Journalism (JRN)

Major and Minor in Journalism
School of Journalism
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Faculty
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Barbara Selvin, Assistant Professor, Print Journalism. Former reporter for Newday and The Advocate; recipient of the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

As innovative, digital technology accelerates the dissemination of news, information, and disinformation around the clock and around the world, the need for well-trained and independent-minded journalists has never been greater.

The journalism major program at Stony Brook is designed to prepare the next generation of journalists for careers in broadcast journalism, print journalism, and online journalism.

The course of study will emphasize both traditional journalistic values and skills, and the ability to succeed in a rapidly evolving multi-media landscape. Students will study news reporting, writing, editing, and producing. They will develop an appreciation for the mission of the press in a democratic society, standards of ethical and responsible journalism, and will be expected to leave the program with a passion for the public interest and the courage to do the right thing in the face of unprecedented competition.

To prepare for the future, all students will be required to take courses in broadcast, print, and online journalism, learning to work and think across multiple media platforms, before concentrating in an area during their final year of study. Students will have the opportunity to do reporting assignments both on Long Island and in New York City.

In addition, students will be required to either declare a second major or earn 18 credits in one of four multi-disciplinary concentrations outside the journalism major. This requirement is designed to help prepare students to report insightfully in the future. The four multi-disciplinary concentrations include Public Affairs, Diversity and Society, Science and the Environment, and Global Issues and Perspectives.

The journalism minor is designed for students who seek an appreciation for the mission of the press, an understanding of journalistic principles, and a desire to improve critical thinking and writing skills.

All students should consult with the director of undergraduate studies to design and approve an acceptable course of study before declaring a major.

Courses Offered in Journalism
See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

JRN 101-B News Literacy
JRN 102 Colloquium on the News
JRN 103-G News Literacy
JRN 108-F The History and Future of the American Press
JRN 110 News I: Basic News Reporting and Writing
JRN 111 Writing Immersion Lab
JRN 201 Journalism That Changed the World
JRN 210 News II: Beat Reporting
JRN 211 News II: Quantitative Literacy Lab
JRN 220 Media Law and Ethics
JRN 288 On-Campus Internship
JRN 301 Journalism 24/7
JRN 310 News III: Reporting and Writing for Broadcast
JRN 320 The Promise and Perils of Online Journalism
JRN 330 Investigative and In-Depth Journalism
JRN 331 Specialized Beat Reporting (Government)
JRN 332 Specialized Beat Reporting (Culture and Lifestyle)
JRN 333 Business Reporting
JRN 334 Science and Health Reporting
JRN 335 Reporting in New York City
JRN 337 Introduction to Narrative Journalism
JRN 345 The Global and Ethnic Press*  
JRN 350 The Principles of Editing
JRN 360 Advanced Reporting and Writing for Print and Web
JRN 361 News Editing and Presentation/Print
JRN 362 Magazine Journalism
JRN 363 Advanced Narrative Journalism/Print*
JRN 370 Advanced Reporting and Writing for Broadcast and Web
JRN 371 Television Production
JRN/THR 379 Radio News*
JRN 380 Advanced Editing and Presentation/Web
JRN/THR 381 Advanced Digital Storytelling and Graphics
JRN 382 Desktop Publishing for Journalists
JRN 390 Special Topics: Issues in Contemporary Journalism
JRN 391 Journalism Workshops
JRN 395 News Editing
JRN 410 Web/Print Practicum
JRN 411 Television Practicum
JRN 435 Journalism Without Walls

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Transfer students

Transfer students may transfer up to 9 credits of equivalent journalism courses in which they have earned a C or better. Transfer courses will be evaluated individually for equivalency by the undergraduate director.

Requirements for the Major in Journalism

The major in journalism leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Students must complete each course with a letter grade of C or higher within required JRN courses. Students must also satisfy the upper-division writing requirement. Completion of the major requires 65 credits, including 47 credits in journalism and 18 credits in a multidisciplinary concentration. To satisfy all requirements, a student must earn a minimum of 127 credits to graduate with a degree in journalism.

Students must complete three developmental phases, with core requirements in each phase. In Phase I, Values and Skills, students will study basic skills and ethics, including news reporting and writing for print and broadcast. In Phase II, New Challenges, students will explore the changes sweeping the journalistic landscape (including journalism on the Internet) and choose from a menu of upper-division reporting and writing courses. In Phase III, Finding an Entry Point into the Profession, students will specialize in broadcast, print, or online journalism, and take advanced courses. In addition, students will complete a senior project in their area of specialty and then adapt it for two other media.

Grammar Immersion

To progress in the major program, students must pass a grammar proficiency test as part of JRN 110. 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 will be required to take the lab and pass the test.

Note: All courses are not offered each semester.

A. Phase I: Values and Skills

1. Students must complete the following six courses
   JRN 101/103 News Literacy
   JRN 110/111 Newswriting I (Reporting and Writing)
   JRN 210/211 Newswriting II (Beat Reporting)
   JRN 220 Journalism Law and Ethics
   JRN 288 On-Campus Internship
   JRN 310 Newswriting III (Broadcast)

2. Students must complete one of the following two courses:
   JRN 108 The History and Future of the American Press
   JRN 201 Journalism That Changed The World

B. Phase II: New Challenges

1. Students must complete the following three courses:
   JRN 301 Journalism 24/7
   JRN 320 The Promise and Perils of Online Journalism
   JRN 350 The Principles of Editing (for all media)
2. Electives for Phase II. Students may choose two courses from group A, or one course from A and one course from group B.

Group A:
Students may choose up to two courses from this list:
- JRN 330 Investigative and In-depth Journalism*
- JRN 335 Reporting in New York City
- JRN 337 Intro to Narrative Journalism

Group B:
If students have chosen one course from A, they may choose a course from this list.
- JRN 331 Specialized Beat Reporting (Government)
- JRN 332 Specialized Beat Reporting (Culture and Lifestyle)
- JRN 333 Business Reporting
- JRN 334 Science and Health Reporting
- JRN 336 Sports Reporting

C. Phase III: An Entry Point into the Profession
Requirements: completion of the two courses in Group A, B, or C. All students must complete JRN 490.

Group A: For Print
- JRN 360 Advanced Reporting and Writing for Print*
- JRN 361 News Editing and Presentation*

Group B: For Broadcast
- JRN 370 Advanced Reporting and Writing for Broadcast*
- JRN 371 Television Production*

Group C: For Online
- JRN 380 Advanced Editing and Presentation for the Web*
- JRN 381/THR 317 Advanced Digital Storytelling*

For all students:
- JRN 490 Senior Project

D. Required JRN Electives
Students are required to select a minimum of four elective credits in Journalism courses as part their major.

E. Multidisciplinary Concentrations
Majors must earn a minimum of 18 credits, including nine upper division credits, in one of the following four multidisciplinary concentrations. Students may add a course to a concentration or propose a new concentration with the permission of the undergraduate director. Specific multi-disciplinary concentrations and required courses are listed below. In lieu of a multidisciplinary concentration, students may elect to pursue a second major.

F. Upper-Division Writing Requirement
All students majoring in Journalism must submit two samples of their journalism course work (longer articles, term papers, or independent research projects) along with the instructor's written confirmation that the work demonstrates suitably advanced writing proficiency, to the director of undergraduate studies for evaluation by the end of the junior year. If this evaluation is satisfactory, the student will have fulfilled the upper-division writing requirement. If it is not, the student must fulfill the requirement before graduation.

Multidisciplinary Concentrations

Science and the Environment
Students study trends, acquire foundation knowledge, and get multiple perspectives on science and environmental issues that will help them report insightfully in the future. See Bulletin course descriptions for details and prerequisites. Note: All courses will not be offered each semester.

- ATM 102 Weather and Climate
- BIO 103 Introduction to Biotechnology
- BIO 113 General Ecology
- BIO 115 Evolution and Society
- ECO 373 Economics of the Environment and Natural Resources
- ENS 101 Prospects for Planet Earth
- ENS 201 Contemporary Environmental Issues and Policies
- ENS 312 Population, Technology and the Environment
- ENS 333 Environmental Law
- EST 291 Energy, Environment and People
- EST 330 Natural Disasters: Impacts and Solutions
- GEO 108 Introduction to Economics
- GEO 109 Environmental Geology
- GEO 311 Geoscience and Global Concerns
- HIS 365 Environmental History of North America
- HIS 399 Disease in American History
- MAR 104 Oceanography
- MAR 340 Environmental Problems and Solutions
- SOC 344 Environmental Sociology

Diversity and Society
Students study trends and acquire knowledge, insights, historical context, and multiple perspectives on important societal issues that will help them report insightfully in the future. See Bulletin course descriptions for details and prerequisites. Note: All courses will not be offered each semester.

- AAS 250 Languages and Cultures of Asian Americans
- AFS 310 American Attitudes Toward Race
- AFS 319 The Politics of Race
- AFS 363 Blacks and Mass Media
- AMR 102 Making American Identities
- AMR 301 Ethnicity and Race in American History
- CLT 235 American Pluralism in Film and Literature
- HIS 277 The Modern Color Line
- HIS 325 The Civil Rights Movement
- HIS 327 Origins of American Society
- HIS 347 Historical Perspectives on Gender Orientation
- MAR 235 Multidisciplinary Concentrations in Public Affairs

Public Affairs
Students study trends, acquire knowledge and historical context, and gain multiple perspectives on public policy issues that will help them report insightfully in the future. See Bulletin course descriptions for details and prerequisites. Note: All courses will not be offered each semester.

- ECO 108 Introduction to Economics
ECO 305 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
ECO 316 U.S. Class Structure and its Implications
ECO 360 Money and Banking
HIS 104 United States Since 1877
HIS 335 The Civil Rights Movement
HIS 378 War and the Military
POL 102 Intro to American Government
POL 317 American Election Campaigns
POL 318 Voters and Elections
POL 322 Law and Politics
POL 325 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
POL 332 Politics of Criminal Due Process
POL 359 Public Policy Analysis
POL 367 Mass Media in American Politics
SOC 200 Medicine and Society
SOC 338 The Sociology of Crime
SOC 405 Seminar in Children, Law and Social Policy

Global Issues and Perspectives
Students study trends, acquire knowledge and historical context, and gain multiple perspectives on global issues that will help them report insightfully in the future. See Bulletin course descriptions for details and prerequisites. Note: All courses will not be offered each semester.

AAS 201 Introduction to the Civilization of the Indian Subcontinent
AFS 346 Political and Social History of Africa
AMR 101 Local and Global: National Boundaries and World Systems
GEO 311 Geoscience and Global Concerns
HIS 227 Islamic Civilization
HIS 281 Global History and Geography
HIS 341 20th Century China
POL 101 World Politics
POL/HIS 214 Modern Latin America
POL 313 Problems of International Relations
POL/AFS 337 The Politics of Africa
POL 374 Global Issues in the United Nations
SOC 248 Social Problems in Global Perspective
SOC 348 Global Sociology
SOC 365 Introduction to African Society
SOC 364 Sociology of Latin America
SOC 386 State and Society in the Middle East

Requirements for the Minor in Journalism
The journalism minor emphasizes knowledge and exposure to basic skills for students who seek an understanding of broadcast, online, and print media but who are not necessarily planning careers in journalism or intending to major in journalism. Courses in the minor provide students with a broad introduction to journalistic principles and practices as well as an understanding of the role of journalism in society. This program will be useful to students who are interested in sharpening their information-gathering and analytical skills, improving the speed and clarity of their writing, and improving their ability to communicate in whatever career they pursue.

Eighteen credits are required for the Minor in Journalism. Courses must be passed with a C or better to count toward the minor. Students are required to complete at least nine credits of upper-division journalism courses to complete the minor in journalism. Not all courses are offered each semester, so programs should be planned as early as possible. Prerequisites will be enforced.

Grammar Immersion
To progress in the minor program, students must pass a grammar proficiency test as part of JRN 110. 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.

A. Courses required of all minors:
JRN 101/103 News Literacy
JRN 110/111 Newswriting I
JRN 201 Journalism That Changed the World

C. Electives (6 credits)
Electives include courses not taken in B, above.
JRN 210/211 News II: Beat Reporting
JRN 220 Media Law and Ethics
JRN 310 Newswriting III: Reporting and Writing for Broadcast
JRN 320 The Promise and Perils of Online Journalism
JRN 337 Introduction to Narrative Journalism

Not: Minors may take additional journalism electives with permission of instructor.

B. Students must take one course from this list:
JRN 108 The History and Future of the American Press