JRN

Journalism

JRN 280 History and Future of the American Press
[Experimental course; for Spring 2006 only]
This course traces the history of the American press from pre-American Revolution to post-internet revolution, and previews the next decade. The course will examine the political, economic, and technological forces that have shaped the news media and how the media, in turn, has shaped American government and society. Topics will include press freedom, the rise of the popular press, war and the press, investigative journalism, and the impact of 24/7 broadcast and online journalism. Considered against this history will be an examination of the ongoing debate over the essential mission of American journalism: to reflect reality or help change it.
3 credits

JRN 285 Colloquium on the News
[Experimental course; for Spring 2006 only]
This course is designed to introduce students to the journalistic process and expose them to some of the leading journalists and newsmakers in the area. Students will be expected to do research on timely issues in the news and prepare questions for periodic visitors to the class who will conduct a press conference. Students will be expected to learn basic research and interviewing skills, as well as develop an appreciation for current issues in the news.
1 credit

JRN 287 Basic News Reporting and Writing
In this course, divided into practical and philosophical parts, students work toward a definition of what is newsworthy. The practical part deals with the basic aspects of reporting and news writing. The philosophical part focuses on the role of the press in a free society.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A
3 credits

JRN 288 Feature Writing
Exploration of feature stories as the human side of news. Students read extensively in the daily press and engage in vigorous discussions of reporting technique and writing strategy. Emphasis on producing short features under deadline conditions.
Prerequisite: JRN 287
3 credits

JRN 387 Advanced News Reporting and Writing
A continuation of JRN 287. Students select and develop a beat, with an emphasis on finding stories, developing sources, interviewing, mastering newspaper style, writing to fit, and writing on schedule.
Prerequisite: JRN 287
3 credits

JRN 388 Advanced Feature and Magazine Writing
A continuation of JRN 288 with emphasis on longer newspaper features and magazine articles. Discussion focuses on how to research stories, manage material, and organize publishable pieces of 1,000-2,000 words. Students are expected to read widely in daily press and periodicals.
Prerequisite: JRN 288
3 credits

JRN 389 Investigative Reporting
An advanced course in the reporting and writing of investigative and complex stories. Emphasis is placed on independent research, types of proof, confrontation 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 387
Advisory Prerequisite: JRN 288
3 credits

JRN 390 Computer-Assisted Reporting
An advanced course in the use of computers, databases, and the Internet to develop meaningful and complex stories. Emphasis is placed on finding raw data, interpreting it, organizing it, and writing longer stories intended for publication. The course deals with critical thinking and the methodology of using computers as a journalistic tool.
Prerequisite: JRN 288 or 387
Advisory Prerequisite: Computer literacy in Windows
3 credits

JRN 394 Journalism Practicum
Classroom 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 287 or 288
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 287
Advisory Prerequisite: JRN 288
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

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