JRN

Journalism

JRN 101: News Literacy
How do you know if you're getting the truth from the news media? This course is designed to prepare students to become more discriminating news consumers. It will examine standards of reliability and accuracy in news gathering and presentation, and seek to establish the differences between news and propaganda, assertion and verification, bias and fairness, and infotainment and journalism. Students will be encouraged to critically examine news broadcasts, newspaper articles and Web sites. Visiting journalists will be questioned about the journalistic process and decision-making. JRN 101 and JRN 103 are mutually exclusive; JRN 101 cannot be taken for credit in addition to JRN 103 or vice versa.
Pre- or corequisite: WRT 101 or higher or equivalent, or permission of department
DEC: F
SBC: CER, SBS
3 credits

JRN 105: The Mind of a Reporter
The first of three courses in the School of Journalism's Fundamentals of Reporting and Writing sequence. It is designed, through the introduction of critical exercises, applied assignments and exposure to outstanding models and examples, to introduce journalism students to key values and skills of great reporters: keen observational skills; the tools to conduct analytical research; the ability to ask probing questions; an unflagging devotion to accuracy and fairness, and a passion for the public interest. Students are expected to demonstrate an ongoing engagement with current events and to refine their "nose for news." Not for credit in addition to JRN 110.
Pre- or Corequisite: WRT 101 or higher or equivalent; JRN 101 or JRN 103
SBC: ESI
3 credits

JRN 108: The History and Future of the American Press
This course traces the history of the American press from pre-American Revolution to post-Internet revolution. It examines the political, economic and technological forces that shaped the news media and how the press, in turn, influenced American government, politics and society. Topics will include freedom of the press, the rise of the popular press, war and the press, the press and presidents, the impact of investigative journalism, the evolution of radio and TV news, and the advent of 24/7 online news.
Pre- or corequisite: WRT 101 or higher or equivalent, or permission of department
DEC: F
SBC: SBS, USA
3 credits

JRN 111: Grammar and Editing Lab
To progress in the major and 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.
Prerequisite: Prerequisite: WRT 102; JRN 101 or JRN 103; JRN 105 Corequisite: JRN 115
1 credit, S/U grading

JRN 115: News Reporting & Writing I
The second of a three semester sequence in the School of Journalism's Fundamentals of Reporting and Writing sequence. Students sharpen their ability to find and frame a well-focused story idea, apply advanced interviewing skills, learn the effective use of attribution and quotations, craft effective leads and "nut graphs," and become disciplined in writing to length and meeting deadlines. In this course, students write basic professional-level news ledes, news updates and live blogs on deadline and by the conclusion of the semester complete several news stories that are well-reported, well-written and stylistically acceptable, with an emphasis on accuracy and verification. Students are expected to maintain an ongoing engagement with current events.
Prerequisite: WRT 102; JRN 101 or JRN 103; JRN 105 Corequisite: JRN 111
3 credits

JRN 205: News Reporting & Writing II
The final course in the School of Journalism's Fundamentals of Reporting and Writing sequence. Telling an effective story often means going beyond the basics and adding additional layers of reporting, including "color" and compelling anecdotal material, additional sources, independent verification of competing accounts, background and context, as well as providing a narrative organizational structure and the deployment of a variety of story approaches. In this course, students report and write more complex news stories, news feature stories, profiles and news trend stories, several of which are based on their own story ideas. In addition, students add multi-media elements to at least one story, employing the tools they have learned in the corequisite Introduction to Multimedia Skills lab.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 115 and grade of Satisfactory in JRN 111 Corequisite: JRN 215
3 credits

JRN 215: Introduction to Multimedia Skills Lab
Images and sound are critically important to journalists. In this lab, students will explore and apply basic skills in audio, video and photography. This lab will be divided into three sections: Four weeks of audio, five weeks of photography and five weeks of video. Students demonstrate proficiency with digital audio recorders, video and still cameras as well as proficiency in basic editing in all mediums.
Prerequisite: JRN 111 and JRN 115 Corequisite: JRN 205
1 credit

JRN 220: Media Law
Examines the legal issues that are encountered by journalists and other media professionals, including the First Amendment, libel, invasion of privacy, copyright law, and trademarks. Students also will examine ethical codes that guide journalists, including independence, truth-telling, accountability and protecting sources.
Pre- or corequisite: JRN 115; JRN 111 or WRT 200
2 credits

JRN 301: The Changing News Business
This course examines the rapidly evolving media landscape and the implications for journalism and journalists. Students examine the revolutionary changes in digital technology, dramatically shifting patterns of media consumption, rise of non-traditional competition, challenges of serving a more diverse audience, and accelerating media consolidation, and explore alternative visions for the impact on content, standards, business models, and jobs in the next decade.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 108 Pre- or corequisite: JRN 115; JRN 111 or WRT 200
2 credits
JRN 310: Multimedia Newsroom I / Visual
Students are introduced to the skills needed to report and write news stories for television and radio. Students will become familiar with the proper use of pictures and sound in broadcast journalism, and become comfortable writing news reports in a variety of broadcast formats. Students also are expected to become familiar with a variety of broadcast production tools, including the basics of Final Cut Pro and video photography. Course includes a lecture and a weekly three-hour lab. This course has an associated fee. Please see www.stonybrook.edu/coursefees for more information.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 210 or JRN 205 and a grade of satisfactory in JRN 211 or JRN 215
SBC: SPK
3 credits

JRN 320: Multimedia Newsroom II / Web
Examines the challenges presented by the explosion of journalism on the Internet and assesses the role of the journalist in an online society. Students are exposed to both practical skills and a broader understanding of issues. Topics include how journalists add value to information online, writing and editing for the Web, the use of interactive tools, blogs and podcasts, and an elementary understanding of Web design. At the same time, students explore issues of privacy, the Internet's potential threat to traditional journalistic standards, and how online publishing is creating new audiences. Students will critique news Web sites, participate in a blog and podcast, create a news Web page, and produce an online story package. Course includes a lecture and a weekly three-hour lab.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 210 or JRN 205 and a grade of satisfactory in JRN 211 or JRN 215
3 credits

JRN 333: Business Reporting
This course provides practical training for journalism students interested in a possible career in business reporting. It seeks to provide the basic understanding and skills to report on business and consumer news and economic trends. Goals include learning how to read and understand financial statements, how to identify and access relevant public documents, and how to interpret basic economic data and statistics. Students profile a public company on Long Island or in New York City, and learn how to write a business story that conforms to standards of accuracy and context. They will be encouraged to visit major financial institutions, public markets, and regulatory agencies in New York City. Students will also examine business stories and controversies in the news from the perspective of the business community and journalists.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 310
Advisory Prerequisites: ECO 108 and BUS 110
3 credits

JRN 334: Science and Health Reporting
Students will examine methods of evaluating and reporting science and health news with accuracy and context. Among the topics to be covered: how to read a medical journal article; how to understand simple statistical data; how to develop and interview expert sources; how to deal with conflicting claims. Drawing on the resources of the Health Sciences Center, the course also will provide information on how research and health care are organized and funded. Students will report and write several stories for print, broadcast or the Web. They also will spend a day shadowing a health care professional.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 210 or JRN 205 and a grade of satisfactory in JRN 211 or JRN 215; 1 D.E.C. E or SNW; 1 D.E.C. F or SBS
3 credits

JRN 335: Reporting in New York City
This course, which is offered mainly in winter and summer sessions, provides students with an overview of how reporters cover major institutions in New York City. The semester focus varies, ranging from city hall, United Nations, police, courts, Wall Street, arts and culture, television, music, movies, theater, fashion and other city-centric themes. The course offers a blend of classroom instruction, talks with officials and journalists and hands-on reporting. On reporting days, the class will be run as a newspaper. It is offered at the university's Manhattan extension. May be repeated as the focus changes.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 210 or JRN 205 and a grade of satisfactory in JRN 211 or JRN 215; permission of the department
SBC: EXP*
3 credits

JRN 336: Sports Reporting
This course is designed to prepare students to report, write and produce sports stories in print, broadcast and online, from sports news to behind-the-scenes issues that resonate in the world of sports. Upon completion of this course, students should be as comfortable covering a government hearing on steroids in professional sports as covering a basketball game.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 310
3 credits

JRN 337: Introduction to Narrative Journalism
Building on students' experiences in newswriting, this course examines the reporting and writing of longer stories and more textured feature stories. There will be an emphasis on focus, structure, and storytelling, including the rudiments of developing style and a narrative voice. Students will be expected to write several original enterprise stories. They will also explore the similarities and differences in telling stories in print, online, and in broadcast formats.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 205 or JRN 210 and grade of satisfactory in JRN 211 or JRN 215
3 credits

JRN 340: Beat Reporting
This course is designed to develop the ability of students to cover a specific area of news coverage, a beat. Emphasis is placed on developing sources, finding stories, organizing a beat and covering a variety of beat stories from breaking news to profiles and in-depth, enterprise stories. Students will select a beat to follow throughout the semester.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 310
3 credits

JRN 350: Journalistic Judgment and Ethics
Journalistic judgment-how and why decisions are made in the newsroom-examines the fundamentals of the editor or news director's role in print, broadcast and online news with emphasis on their impact on critical thinking, decision-making, maximizing accuracy, removing bias and providing diversity and context. Students will discuss journalistic judgment in print, broadcast and online news. The semester case studies and project will address fundamental judgment issues.
Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 310
Pre- or corequisite: JRN 320
SBC: CER, ESI
3 credits

JRN 355: Reporting in New York City - Broadcast
Offered mainly in winter and summer sessions, the course provides students with an overview of how broadcast journalists cover the major institutions in New York City: City Hall, the United Nations, the police department,
the courts, Wall Street, etc. The course offers a blend of classroom instruction, talks with officials and journalists, and hands-on reporting. On reporting days, the class will be run as a newsroom. It is offered at the university’s Manhattan extension.

Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 310 and permission of the department
3 credits

JRN 361: News Editing and Presentation/Print

Editors are the last line of defense. Their job is to catch and correct mistakes, make stories readable if they are not, write engaging headlines and captions, design pages that invite the reader, protect the publication’s credibility, avoid libel, and otherwise exercise good news judgment. This course focuses on developing students’ copyediting and page design skills. Mastery of grammar and of The Associated Press Stylebook are goals. The course will cover the art of photo selection, placement and cropping, and the use of graphics and other elements to enhance storytelling. Students will use Adobe InDesign to create attractive pages.

Prerequisites: C or higher in JRN 350 or permission of the department
Pre- or corequisite: JRN 364
3 credits

JRN 363: Magazine Writing

This course builds on JRN 337, advancing the exploration of long-form magazine stories. Students will learn how to develop ideas and craft them into sophisticated pieces with protagonists and strong narrative drive. They will learn to bring their stories to life using novelistic techniques such as character development, voice, mood and theme, conflict and resolution, scene-setting, foreshadowing and dialogue. Required reading assignments, group discussions of works-in-progress and roundtable meetings with professional narrative journalists will inspire students to develop their own writer’s eye and voice. The culminating goal of the course is for each student to produce a 2,500-to-3,000-word story for publication. Students will also learn how to select a market for their stories and write a query letter.

Prerequisites: B or higher in JRN 337 and permission of department
3 credits

JRN 364: Advanced Reporting

Designed to prepare student journalists to get to the bottom of complex stories through probing reporting that will seek rich detail and context. All stories will be part of an overall subject that students will choose as a group for publication as a special report. Students must choose a subject they consider underreported. This will be done by class vote after discussion. Students will work independently under the supervision of a ‘City Editor’ to produce one in-depth story of approximately 1,500 words during the semester. These stories will delve deeply into the subject matter. Students will meet regularly with the “City Editor” in a seminar setting to discuss procedures, ideas, progress, to brainstorm and to share their experiences. They also will work independently on all aspects of developing their stories. Students will be graded on a number of benchmarks such as story proposal, revised proposal, reporting outlines, quality of research and reporting, drafts of the story, adding value and the final story. It is the goal that the stories be published. This is an interactive class with regular class discussions and group critiques. Participation in the weekly discussions is vital for each student journalist. Students should be prepared to contribute voluntarily or when called upon.

Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 310
Pre- or corequisite: JRN 350 or permission of the department
3 credits

JRN 365: Talking Science

Designed to help science majors learn to speak effectively and responsibly with multiple audiences, from peers and professors to potential employers, policymakers and the lay public. Students will focus on communicating about science clearly and vividly, as well as develop skills that are central to oral communication on any subject. The techniques used include improvisational theater exercises that help speakers connect with an audience, paying close and dynamic attention to others, reading nonverbal cues, and responding freely without self-consciousness. Students will practice delivering their message effectively for different audiences, including defining goals, identifying main points, speaking without jargon, explaining meaning and context, responding to questions, using storytelling techniques, and using multimedia elements. Students will be videotaped at least once during the semester as part of the learning process. As a culminating activity, students develop and deliver an engaging short oral presentation on a scientific topic. This course requires active participation not only as speakers, but also as active listeners and constructive critics in a rigorous but supportive environment.

Prerequisite: upper-division major in science, engineering, mathematics or health

SBC: SPK
3 credits

JRN 366: Press & the Presidency

To examine the role of the news media covering the White House and the administration with special emphasis on the current administration, the rise of the Internet and the decline of traditional media. The course will study the historical relationship between the press and the presidency, the tension between the public’s need to be informed and the government’s responsibility for national security, and the impact of the Internet and cable television. The course will compare newspaper, television/radio and Internet coverage, examine how political professionals view and attempt to use the press, and how the press can or should respond. In presidential election years, the course will examine how the news media covers the campaign and how candidates deal with the news media, with a special emphasis on how the digital revolution has impacted the relationship between news media and presidential candidates. This course is offered as both JRN 366 and POL 366.

Prerequisite: JRN 205 or POL 102 or permission of the instructor
3 credits

JRN 367: Opinion & Commentary

This writing-intensive experience reviews various aspects of opinion journalism: columns, commentary, editorials, op-ed, blogs, reviews and letters to the editor. It examines the historical role of opinion in journalism as well as how it changed and why. One aspect is the impact of the Internet and cable television on opinion journalism and commentary. The course examines such questions as: What makes an effective opinion? How does opinion journalism differ from news journalism? When do opinions and commentary qualify as journalism? This course surveys opinion in print, broadcast and all forms of new media emphasizing the importance of reporting, critical thinking and clear writing.

Prerequisite: JRN 101 or JRN 103
3 credits

JRN 370: Advanced Visual Reporting and Storytelling

This course builds on the work of JRN 310 and is offered in a workshop/production environment. There is focus on mastering the reporting of breaking news, live reporting and developing story ideas. Emphasis also will be on shooting techniques. Students will produce longer-form reports.

Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 310
3 credits

**JRN 371: Weekly Broadcast**

Designed to introduce students to planning, assembling, producing and performing the elements of a newscast. Students will be exposed to the roles of key members of a newscast team, including producers, assistant producers, reporters, writers, anchors and video photographers and editors. There will be emphasis on developing decision-making and on-air skills, as students complete mini-newscasts and segments for broadcast. Students will be expected to meet strict deadlines and manage critical air time. Newscast segments will be showcased on JRN Web sites.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in JRN 370

3 credits

**JRN 380: Multimedia Photojournalism**

This course, designed for students interested in specializing in online news, will focus on content management and the presentation of news on the Web. Students will have the opportunity to manage a news Web site in real time, with emphasis on around-the-clock news judgment and presentation. Students will learn how to enhance online news through multi-media integration and reader/viewer interactivity. Students also will study information architecture, eye-tracking studies and different ways of making the Web more accessible for readers, including layering information. The course builds on the skills learned in JRN 320. After completion of course overview material, students will move through three phases designed to simulate a key role in current online newsrooms. The phases include real-time content management, multi-media integration and harvesting original video. There will be emphasis on building critical thinking skills and developing teamwork. By the end of this course, students are to produce a complete multimedia project and integrate its production into a real-time online news site.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in JRN 320

**Pre- or corequisite:** JRN 350 or permission of the department

3 credits

**JRN 381: Web Presentation**

Students will combine their advanced journalistic skills in reporting, writing and producing with advanced multimedia techniques to create an online "microsite" devoted to one major story, combining text with video, photos, blogs and interactive features. This course builds on skills acquired in JRN 380. Significant computer use will be required outside of class time.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in JRN 380

3 credits

**JRN 385: Digital Academy**

This 1-credit workshop is intended to help you find stories, develop sources and cover breaking news using social media tools and applications, including Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and others. Completion of JRN 320 is recommended. May be repeated as the topic changes.

**Prerequisite:** C or better in JRN 105

1 credit

**JRN 390: Special Topics: Issues in Contemporary Journalism**

This special topics course will deal with timely and contemporary issues that affect journalists and journalism. The issues could range from the press in wartime, an examination of the role of the press covering war from World War II to the current war in Iraq, and how the press covers presidential campaigns. May be repeated as the topic changes.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in JRN 101 or JRN 103; may vary by topic

3 credits

**JRN 391: Journalism Workshops**

These workshops are designed to assist students in developing skills that will be useful in various journalism courses. Topics will rotate. Anticipated topics include On-Air Presentation, Audio Journalism, Digital Photography, Databases, FOIL and Sunshine Laws, On-Air Performance, Editing Software. May be repeated as the topic changes.

**Prerequisite:** Varies by topic, permission of the department

1-2 credits

**JRN 392: Special Topics: Issues in Contemporary Journalism-Journalism Without Walls Prep**

This 1-credit workshop is designed to assist students in preparing in advance if they are interested in taking JRN 435 Journalism Without Walls, a course in which students travel with journalism faculty to a location and spend several weeks reporting, writing and broadcasting from and about it. Before going to China to report on "Modern China and Its Media," for example, students would examine the complex world of China's media market, the world's largest, over which the Chinese government exercises strict control of news and entertainment at the same time as journalists and bloggers are using digital technology to get out their message. Each Journalism Without Walls Prep would be tailored to the specific locale and coverage issues.

**Prerequisite:** To be taken before JRN 435

1 credit

**JRN 393: Audio Journalism Lab**

This 1-credit audio lab is designed to assist students in developing skills that will be useful in various broadcast courses and to prepare them for radio and podcasting internship opportunities. Digital recorders will be provided for use in and out of class. An emphasis will be on the skills needed to produce long-form radio reports and podcasts in the tradition of National Public Radio. The lab meets once a week for three hours. Some assignments will require students to go off campus.

**Prerequisite:** JRN 215

**SBC:** EXP+

1 credit

**JRN 411: Television Practicum**

This is a capstone course for students specializing in video. This day-long workshop class meets on Fridays from 9 am to 6 pm, with an hour break for lunch. Each week, students will produce and broadcast a half-hour, live newscast that will be broadcast on the Web and on a campus news channel. The class will experience the working conditions of a professional TV newsroom. Over the course of the semester, students will have the opportunity to work in each of their key jobs necessary for a successful newscast: broadcast producer, news director, anchor, field producer, reporter, video editor and member of the studio crew. Following each newscast, the news team will gather for a "post-mortem" meeting. At this meeting, work will be critiqued and plans will be made for follow-up stories and the next week's newscast. The post mortem will serve as a weekly assessment for the students.

**Prerequisite:** To be taken before JRN 435

**Pre- or co-requisite:** JRN 370 and permission of the instructor

1 credit

**JRN 435: Journalism Without Walls**

Offered only during winter or summer sessions, this course is designed for experienced and energetic journalism students. Students will be assigned as part of a team to travel to a location and using only mobile technology, transmits stories and video from the field. Their work product is published via a special Web site. Students will have one week to research a topic or location...
before leaving for their destination. (Teams of students, for example, have gone to China, Russia, Cuba and the U.S. Gulf Coast.) While on assignment, students file blogs, gather multimedia and video, write and edit stories, produce a Web site and establish a “mobile news-room.” One or several instructors accompany the students. This course combines students' journalistic skills, judgment and enterprise with knowledge of emerging technology. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisites: permission of the department, additional prerequisites announced by topic. Passport may be required.

SBC: EXP+
3 credits

JRN 444: Experiential Learning
This course is designed for students who engage in a substantial, structured experiential learning activity in conjunction with another class. Experiential learning occurs when knowledge acquired through formal learning and past experience are applied to a “real-world” setting or problem to create new knowledge through a process of reflection, critical analysis, feedback and synthesis. Beyond-the-classroom experiences that support experiential learning may include: service learning, mentored research, field work, or an internship.

Prerequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor and approval of the EXP+ contract (http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/degree_requirements/EXPplus.php)

SBC: EXP+
0 credit, S/U grading

JRN 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled courses. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that already have been graded. The course in which the student is permitted to work as a teaching assistant must be different from the course in which he or she previously participated. Not for major or minor credit.

Prerequisites: grade of satisfactory in JRN 475; permission of instructor and undergraduate program director

SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

JRN 487: Independent Study
Intensive study of a special topic undertaken with close faculty supervision. May be repeated with a different topic.

Prerequisite: Permission of director of undergraduate studies

0-6 credits, S/U grading

JRN 488: Internship
Students work at local, state, and national news organizations. The work must involve journalistic skills related to the educational goals of the department.

Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 210 or 205 and a grade of 'S' in JRN 211 or 215; campus news media experience or a grade of 'S' in JRN 288; 12 JRN credits; permission of internship coordinator. Recommended GPA: 2.5 overall and 3.0 in JRN

SBC: EXP+
0-6 credits, S/U grading

JRN 489: Specialized Internship
This is an advanced internship. Students will spend 2 days a week at the internship site. In addition, this specialized internship includes a weekly lecture designed to prepare students to report, write and produce stories that benefit from a greater knowledge of a subject. Examples of Specialized Internships include Hyperlocal Reporting, Police and Court Reporting, Governmental Reporting, Culture and the Arts. The work must involve journalistic skills related to the educational goals of the department.

Prerequisite: C or better in JRN 340 and permission of instructor

SBC: EXP+
4 credits, S/U grading

JRN 490: Senior Project
This is a capstone course and a requirement for all majors. In a culminating activity, students produce a major story of professional quality, first in their area of journalistic concentration, and then adapt the story for two additional media platforms. Students attend a weekly seminar and work independently under the supervision of a faculty member. Remaining in 490 is contingent on submission of a well-developed story proposal at least a week prior to the start of the semester.

Prerequisite: C or higher in JRN 364 or JRN 370 or JRN 380
Pre or corequisites: One of the following: JRN 361, JRN 371, or JRN 381

SBC: WRTD
3 credits