JRN Journalism

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 stu-
dents to become more discriminating news con-
sumers. It will examine standards of reliability and
accuracy in news gathering and presentation, and
seek to establish the differences between news pro-
paganda, assertion and verification, bias and fair-
ness, 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.
3 credits

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 stu-
dents to become more discriminating news con-
sumers. It will examine standards of reliability and
accuracy in news gathering and presentation, and
seek to establish the differences between news pro-
paganda, assertion and verification, bias and fair-
ness, 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.
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 addi-
tion 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 revolu-
tion. It examines the political, economic and technolo-

gical forces that shaped the news media and how the
press, in turn, influenced American government, poli-
tics 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, in-
cluding defining what is newsworthy. This is a foun-
dation 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 sen-
tence 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 jour-
nalism program. Previously offered as JRN 287. Not
for credit in addition to JRN 287.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A
Mandatory Corequisite: JRN 111
3 credits

JRN 111 Writing Immersion Lab
This lab, which must be taken in conjunction with JRN
110, is a writing immersion lab in grammar, punctua-
tion and sentence structure. Students who pass a pro-

certainty test will be exempt from the attending the lab
but all students enrolled in JRN 110 must register for
JRN 111 for grading purposes. Satisfactory/Unsatis-
factory grading only. Students must receive a Satisfactory grade in order to continue in the JRN pro-
gram.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. A
Mandatory Corequisite: JRN 110
0 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 sto-

dies, developing sources, interviewing, and research
methods. Students become better acquainted with

writing newspaper style, writing to a fixed word-length, using
forms, studying advanced reporting techniques such
as developing confidential sources, conducting con-
frontational interviews and organizing and analyzing
complex data. This course focuses on ethical concerns and
on writing, tapping and recording information with
precision and clarity. Students also will explore rele-
vant aspects of computer assisted reporting. Field
work is involved.
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 SHU 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.
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 SUNY 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
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 necessary to report on economic data and statistics. Goals include learning how to read and understand financial statements, how to identify relevant economic business 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 335 Reporting in New York City

This course, which is offered only in winter and summer sessions, provides students with an overview of how reporters cover the major institutions in New York City: City Hall, the United Nations, the police department, the courts, Wall Street, etc. The course offers a blend of classroom instruction, talks with officials and journalists, and hands-on reporting. On reporting days, the class will be run as a newsroom. The course will be co-taught by a print journalist and an electronic-news journalist. Students may choose whether to concentrate on writing for print and the Web or preparing video packages for broadcast and the Web. It is offered at the university’s Manhattan extension.

Prerequisite: JRN 310
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 286. Not for credit in addition to JRN 286 “Feature Writing” that was offered prior to Fall 2006.

Prerequisite: JRN 210 (formerly JRN 387)
Advisory Prerequisite: EGL 399
3 credits

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 360 Advanced Reporting and Writing for Print and Web

This course explores explanatory, interpretive and issue-based writing 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 complex topic on both platforms.

Prerequisite: JRN 310, JRN 337
Pre or Corequisite: JRN 350
3 credits

JRN 361 News Editing and Presentation/Print

This course focuses on developing students’ copy editing and layout skills and is designed for students concentrating on newspapers or magazines. Students will be exposed to all phases of copy editing, from news judgment to line editing. Mastery of grammar and of the Associated Press Stylebook is a goal of this course. Headline writing will be discussed and students will practice writing headlines and captions on deadline. Students will also be exposed to layout via Microsoft Publisher. Students will practice pagination on deadline and critique layouts in print publications and online. Students will be exposed to the art of photo selection, page placement and cropping, and to the use of graphics and other elements to enhance newspaper storytelling.

Prerequisite: JRN 350
Pre or Corequisite: JRN 360
3 credits

JRN 362 Magazine Journalism

This course is designed for students who have an interest in magazine journalism. Students will study editorial content, editing, design and production of general interest magazines, the booming market in specialty and niche magazines, and the growing market in magazines for children. Students will mock up cover designs, table of contents, and developing style sheets. Magazine journalists will be invited to class to discuss their work. As a semester project, students will work on developing a magazine prototype.

Prerequisites: JRN 337, JRN 350
3 credits

JRN 370 Advanced Reporting and Writing for Broadcast and Web

Building on JRN 310, this course will help students to develop their broadcast writing skills more fully, expand their television reporting skills, strengthen their use of video and audio narratives within television news stories and learn to edit news stories for television more effectively. As future journalists, students will be treated as professional reporters/producers and photographers/editors. Story ideas will be discussed as a group with the professor and with the class before assignments are approved. News packages completed in class will be used in newscasts produced by students in JRN 371.

Prerequisite: JRN 310
Pre or Corequisite: JRN 350
3 credits

JRN 371 Television Production

This course is designed to introduce students to planning, assembling, producing and performing the elements of a newscast. Students will be exposed to the roles of key members of a newscast team, including producers, assistant producers, reporters, writers, anchors and video photographers/editors. There will be emphasis on developing decision-making and on-air skills, as students complete mini-newscasts and segments for broadcast. Students will be expected to meet strict deadlines for managing critical air time. Newscast segments will be shown on JRN Web sites.

Prerequisite: JRN 350
Pre or Corequisite: JRN 370
3 credits

JRN 380 Advanced Editing & Presentation / Web

This course, designed for students interested in specialization in online news, will focus on content management and the presentation of news on the Web. Students will have the opportunity to manage a news Web site in real time, with emphasis on around-the-clock news judgment and presentation. Students will learn how to enhance online news through multimedia integration and reader/viewer interactivity. Students also will study information architecture, eye-tracking studies and different ways of making the Web more accessible for readers, including layering information. The course builds on the skills learned in JRN 320. After completion of course overview material, students will move through three phases designed to simulate a key role in current online newsrooms. The phases include real-time content management, multimedia integration and harvesting original video. There will be emphasis on building critical thinking skills and developing team work. By the end of this course, students are to produce a complete multimedia project and integrate its production into a real-time online news site.

Prerequisite: JRN 320
Pre or Corequisite: JRN 350
3 credits

JRN 382 Desktop Publishing for Journalists

This one-credit course is designed for JRN students who want to publish, promote or distribute their own work on the World Wide Web. Course 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 explore the basic use of HTML, the hypertext markup language, with special emphasis given to tables, forms and cascading style sheets.

Prerequisite: JRN 320 or permission of instructor
1 credit

JRN 388 Advanced Feature and Magazine Writing

A continuation of JRN 357 (or the former JRN 288) with emphasis on the use of feature 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 357
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 390 Special Topics: Issues in Contemporary Journalism

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

Prerequisite: JRN 210 or 103
3 credits

JRN 391 Journalism Workshops

This 1-credit workshop course is designed to assist in Spring 2008: updates since Spring 2007 are in red

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
students in developing skills that will be useful in various journalism courses. Topics will rotate. Anticipated topics include Digital Photography, Databases, FOIL and Sunshine Laws, On-Air Performance, Editing Software.

Prerequisites: JRN 101; JRN 103; permission of the department

1 credit

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 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 411 Television Practicum

pending approval

This is a capstone course for students specializing in video. This day-long workshop class meets on Fridays from 9 am to 6 pm, with an hour break for lunch. Each week, students will produce and broadcast a half-hour, live newscast that will be broadcast on the Web and on a campus news channel. The class will experience the working conditions of a professional TV newsroom. Over the course of the semester, students will have the opportunity to work in each of the key jobs necessary for a successful newscast: broadcast producer, news director, anchor, field producer, reporter, video editor and member of the studio crew. Following each newscast, the news team will gather for a “post-mortem” meeting. At this meeting, work will be critiqued and plans will be made for follow-up stories and the next week’s newscast. The post mortem will serve as a weekly assessment for the students.

Prerequisite: JRN 370; permission of the instructor

Pre- or Corequisite: JRN 371

3 credits

JRN 435 Journalism Without Walls

This course, which will be offered only during winter or summer sessions, is designed for experienced and energetic journalism students. Students will be assigned as part of a team to travel to a location and using only mobile technology, transmit stories and video from the field. Their work product will be published via a special Web site. Students will have one week to research a topic or location before leaving for their destination. (A team of students, for example, might be sent to New Orleans to report on how well the community is recovering from Hurricane Katrina, or to one of the two major political conventions, or to an overseas location.) While on assignment, students will file blogs, gather multimedia and video, write and edit stories, produce a Web site and establish a “mobile news-room.” One or several instructors will accompany the students. This is a capstone course that combines students’ journalistic skills, judgment and enterprise with knowledge of emerging technology.

Prerequisite: JRN 360 or 370 or 380 and permission of department

A Passport may be required.

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.

Prerequisites: 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.

Prerequisites: JRN 475; permission of instructor and undergraduate program director

3 credits, S/U grading

JRN 487 Independent Study

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

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and director of undergraduate studies

0-6 credits, S/U grading

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