Courses

JOUR 199  Undergraduate Open Seminar  credit: 1 to 3 Hours.
A changing array of courses focusing on special topics in journalism. Approved for Letter and S/U grading. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours in separate semesters, if topics vary.

JOUR 200  Introduction to Journalism  credit: 3 Hours.
Discussion of the history, freedom, technologies, ethics, and functions of the news media. Training in clear, descriptive writing techniques, using journalistic models. Prerequisite: Completion of Composition I general education requirement.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Advanced Composition

JOUR 205  History of American Journalism  credit: 3 Hours.
Surveys the history of the field of journalism since pre-colonial times. Includes the evolution of the media in the United States and the evolution of cultural concepts concerning the media, including rights granted under the First Amendment. Credit is not given for JOUR 205 if credit for JOUR 405 has been earned.

JOUR 210  Newsgathering Across Platforms  credit: 4 Hours.
Fundamentals of journalistic reporting and writing across print, broadcast and digital platforms. Credit is not given for JOUR 210 if credit for JOUR 400 has been earned. Prerequisite: JOUR 200.

JOUR 215  Multimedia Reporting  credit: 4 Hours.
Designed to acquaint students with the fundamentals of digital photography, video, audio and multimedia as it applies to journalism. Instruction will include conceptual frameworks and techniques to create multimedia journalism content; the conception, planning and creation of multimedia projects; coverage of events with audio, video and photographs; the technical and creative aspects of digital photography, video, and multimedia; delivery platforms for multimedia content including the Web and evolving communication technologies. Credit is not given for JOUR 215 if credit for JOUR 410 has been earned. Prerequisite: JOUR 210 or consent of Journalism Department.

JOUR 220  News Editing  credit: 4 Hours.
Editing and headline writing, news judgment, ethics and leadership. Credit is not given for JOUR 220 if credit for JOUR 320 has been given.

JOUR 250  Journalism Ethics & Diversity  credit: 3 Hours.
Focuses on media decision-making and news judgment, specifically ethics and diversity in newsgathering with regard to scope, privacy, bias, economic concerns, and accountability. Examines real-life news decisions and the thoughts of journalists who lived through famous and infamous ethics situations. Key provisions in the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics regarding use of diverse voices will be discussed and applied in practical ways, and both students and the instructor will find current examples of ethics issues to present to the class. Diversity education is part of the required standard for achieving journalism accreditation from the discipline’s national accrediting body.

JOUR 253  Digital Photography for Everyone  credit: 3 Hours.
Foundations of digital photography, techniques to produce photographs; the conception and planning of pictures; the pictorial coverage of locations, events and human interest situations; and the planning and execution of photos in print, on the web and other electronic media are the focus of this hands-on course. You will develop a practical understanding of the potentials and realities of photographic communication to better use them for full expression of your vision. Approved for Letter and S/U grading.

JOUR 311  Media Law  credit: 3 Hours.
Detailed analysis of the theories of freedom of expression, the legal doctrines of greatest concern to mass communicators, and contemporary issues related to free speech and press, including libel, copyright, and news-gathering in a digital age. Credit is not given for JOUR 311 if credit for JOUR 411 has been earned.

JOUR 315  Adv Public Affairs Reporting  credit: 4 Hours.
Study and extensive practice of in-depth public affairs reporting - its concepts, techniques, traditions, ethics, and social obligations. Credit is not given for JOUR 315 if credit for JOUR 415 has been earned. Prerequisite: JOUR 210.

JOUR 335  Audio Journalism  credit: 4 Hours.
Reporting and writing news for audio programs and websites. Credit is not given for JOUR 335 if credit for JOUR 435 has been earned. Prerequisite: JOUR 210.

JOUR 340  Video Reporting & Storytelling  credit: 4 Hours.
Introduces news studio and field production and principles of field reporting and editing of news video; principles of planning, producing, and directing news and public affairs programs. Credit is not given for JOUR 340 if credit for JOUR 440 has been earned. Prerequisite: JOUR 210.

JOUR 360  The Media and You  credit: 3 Hours.
The course will survey contemporary public relations to clarify several elements: publicity, advertising, branding, press agentry, public affairs, issues management, lobbying, investor relations and development. Students will learn to work with the press and the ethical dimensions of the relationships that form. The course will employ real and hypothetical case studies. Teams will develop strategies to reach a PR goal. Each team will make presentations to be judged by real clients or the instructor and guest judges.

JOUR 361  Readings in Sports Journalism  credit: 3 Hours.
Books about sports and sports personalities are perennial best-sellers. Students in this course will read, analyze and discuss long-form sports journalism. Some of the books and stories are considered classics of the form; others may be fairly recent and news-worthy publications. All will represent varied approaches to sports journalism in books, magazines and digital experiments and forms.

JOUR 421  Editing for Publication  credit: 3 Hours.
Principles and practice of editing across disciplines. Content includes style, grammar, punctuation, word usage, clarity and brevity. Both print and digital environments are considered. Students will edit text and display copy such as headlines and photo captions. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Credit is not given for both JOUR 421 and JOUR 320. Journalism majors should enroll in JOUR 320. Prerequisite: Advanced Composition.
JOUR 425  Multimedia Editing and Design credit: 4 Hours.
Principles of visual reporting and editing; seeks to instill application-level competency in a wide array of non-linear, non-narrative techniques of journalistic storytelling across various media. 4 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: JOUR 215.

JOUR 445  Video Storytelling 2-Producing credit: 4 Hours.
Advanced techniques for reporting, producing, writing, shooting, and editing video news stories and for producing and airing regularly scheduled news programs on deadline. 4 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: JOUR 340.

JOUR 450  Media and Public Opinion credit: 3 Hours.
Theory of public opinion and communications; relation of communication systems to public opinion, social systems, and the political order. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Completion of Quantitative Reasoning I.

JOUR 451  Research Methods in Journalism credit: 3 Hours.
Introduction to social science principles of measurement, sampling, statistical inferences and logic of research design in collection, analysis and interpretation of information used in journalism and mass media. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Completion of Quantitative Reasoning I requirement. JOUR 200 recommended, or graduate standing.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Quantitative Reasoning II

JOUR 452  Great Books of Journalism credit: 3 Hours.
Books written by journalists have had great impact on U.S. public policy and understanding, covering such topics as corporate power, political corruption, rural poverty, the atomic bombing of Japan, Watergate, and a soldier's-eye view of war. From hard-edged investigations to nonfiction literature, the readings broaden and deepen understanding of the power and purpose of journalism beyond breaking news and personalities. Readings from eight groundbreaking books, assessment of social and professional impact, ethical issues, reporting and writing approaches, and extensive class discussion. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Lit Arts
Cultural Studies - US Minority

JOUR 453  Crisis Communications credit: 3 Hours.
Students will take on the role of a public relations/public affairs officer to learn how to deal with the media when managing a crisis for a client, whether a multinational corporation or a professional athlete. Students will use case studies of actual events to examine how the media dealt with the crisis. Students will get a look at the inner workings of a major PR firm devoted to telling the truth while managing the message. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours.

JOUR 454  Propaganda & the News Media credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
The course examines techniques and processes of propaganda in a democratic society. It draws from contemporary theories of influence and persuasion to identify propaganda in the context of modern journalism, to delineate differences between propaganda and information, and to assess the impact of propaganda on democratic decision making in the digital age. Particular attention is given to the news media practices and consumption patterns that unwittingly facilitate strategies of modern propagandists. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Junior, Senior or Graduate standing.

JOUR 460  Special Topics credit: 1 to 4 Hours.
A changing array of special projects, research or reading in journalism. 1 to 4 undergraduate hours. 1 to 4 graduate hours. May be repeated in the same or subsequent semesters if topics vary.

JOUR 470  International Reporting credit: 3 Hours.
Role of international news in daily lives. Examines those who report it and those who pioneered it. Students monitor how U.S. and international media cover selected countries and learn how to write international news. In selected semesters, students may research issues and life in a foreign country in preparation for an international reporting trip. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours.

JOUR 471  Science Journalism credit: 3 Hours.
Students will explore media coverage of science. They will examine the interconnections of scientific advances and public understanding. The seminar format will allow students to interview scientists and journalists, to discuss work, and to become science communicators. Subject matter of reporting projects will be determined by the background and interests of the students. Field trips and Illinois science will be featured. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours.

JOUR 472  Business Reporting credit: 3 Hours.
Learning to follow the money is a key part of covering corporate America, professional sports or Hollywood. No need to fear financial statements: This course shows you easy methods to pick them apart and turn them into smart stories. Students learn to report and write stories using the Wall Street Journal's feature methods. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Prerequisite: JOUR 210 or JOUR 400. Journalism or Agricultural Communications major(s). Restricted to students with Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate class standing.

JOUR 475  Magazine Writing credit: 3 Hours.
Preparation of feature stories and articles; techniques of marketing, market analysis, and publishing articles written in the course. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Prerequisite: JOUR 210.

JOUR 480  Advanced Reporting Topics credit: 3 Hours.
Advanced reporting projects or techniques, with separate sections for a varying array of topics such as investigative reporting, immersion journalism, literary journalism, business and financial journalism, online publishing, radio news features, sports writing, broadcast documentary production, digital journalism, and photojournalism. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. May be repeated in the same or subsequent semesters if topics vary. Prerequisite: JOUR 210.

JOUR 481  Literary Feature Writing credit: 3 Hours.
Course focuses on concept, reporting practice, and ethics of literary approaches to create evocative, story-like journalism articles. Students report and write a single in-depth story that will be re-reported and re-written three times. Includes extensive readings illustrating the finest literary journalism. The class includes extensive self, class and professor criticism and editing. Articles for this class have been published in the News-Gazette and other publications. An archive of published stories can be found at intimatejournalism.com. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Prerequisite: JOUR 210. Journalism majors only.

JOUR 482  Immersion Journalism credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
The interview methodology students learn is seen as the best way to provide the ethnographerwriter/reporter with insight into social phenomena. The methodology can be used to examine living conditions, family history and attitudes of ethnic groups at any class level -- wealthy, affluent, middle class, poor or underclass. Students with insatiable curiosity about behavior will be able to extract from participants surprising revelations about their needs, desires and motivations. Students will learn how personalities, circumstances, and choices made by participants' parents and forebears affect the participant's life today. Same as AFRO 482. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Juniors, Seniors and Graduate students of any discipline.
JOUR 483  Investigative Journalism  credit: 3 Hours.
The investigative methodology students learn is seen as the best way
to provide the producer/editor/reporter with insight into social issues,
government and businesses practices and systems. The methodology
can be used to examine and topics or issue. Students will use data,
documents, interviews and field observation to collect information, do
basic data analysis, test hypotheses, and produce stories in text, audio,
or video or all. Students will learn how to do deep research, organize
complex material, and produce presentations that are easy for the public
to understand. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours.

JOUR 490  Professional Project  credit: 3 Hours.
Individual and team-produced advanced enterprise projects in specialized
fields. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. May be repeated in the
same or subsequent semesters if topics vary.

JOUR 495  Internship Seminar  credit: 0 to 1 Hours.
Seminar based on internship experience. Offered for College of Media
students who complete an approved professional, industry related
internship. 0 to 1 undergraduate hours. 0 to 1 graduate hours. Approved
for S/U grading only. May be repeated in the same term to a maximum of
2 undergraduate hours or 2 graduate hours. May be repeated in separate
terms to a maximum of 3 undergraduate hours or 3 graduate hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

JOUR 500  Current Issues in Journalism  credit: 4 Hours.
Seminar on issues of contemporary importance in journalism in their
historical, multicultural contexts. Emphasis on ethical, legal, social,
professional aspects of those issues. Aimed at helping students to
develop their own journalism philosophies and high standards of
conduct. Prerequisite: Consent of department.

JOUR 501  Multimedia Storytelling  credit: 4 Hours.
The course is designed to equip graduate students who have little or
no journalism experience to report in a multimedia environment. In
the first part of the course, students learn where to find stories and
how to develop story ideas, as well as basic research and interviewing
techniques. Students will then be introduced to the various ways in which
stories can be told using media platforms such as print, radio, television
and the web. Prerequisite: Graduate students only.

JOUR 505  Journalism Proseminar  credit: 4 Hours.
Introduction to scholarship and research in journalism and mass
communication examining theoretical approaches to the meanings,
uses, and effects of mass media in society; discussion of media freedom
and accountability; humanistic and social scientific contributions
to understanding mass communication. Prerequisite: Consent of
department.

JOUR 515  Master's Project  credit: 4 Hours.
A professional journalism project demonstrating development of
analytical and critical thinking abilities appropriate to the profession and
effective application of journalism methodology. May be repeated up to 8
hours. Prerequisite: Consent of department.

JOUR 590  Advanced Topics in Journalism  credit: 2 to 4 Hours.
Advanced special projects, research or reading in journalism at the
master’s and doctoral level. Approved for letter and S/U grading. May be
repeated in the same term to a maximum of 8 hours; may be repeated in
separate terms to a maximum of 24 hours.