

Prerequisite: JRN 210/211; JRN 310 if broadcast internship; 12 credits of journalism; permission of internship coordinator

3 credits

S/U grading

JRN 490 Senior Project

In a culminating activity, students produce a major story of professional quality, first in their area of concentration and then for two additional media, adding journalistic value in each case.. Students attend a weekly seminar and work independently under the supervision of a faculty sponsor.

Prerequisite: Final semester; JRN 364 or JRN 370 or JRN 380

Pre- or corequisite: JRN 361 or JRN 371 or JRN 381

3 credits