JRN 101-B 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 300-G (spring 2006). Not for credit in addition to EGL 390 with that topic.

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. Students will learn about 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 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 267. Not for credit in addition to JRN 267. Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A or Pre-requisite: JRN 101

3 credits

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: Completion of D.E.C. category A or Pre-requisite: JRN 101

3 credits

JRN 210 News II: Beat Reporting

Building on their work in JRN 110, students select and develop a news beat, with an emphasis on finding stories, developing sources, interviewing, and research methods. Students become better acquainted with newspaper style, writing to a fixed word-length, using numbers accurately, and writing on deadline. Previously offered as JRN 387. Not for credit in addition to JRN 387. Prerequisite: JRN 110

3 credits

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 will also 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

3 credits

JRN 301 Journalism 24/7

This course examines the rapidly evolving media landscape and the role of journalism and journalists. Students examine the revolutionary changes in digital technology, dramatically shifting patterns of media consumption, and the advent of new digital platforms. Students examine the role of serving a more diverse audience, and accelerating media consolidation, and explore alternative visions for the impact on content, standards, business models, and jobs in the next decade. Prerequisites: JRN 108 or 211; JRN 110

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 a production/workshop environment. Additional hours in television studio and editing facilities are required. Prerequisite: JRN 210

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 expected 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 the additional structure of this 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 two lectures and a weekly three-hour lab. Prerequisite: use of digital tools. Prerequisites: JRN 210 and 301

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

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 the 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

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 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 will also examine business stories and controversies in the news from the perspective of the business community and journalists. Prerequisite: JRN 310

Advisory Prerequisites: ECO 108 and BUS 110

3 credits

JRN 337 Introduction to Narrative Journalism

Building on students’ experiences in newswriting, this course 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 will also 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 “Feature Writing” that was offered prior to Fall 2006. Prerequisite: JRN 210

Advisory Prerequisite: EGL 399 (Special Topics: Journalists as Novelists)

3 credits

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JRN 350 The Principles of Editing
This course examines the fundamentals of editing, for all media, with emphasis on critical thinking, maximizing accuracy, removing bias, and providing context. Students will practice editing for print, broadcast, and online before completing a culminating project involving editing the same story across three different platforms.
Prerequisites: JRN 310 and 320
3 credits

JRN 388 Advanced Feature and Magazine Writing
A continuation of JRN 337 with emphasis on longer newspaper features and magazine articles. Discussion focuses on how to research stories, manage material, and organize publishable pieces of 1000-2000 words. Students are expected to read widely in daily press and periodicals.
Prerequisite: JRN 337
3 credits

JRN 389 Investigative Reporting
An advanced course in the reporting and writing of investigative and complex stories. Emphasis is placed on independent field research, types of proof, confrontational interviews, and the organization and writing of longer stories and story series for publication. The course deals with ethical problems, libel, and invasion of privacy.
Prerequisite: JRN 210
3 credits

JRN 394 Journalism Practicum
Classrooom practice in selecting and laying out stories for a front page. The course also covers such media topics as typography, the operation of editorial boards, op-ed articles, wire services, TV news, books, the music business, the history of journalism, and the foreign press.
Prerequisite: JRN 110 or 337
3 credits

JRN 395 News Editing
Editing copy for grammatical correctness, consistency, accuracy, tightness, and brightness; writing headlines. The course also considers the broader aspects of editing, such as assigning stories and handling writers sensitive about their copy.
Prerequisite: JRN 110
3 credits

JRN 488 Internship
Students work at local, state, and national newspapers and magazines. The work must involve journalistic skills related to the educational goals of the department.
Prerequisites: 12 credits of journalism courses; 2.50 g.p.a.; permission of instructor and director of the minor
0-6 credits, S/U grading