Principles of Journalism

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45 p.m.
Location: 427 English-Philosophy Building (EPB)

Catalog Listing
Understanding changes in American journalism; including factors driving this change, orientation to the contemporary landscape of journalism, and making educated guesses about the near-term future of journalism; reflection on distinctive public service mission of journalism and its adaptation to the digital age.

Instructor
Assistant Professor Daniel Lathrop
daniel-lathrop@uiowa.edu - (319) 335 - 3331
Office: W337 Adler Journalism Building (AJB)
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3 p.m. or by appointment

Textbooks
Engaged Journalism by Jake Batsell
Gellhorn: A Twentieth-Century Life by Caroline Moorehead
Why I Write by George Orwell

All three are available at the University of Iowa Hawk Shop
http://iowa.verbacompare.com/comparison?id=173_JMC__2300__0001

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Office hours: TBA

Department information
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Director: Professor David Ryfe
Email: david-ryfe@uiowa.edu
Main office: E305 Adler Journalism Building
Office phone: 335-3486

WARNING: This course will contain material on controversial topics and frank discussions of material and subjects which may be offensive or upsetting.
Note
Some of the policies relating to this course (such as the drop deadline) are governed by its administrative home, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 120 Schaeffer Hall.

Course description and goals
The goal of this class is for students to develop an understanding of the nature, goals and challenges of contemporary journalism in the both U.S. and around the world. When you’re done, you should have your own well thought-out view about what it means to be a journalist — and what that means in your life.

Though we’ll emphasize journalism’s democratic and public service roles, we won’t ignore the fact that journalism comes in many forms and flavors.

Class will generally split between four different types of learning:

• Most Tuesdays will feature lectures by the professor and guest speakers that use the material from the reading to explain ideas and challenge your thinking about. Expect to take notes and both ask and answer questions. It will be impossible to excel in this class if you miss too many of these.

• Most Thursdays will feature one or more small group and individual activities. And, if all goes well, you’ll have fun. They will not be optional.

• You’ll read a mix of books an articles, and should plan to do a rough average of 2 – 3 hours per week of reading.

• You’ll also read every story on the front page of The New York Times every day, which will be referenced in class, in quizzes and on tests. (You can pick up a free physical copy or go to nytimes.com/todayspaper)

SJMC learning outcomes
The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is committed to your academic and professional success. In line with this commitment, we have identified particular learning outcomes that every student should obtain by the time they earn a JMC degree. You can find more information about these learning outcomes here: http://clas.uiowa.edu/sjmc/undergraduate-programs/assessment.

We regularly assess the curriculum to determine whether students are achieving these outcomes.
• This course contributes introducing material from the ethics, media history, media literacy and multiculturalism learning goals.

Achieving these outcomes means the ability to:

• Demonstrate knowledge of core journalistic practices and values [media literacy learning outcome]

• Reflect on the institution of journalism and its role in society [law and ethics learning outcome]

• Reflect on the role of journalism in a free society [law and ethics learning outcome]

• Reflect on the relationship between journalists and diverse groups in the U.S. around the world [multiculturalism learning outcome]

• Recognize the major causes of disruption within journalism and their consequences for the field [media history learning outcome]

• Evaluate the landscape of the contemporary journalistic field and its immediate future [media literacy learning outcome]

Conduct

You are expected to conduct yourself in a manner befitting a professional. You are expected to follow two rules: courtesy and common sense. Repeated or egregious failure to do so can result in a significant reduction of your final grade at the sole discretion of the instructor.

In addition, plagiarism is a capital crime in journalism. Therefore plagiarism or cheating will result in an F in the course.

Grading and Assignments

This class is graded out of 500 points ... you start with 0 and earn points for successfully carrying out assignments and activities.

• You’ll can short, weekly online quizzes drawing to the week’s news and material from throughout the semester. (up to 3 points per week)

• You’ll be graded on the overall quality of your participation and preparedness in the in class activities. Unapproved absences will result in a 50 point deduction. (up to 100 points)

• You’ll write a 800-word research paper on an important journalism question in MLA style. Topic selection will be discussed in class. Due last day of classes 5:02 p.m. (up to 100 points)
• You’ll work in a group to create and pitch a journalism-related business plan to a Shark Tank-style panel of experts. A “pitch deck” will be due in advance. (up to 100 points)

• You’ll take two in-class exams. (up to 50 points each, 100 points)

• You’ll take a final. (up to 100 points)

• You can optionally meet with the professor or TA for at least 15 minutes during their office hours to discuss the substance of the readings or lectures. (up 10 points)

That is a total of 525 possible points... Because nobody’s perfect.

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent (rounded down)</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% and above</td>
<td>465 or more</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% - 92%</td>
<td>450 - 464</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% - 89%</td>
<td>435 - 449</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83% - 86%</td>
<td>415 - 434</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% - 82%</td>
<td>400 - 414</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77% - 79%</td>
<td>385 - 399</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73% - 76%</td>
<td>365 - 384</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70% - 72%</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67% - 69%</td>
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<td>63% - 66%</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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Schedule
As always, there may be variations to this schedule depending on covering needed material during class, availability of guest speakers, etc. But...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 22/24</td>
<td>What is journalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 29/31</td>
<td>Research tools</td>
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Attendance

Attendance is 100 percent mandatory on Nov. 7 and Nov. 9. You will fail the “Shark Tank” assignment if you miss either day. If this will be a problem, you must let the professor know by the end of the first day of class.

Other than that, attendance is not mandatory at Tuesday lectures. But they will not be recorded, are incremental to the reading and will be reflected on exams. If you miss them, you’re responsible for getting that information from your fellow students.

Attendance is mandatory on Thursday, but other than Shark Tank and exams you can miss one Thursday session for any reason as a “PTO” day, similar to those in the professional world. You do this by notifying

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<tr>
<td>Sept. 5/7</td>
<td>Journalism’s role and democratic core</td>
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| Sept. 12/14| Sept. 12 – Journalism and human rights  
Sept. 13 – attend 7:30 p.m. speech by Cokie Roberts (Hancher)  
Sept. 14 – class canceled |
| Sept. 19/21| Sept. 19 – Exam Prep  
Sept. 21 – Week 5 Exam |
| Sept. 26/28| Journalism’s norms and practices                                     |
| Oct. 3/5 | Epistemology and ethics of journalism                                 |
| Oct. 10/12| Oct. 10 – Guest: Art Cullen / The Storm Lake Times  
Oct. 12 – Digital Disruption (lecture) |
| Oct. 17/19| Sept. 17 – Business plans  
Sept. 19 – Exam prep |
Oct. 26 – Week 10 Exam |
| Oct. 31/Nov. 2| Journalism’s new norms and practices  
Nov. 3 – Shark Week pitch deck due |
| Nov. 7/9 | Shark Tank presentations                                             |
| Nov. 11/14| Public Interest Journalism                                           |
| Nov. 21/23| Thanksgiving break                                                   |
| Nov. 28/30| Journalism, race, ethnicity and gender                               |
| Dec. 5/7 | What is journalism (redux) and opportunities in journalism          |
|          | Dec. 8 – Final paper due                                             |
the instructor in advance. This is your sick day, mental health day, whatever. Don’t ask for another.

Each other Thursday absences reduce your participation score by 20 points except in accordance with university policy – think religious holidays, snow days, inpatient hospitalization, travel for official team sports. A make-up assignment will be required for all approved/ excused absences.

**Religious Holidays**

It’s worth noting that university policy allows you to miss class in order participate in the observation the religious holidays of your faith.

If you intend to do so, you must notify the instructor of the holiday and day(s) you intend to miss by the end of the first week of classes.

**Readings**

Assignments will given on ICON and will be in the assigned textbooks or available electronically.

**Research papers**

Potential topics and specific requirements will be discussed during the second week of class.

**Resources for Students**

Students will find the Writing Center and the Speaking Center very useful for this course; the Tutor Iowa site is also very valuable for students seeking extra help:

- Writing Center: [https://writingcenter.uiowa.edu](https://writingcenter.uiowa.edu)
- Speaking Center: [https://speakingcenter.uiowa.edu](https://speakingcenter.uiowa.edu)
- Tutor Iowa: [https://tutor.uiowa.edu](https://tutor.uiowa.edu)

**The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Important Policies and Procedures**

**Administrative Home**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS [Academic Policies Handbook](https://clas.uiowa.edu).
Electronic Communication
University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondence (Operations Manual, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities
A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. See https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/ for more information.

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom
The University of Iowa is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University’s Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, diversity@uiowa.edu, or visit diversity.uiowa.edu.

Academic Honesty
All students taking CLAS courses have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies
The date and time of every final examination is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of the final exam.
**Making a Suggestion or a Complaint**

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

**Understanding Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the Office of the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

**Reacting Safely to Severe Weather**

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety website.