Introduction to Journalism—JOU 3003
School of Communication+Journalism
Florida International University

Fall 2017

Instructor Information
Instructor: Allan Richards, associate professor
Classroom location: Glenn Hubert Library (HL), Room 160
Class time: Monday/Wednesday 3:00 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
Email: Richarda@fiu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Tel. 305-919-5947

Course Description:
Journalism: Its essential elements, its role in shaping American society and the challenges of producing credible, trustworthy news in the digital age.

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Identify the essential elements that define journalism
- Understand and demonstrate the relationship between journalism and democracy
- Recognize the evolution of news and media’s influence on U.S. history and politics.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the powerful roles print, broadcast and digital platforms play in journalism.
- Identify the challenges the internet and social media pose to truthful and credible reporting
- Assess the quality of consumer news and employ techniques for distinguishing between fake and factual news
- Become more knowledgeable of the reporting process in the digital age

The following are ACEJMC Student Learning Outcomes that are targeted in this course:

- Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press in the United States.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
- Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
• Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
• Think critically, creatively and independently;
• Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
• Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
• Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.

**Required texts:**
“Mightier Than the Sword: How the News Media Have Shaped American History” (Fourth Edition) by Rodger Streitmatter.

“The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect” (Third Edition) by Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel

**Class participation/performance:**
Students will read assigned chapters from texts. Each week a group of 10 students will write brief papers—approximately 150 words—that include the chapters’ key points and 2-3 insights that identify key concepts or ideas that are relevant to the contemporary practice of journalism.

The group also will lead a class discussion about the chapters. Class participation/performance will be evaluated on the basis of preparedness to discuss assigned readings and the quality and substance of contributions to the class discussions.

**Grading summary:**
Class participation/performance (written assignment of readings and group discussions): 15 percent of the final grade.

Mid-term (based on class assignments--readings and discussions): 40 percent

Final group project (to be explained by the professor): 45 percent

**Student expectations:**
The School of Communication+Journalism is a professional school and part of your training is to learn and uphold a code of conduct. This class imposes expectations on its students. Students are expected to complete all assignments prior to the class. Students are also expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. This includes respecting the rights of fellow students and promoting an environment conducive to learning.
There is a high correlation between attendance and grades in this class. Please make every effort to attend class regularly and on time. Students are fully responsible for lecture notes and the content of class discussions.

If a student misses more than three (3) class periods, the instructor reserves the right to lower the student’s final grade one letter grade.

**Excused absences are given for three situations only:**
1. Personal or family health conditions, certified by a physician or counselor and approved by the instructor;
2. Personal or family legal conditions, warranting your attention during class time and certified by an attorney or judge and approved by the instructor;

**Course Policy:**
It should be remembered that there are no shortcuts to good journalism and, as with all courses within our program, we are committed to upholding the highest ethical behavior. Any act of plagiarism will automatically result in an F for the course. DO NOT be tempted to cut-and-paste from the web. The SCJ will also refer such an act to university authorities for consideration of expulsion.

We will be adhering to journalism standards in this course. Deadlines matter in journalism. A late paper will result in a lower grade for that assignment.

**Grading Scale**

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<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>F==Below 65</td>
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**Academic Honesty:**

As FIU students, you are expected to strictly follow the honor code regarding academic honesty. Florida International University outlines your responsibilities as follows:

*Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect*
for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Misconduct includes: Cheating – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. Plagiarism – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

Any students who fail to meet these expectations will receive an “F” for the course grade and will be reported to the Chair of the Department, as well as the Dean of the School.