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 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: Advanced Reporting and Writing
JRN 211 Digital Photojournalism 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 336 Sports Reporting
JRN 337 Introduction to Narrative Journalism
JRN 340 Beat Reporting
JRN 345 The Global and Ethnic Press*
JRN 350 The Principles of Editing
JRN 360 Techniques of In-Depth Reporting
JRN 361 News Editing and Presentation/Print
JRN 362 Magazine Editing
JRN 363 Magazine Writing
JRN 364 City Editor
JRN 370 Advanced Reporting and Writing for Broadcast
JRN 371 Television Production
JRN 380 Advanced Editing and Presentation/Web
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
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 JR N 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 and minor program, students must pass a grammar proficiency test as part of JR N 111, a grammar course that is co-requisite with JR N 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 JR N 111 in order to continue in journalism skills courses.

Note: All courses are not offered each semester. JR N 360 cannot be taken for credit in addition to JR N 364.

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Journalism

Freshman Fall Credits
First Year Seminar 101 1
D.E.C. A 3
JR N 101 or 103 3
D.E.C. 3
D.E.C. 3
Total 16

Freshman Spring Credits
First Year Seminar 102 1
D.E.C. A 3
JR N 108 3
JR N 110/111* 3
D.E.C. 3
D.E.C. 3
Total 16

Sophomore Fall Credits
JR N 210/211 3
JR N 220 3
D.E.C. 3
D.E.C. 3
D.E.C. 3
Total 15

Sophomore Spring Credits
JR N 201 3
JR N 288* 1
JR N 310 3
Multidisciplinary concentration*** 3
D.E.C. 3
D.E.C. 3
Total 16

Junior Fall Credits
JR N 301 3
JR N 320 3
JR N 330, 331, 333, or 337 3
Multidisciplinary concentration*** 3
Elective 3
D.E.C. 3
Total 18

Junior Spring Credits
JR N 332, 334, or 336 3
JR N 350 3
JR N Elective 1
Multidisciplinary concentration*** 3
Multidisciplinary concentration*** 3
D.E.C. 3
Total 16

Senior Fall Credits
JR N 364, 370, or 380** 3
JR N 361, 371, or 381** 3
Multidisciplinary concentration*** 3
Elective 3
Elective 3
Total 15

Senior Spring Credits
JR N 490 3
JR N Elective 3
Multidisciplinary concentration*** 3
Elective 3
Elective 3
Total 15

*Students are required to pass a grammar immersion laboratory to progress further in the program.
**These courses follow a sequence (e.g. JR N 370 and JR N 371). See Bulletin for specifics.
***Or courses that count toward a second major.

A. Phase I: Values and Skills

1. Students must complete the following six courses
   JR N 101/103 News Literacy
   JR N 110/111 News I: Basic Reporting and Writing/Writing Immersion Lab
   JR N 210/211 News II: Advanced Reporting and Writing/Digital Photojournalism lab
   JR N 220 Journalism Law and Ethics
   JR N 288 On-Campus Internship
   JR N 310 News III: Writing and Reporting Broadcast

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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

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 Techniques of In-Depth Reporting*
   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*

   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 foundational 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 115 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 303 Crisis Communications
   EST 339 Natural Disasters: Impacts and Solutions
   GEO 101 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 374 Historical Perspectives on Gender Orientation
   SOC 106 Introduction to Sociology
   SOC 302 American Society
   SOC 303 Social Inequality
   SOC 310 Ethnic and Race Relations
   SOC 330 Media and Society
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
CFS 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

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 111, a grammar course that is co-requisite 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.

A. Courses required of all minors:
JRN 101/103 News Literacy
JRN 110/111 News I: Basic Reporting and Writing/Writing Immersion Lab
JRN 301 Journalism 24/7

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

Note: Minors may take additional journalism electives with permission of instructor.