

Journalism 2001

Fall 2014

Instructor: Brian Poulter

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The website for this class is:

<http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~bpoulter/2001>

Course Description: An examination of the role of journalism and news in a democracy, the effect of the news media on a society and the individual, the importance of an informed electorate in a free society, and the responsibility of both journalists and citizens to know, think, and speak out about public issues.

Course Goals

Students will be able to:

- Identify and describe how individuals can use the news media to fulfill their responsibilities as American and global citizens.
- Identify the Constitutional principles of freedom of speech and press and the journalistic principles of truth, accuracy, objectivity, credibility and diversity.
- Explain and evaluate how the roles of news media as watchdog, gatekeeper and agenda setter influence public perceptions and opinions.
- Explain and evaluate the social, political and cultural impact of coverage of women and minorities by the news media.
- Understand how journalism functions in a global context.

Prerequisites

None. Journalism and Democracy class is required of all Journalism majors and minors. It also satisfies a Social/Behavioral Sciences requirement of the general education curriculum.

Required Reading & listening

The Media of Mass Communication, 11th edition, John Vivian

NPR: Morning Edition (from previous F, M,Tu): <http://www.npr.org/programs/morning-edition/>

Attendance

Be here and on time. Attendance is taken promptly at the beginning of class. If you are late, you are absent. Unless it is a University-excused absence you will lose 10 points for each absence (up to 100 max.) A note from the health service is not an excused absence. You need to provide to me a medical release as well as the doctor's name and number so I have the option of checking on your health conditions. Please notify me if you have a serious and documented illness ASAP. If you believe this, or any other policy is applied capriciously you may appeal to the chair of the journalism department.

Turn off cell phones during class. The reading or sending text messages/chat during class will result in you being marked absent for that class. Checking your phone during class will result in you losing five of your 10 points for attendance that day.

If you need to have you cell phone on for a specific reason, please work out arrangements with me before class begins.

Academic Dishonesty

You are responsible for knowing and following the Academic Integrity Standards as published in the EIU Course Catalog including standard one included below:

Standard I.

Eastern students observe the highest principles of academic integrity and support a campus environment conducive to scholarship. Violations of this standard:

- a. Conduct in subversion of academic standards, such as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, collusion, misrepresentation or falsification of data.
- b. Theft or the unauthorized possession of examinations; alteration, theft, or destruction of the academic work of others, or academic records, library materials, laboratory materials, or other University equipment or property related to instructional matters or research.
- c. Submitting work previously presented in another course unless specifically permitted by the instructor.
- d. Conduct which disrupts the academic environment; disruption in classes, faculty offices, academic buildings, or computer facilities.
- e. Complicity with others in violations of this standard.

Grading:

Test #1	100 pts
Test #2 (mid term)	100 pts
Final Exam (essay/short answer)	200 pts
News content quizzes: 10 @ 20pts each	200 pts
Paper	100 pts
Attendance	100 pts
Quote	Pass/Fail
Total	800 pts

Grading scale:

- A 100-91%
- B 90-80%
- C 79-70%
- D 69-60%
- F 59-0%

Any student who has 93% or more of the passible class points at the beginning of week 15 may elect to forgo the final and they may chose to accept their current grade.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the requirements of this class as necessary to achieve the objectives of this class during the course of the semester.

There will be a news quiz every Wednesday take from the previous: Friday, Monday, Tuesday NPR Morning Edition.

<http://www.npr.org/programs/morning-edition/>

Week 1 Introduction to course
Read chapter 8 | Using the Media in class exercise
Press values, what does it mean to be a journalist?

Week 2 Why Journalism and Democracy are intertwined.
What is: Gestaltism, Truth. Methodology?
How the press helped start, refine, and define our Government. Adams, Madison, and Paine.

Week 3 John Stuart Mill and the Open Market places of Ideas.
Assessment

Week 4 Do we really want a free press?
John Stuart Mill and the Tyranny of the Majority.
In-class exercise.

- Week 5** Review for test 1
TEST #1
- Week 6** Libel, Slander and Defamation. Propaganda.
READ Chapter 16. What you can and can't do.
- Week 7** Real diversity and the Media
In-class exercise
- Week 8** The Law: Obscenity, freedom of the press, parody, etc.
Read Chapter 18 (MM). (Paper due)
- Week 9** It's the law: Free Press, the FCC and the courts
READ Chapter 20 (MM).
NO CLASS Wednesda.
- Week 10** Review for test #2
- Week 11** China and the Alternate Viewpoint
Mid-Term Week (test #2)
- Week 12** The "free press" and the rest of the world.
- Week 13** Ethics versus the free press, public relations and big business.
The problem with \$ vs. Democracy.
- Week 14** Fall Break
- Week 15**
How to bring down a President
All the President's Men (in-class exercise).
All the President's Men (in-class exercise).
- Week 16** Review for Final (Test #3)

Final Examination:

Tues., Dec. 18, 2014 12:30-2:30 p.m.