JRN

Journalism

JRN 500: Introduction to News Media Concepts and Institutions
In any age when scientific, medical and environmental issues often make news, this course is designed to familiarize students with how the U.S. news media work. Students will learn how the industry is organized, and why it is undergoing fundamental change; how decisions are made about which stories to cover and how prominently to cover them; how the press weighs such values as freedom, privacy and national security; how the press attempts to deal with issues of scientific uncertainty and conflicting information. In exploring the culture and practices of American journalism, the course will focus on recent coverage of science, health and environmental developments. This course is intended for graduate students in health and science who seek a better understanding of the media context in which they will work, as well as for journalism M.S. students who do not have a background in journalism.

Offered Fall, Spring, and Summer, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

JRN 501: Communicating Science: Distilling Your Message
Current and future scientists and health professionals will learn to communicate clearly and engagingly with different kinds of audiences, at different levels of complexity, using different forms. We’ll examine the basics of clear, two-way communication, including knowing and being responsive to your audience, overcoming “the curse of knowledge”, having a point, avoiding jargon, using storytelling techniques, being personal, asking questions, and introducing complexity in stages. Students will start by crafting a short, controversial statement about their work and why it matters. We’ll expand that to a longer statement, convert it into a brief piece of writing, such as a letter to the editor or a blog post, practice answering questions about it from the public and from the media, plan a public presentation, and learn to apply these skills in the classroom. Skills learned in this course can help scientists and health professionals communicate more effectively with students, potential employers or funders, public officials, family and friends, the press, and colleagues in other disciplines.

JRN501, JRN502, and JRN503 are 1-credit modules, each lasting four or five weeks.

JRN 502: Communicating Science: Writing for the Public
Students will practice writing about specific health material clearly and vividly, in ways not-scientists can understand. They will learn to use analogies, examples and metaphors to illuminate unfamiliar concepts, practice using numbers clearly and translating statistics into conversational English, learn about scientific terms and concepts that are commonly misunderstood by the public. They will learn to introducte complexity gradually, to avoid overwhelming the reader while not “dumbing down” their material. Students will learn to write for different formats, including blogs, letters to the editor or to funders, and op-edits or commentary pieces.

JRN501, JRN502, and JRN503 are 1-credit modules, each lasting four or five weeks.
Students may take all three consecutively in one semester or may take only one or two.
Summer, 1 credit, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

JRN 503: Communicating Science: Improvisation for Scientists
This innovative course uses improvisational theater techniques to help students speak more spontaneously and connect more directly and responsively with their audience and with each other. After warm-up exercises, emphasizing physical freedom and verbal spontaneity, students take part in two- and three-person exercises and situational improvisations that focus on paying attention to your listeners, and altering your approach to meet their needs. At the beginning and end of this course, students will deliver a short oral statement about their research or a scientific topic that interests them, so they can measure their progress. This course is not about acting; it’s about helping current and future scientists and health professionals connect with their audiences.

Science graduate students who had several sessions of improvisation training in a pilot session reported communicating better as teachers, researchers, students, and family members. A glimpse of the process can be seen in a short video on the web page of Stony Brook’s Center for Communicating Science: www.stonybrook.edu/journalism/science.

JRN501, JRN502, and JRN503 are 1-credit modules, each lasting four or five weeks.
Students may take all three consecutively in one semester or may take only one or two.
Summer, 1 credit, S/U grading

JRN 504: Communicating Science: Using Digital Media
Science and health information increasingly travels by digital media, as new ways emerge for scientists to communicate directly with the public, without the intermediaries of press or public relations. Students will learn how to use blogs, podcasts, Twitter and other forms of social media for two-way communication with different segments of the public, including colleagues in other disciplines. The course will include hands-on instruction in working with digital media, tailored to students’ interests and levels of experience.

Offered Fall, Spring, and Summer, 1 credit, S/U grading
May be repeated 2 times FOR credit.

JRN 505: Communicating Science: Connecting with the Community
Students will learn how to use communication techniques, cultural competency, and health literacy concepts to reach and mobilize the community and key stakeholders on health- and science-related issues related to their research, outreach or community education objectives. The course will incorporate role-playing and community networking skills to help students make connections with key people and groups relevant to their current interests and work. This will require contact with the instructor before the start of the course to discuss students’ projects, plans or interests.

Offered Fall, Spring, and Summer, 1 credit, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated 2 times FOR credit.

JRN 506: Communicating Science: Advanced Writing for the Public
This course is for graduate students in the sciences who have taken JRN 502, Communicating Science: Writing To Be Understood, and want to continue developing and practicing their ability to write about science clearly and vividly for non-expert readers.

Offered Spring, 1 credit, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

JRN 507: Introduction to Science and Health Concepts and Institutions
In this course, aspiring journalists without a background in science will be introduced to the values, culture, practices and language of the fields they are learning to cover. The course will explore scientific methods in theory and practice; the structure of scientific and medical education, research and funding in the United States; and professional standards of practice in the media. The class will involve a variety of assignments that will help students be successful over the long term.

Students may take all three consecutively in one semester or may take only one or two.
Summer, 1 credit, S/U grading
States, including the role of business and entrepreneurship; the conventions of scientific publication and conferences; ethical issues, including conflict of interest, transparency and access to information. This course is intended primarily for journalism graduate students.

**Offered Fall, Spring, and Summer, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**JRN 508: Communicating Science: Engaging Key Audiences**

This course is for graduate students in the sciences who have taken either JRN 501, Communicating Science: Distilling Your Message, or JRN 503, Communicating Science: Improvisation for Scientists, and want to build on the skills introduced in those courses. Through role-playing and other exercises, students will practice connecting with, and communicating with, key people who are not specialists in their field, such as potential employers, students, journalists and public officials. New course. 1 credit. Prerequisite: JRN 501 or JRN 503. Offered Fall semester.

1 credit, S/U grading

May be repeated 1 times FOR credit.

**JRN 510: Basic Reporting and Writing for Journalism**

This course, for students without a journalism background, aims to help students master the basic elements of reporting and writing news and feature stories that are clear, accurate and fair. Students will gain practical experience through reporting on campus and community events, with frequent writing and rewriting assignments. Coverage will begin with breaking-news reports, such as coverage of speeches or crimes, and move on to news features, profiles and in-depth news stories. Students will learn the basic skills of journalism, such as developing story ideas; finding, assessing and interviewing sources; researching topics; identifying the important elements in a story; explaining information clearly, concisely, and fairly.

**Offered Fall, Spring, and Summer, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**JRN 515: Television Reporting and Editing**

This course, for students who have no background in broadcast reporting, introduces students to the basics of reporting, writing and editing news stories for television. Students will begin learning how to develop ideas for television, to use sounds and visuals properly, to do live reporting and to do basic video editing. Both on- and off-camera skills will be emphasized.

**Offered Fall, Spring, and Summer, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**JRN 520: Techniques of Online Journalism**

Students in this course will learn practical and conceptual skills in presenting news and feature stories online using web-based multimedia techniques. The class also will explore issues raised by the migration of news to the web, including questions of privacy and credibility, and challenges to traditional journalistic standards. Course includes weekly labs in the use of digital tools, including photography, video and information-rich graphics. This course is co-listed with JRN 320. It is intended for graduate journalism students who have little or no experience in producing online media packages.

**Offered Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**JRN 525: Health, Environment, Science and Technology Reporting**

The core course of the journalism master's program, this will introduce students to the range of science, health and environmental coverage while providing intensive instruction and practice in reporting and writing in journalistic formats. The goal is for students to learn how to think critically about scientific claims and controversies and how to write clear, accurate and vivid stories for print or online media. Students will practice such skills as developing sources, interviewing experts, finding stories, doing online research, organizing material, using statistics correctly, and presenting technical information in lay terms. Field trips will introduce students to work being done at Brookhaven National Laboratory and Stony Brook University Medical Center. A variety of written forms will be explored including news and trend stories, explanatory or human interest features, profiles, blogging, and first-person essays. This is an intensive course that meets six hours a week and requires at least 12 hours a week of work outside class. Offered Fall, 6 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**JRN 530: The Big Story: Science Issues Seminar**

Students will be exposed to selected current issues in health, science, environment and technology, providing the context reporters need to provide sophisticated coverage. The course will be built around a series of visits by scientists and medical professionals who will discuss topics in which they are expert. Students will prepare for these encounters, question the experts, participate in the discussions, and produce journalistic reports. Topic areas will vary but may include climate change, energy research, food and drug safety, stem cell research, racial and economic health disparities, health care funding, ocean pollution, computer privacy, nanotechnology, and space exploration.

**Offered Fall, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**JRN 555: Ethics, Law and Journalistic Judgment**

Students will explore the rights and responsibilities of the U.S. press, with a focus on issues of law, ethics and editorial judgment that arise in science, health and environmental reporting. Case studies will be used to illuminate ethical dilemmas, from various points of view, including that of reporters, researchers, health care professionals, subjects and patients.

**Offered Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**JRN 570: Advanced Reporting, Writing and Production for Broadcast**

This course, for students who have learned the basics of broadcast reporting, writing and production, is offered in a workshop/production environment. It focuses on mastering the reporting of breaking news, live reporting and developing story ideas. Emphasis also is placed on shooting techniques. Students will produce longer-form reports. Co-listed with JRN 370. Prerequisite: JRN 515 or permission of the department.

**Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**JRN 571: Television Production**

This course is designed to introduce students to planning, assembling, producing and performing the elements of a newscast. Students will be exposed to the roles of key
JRN 580: Advanced Editing and Presentation for the Web
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. New course. ABCF grading. 3 credits.

JRN 581: Advanced Digital Storytelling
Students will combine their journalistic skills in reporting, writing and producing with advanced multimedia techniques to create an online "microsite" devoted to a major story, combining text with video, photos, blogs and interactive features. This course builds on skills acquired in JRN 520 and 580. Significant computer use will be required outside of class time.

JRN 587: Independent Study
Intensive study of a special topic or intensive work on a reporting project undertaken with close faculty supervision. May be repeated.

JRN 588: Graduate Internship
Students participate in an appropriate internship in a journalism outlet or an institution devoted to the master's program content themes of science, health, environment and technology. The work must involve journalistic skills related to the educational goals of the program. Student interns will report regularly to a faculty member and will complete an internship project, including a portfolio of work done.

JRN 590: 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 press' role covering war from World War II to the current war in Iraq, how the press covers presidential campaigns and journalists as novelists. May be repeated as the topic changes.

JRN 591: Journalism Workshops
This 1-credit workshop course is 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, Databases, FOIL and Sunshine Laws, Editing Software. Co-listed with JRN 391.

JRN 592: Journalism Without Walls Prep
This course will prepare students to take JRN 635, Journalism Without Walls, which features a reporting trip to an international or domestic locale. Students will learn about the politics, culture and social issues of the planned destination. Past destinations have included China, Russia and the U.S. Gulf Coast. In spring 2012, JRN 592 will prepare students to report from China in summer, 2012. Co-listed with JRN 392.

JRN 600: Master's Project in Journalism
In this capstone course, students will produce a long-form story of professional quality, in print, video or multimedia. Students attend a weekly seminar and work independently under the supervision of a faculty sponsor.

JRN 612: Communicating Health Sciences
This course offers a series of six three-hour workshops for healthcare professionals who want to communicate more effectively about health sciences with the public, including patients, public officials, the media, potential funders and employers, as well as colleagues in other disciplines. Sessions deal with oral and written communication, the use of social media, teaching techniques and improvisational theater exercises to encourage direct and responsive communication, and role-playing to help eliminate jargon.

JRN 600: Master's Project in Journalism
In this capstone course, students will produce a long-form story of professional quality, in print, video or multimedia. Students attend a weekly seminar and work independently under the supervision of a faculty sponsor. 

Prerequisites: JRN 525, 530, 550, 555 and permission of department.

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