

School of Journalism Graduate Course Offerings

JOUR 501A – On the Aisle: Writing Reviews

Write a variety of reviews regarding movies, music, books, dining and theater. Experiment with voice, style, form and subject. Learn the format and conventions of reviewing to be more comfortable in assessing the creative work of others. (elective, 1 credit)

JOUR 501B – Travel Writing

This course helps students develop skill at writing engaging, insightful travel stories. Sample readings by great travel writers and sharpen skills of observation, journaling, and reporting. Explore how to identify markets for stories and craft pitch letters. To earn graduate credit, you'll write a longer essay (750-1,000 words) and a longer destination students story (1,000-1,500 words) with at least six sources. (elective, 1 credit)

JOUR 501D – Food Journalism

Learn the fundamentals of writing about food and food production, including food waste, resource consumption and food security in the borderlands. Also examine issues related to covering food and nutrition, food and culture, and the economics and politics of global food chains. Graduate students will be required to complete one food systems story in addition to the three writing assignments, but in lieu of the daily journal. The food systems story will take an analytical look at a large-scale issue of the food system -- obesity and hunger; access to healthy food; profitability of small farms; fishery health; ranchers and rangeland health; heritage versus hybrid crops; etc.-- and contextualize it with on-the-ground reporting in Southern Arizona. We will meet one-on-one to develop this story idea and discuss sources and research opportunities. (elective, 1 credit)

JOUR 502 - Media and Terrorism

Investigates the interplay between terrorism around the world and media content about terrorism. Focuses on how news media portray terrorism and terrorists, and the effects of terrorism and media portrayal of terrorism on the public. Graduate-level requirements include an extensive research paper on a topic related to media and terrorism. The final product will be a 15 to 20-page paper that will account for 30% of the final grade. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 505 – Media Apprenticeship

Internship on steroids with a local news organization, supplemented with professional development training, analysis of industry trends, and best practices. Co-taught by a faculty member and newsroom employee. Graduate-level requirements include a major research paper. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 506 Introductory and Advanced Reporting

This course is both an introductory and advanced reporting course for graduate students in the School of Journalism. It is intended for first year graduate students. (required for professional track, 3 credits)

JOUR 507 Reporting with Multimedia

This course is designed to give graduate students an intensive hands-on introduction to multimedia reporting. Multimedia reporting is defined as the effective and ethical use of text, still photographs, video clips, audio, graphics and interactivity for the Web. (required for professional track, skills course, 3 credits)

JOUR 508 Journalism Theory and Practice

This course introduces graduate students to the major theories related to the critical study of the media. Fieldwork may include publication of conclusions. Requirements include a major research paper. (required for professional and studies tracks, 3 credits)

JOUR 509 International and US Media Law

Basic legal concepts for media in an international and U.S. context, including access to courts, public records and meetings; subpoenas and shield laws; prior restraint; libel; privacy; source confidentiality; intellectual property; obscenity; and broadcast regulations. (required for professional and studies tracks, 3 credits)

JOUR 511 Feature Writing

Writing the feature articles for newspapers, magazines or other media; specialized reporting and writing techniques. Graduate-level requirements include additional in-depth assignments. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 520 Digital Communications Law

This class will examine the law of digital communications, including but not limited to freedom of expression and information online, cybersecurity, intellectual property, cooperation/collaboration, libel, privacy, hate speech, FCC and other regulatory mechanisms. This course will teach you how to follow the current law as you engage with digital communications, such as the Internet and mobile devices. While you will learn historical and theoretical foundations of the law of digital communications, you primarily need to concern yourself with making professional, ethical, and legal decisions as a citizen about digital communications, in an international context. From issues ranging from Arab Spring to Occupy Wall Street to cyberbullying, we will think about the long-term implications of digital communications law and our decisions. Graduate students will write a research paper on an access issue, minimum 25 pages double-spaced (best papers are 25-40 pages) worthy of conference presentation. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 522 Publication Design

Theory, principles and practice of layout, typography, and design for a variety of media. Graduate-level requirements include critically analyzing a major publication and redesigning it according to newest principles. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 524 Magazine Photography

Techniques for taking and editing photographs to illustrate magazine articles, covers and ads. Preparation of photo portfolios. Open to all students in Summer. Graduate-level requirements include taking a leadership role for the online magazine, plan the navigation and design of the magazine. Creation of a home page and an 'About Us' page with photo and short bio of each student will also be included. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 526 Reporting the Middle East

Through historical, economic and political exploration of a country or the region, this course will provide students with an understanding of current events in the Middle East and of the challenges journalists face reporting from a region with competing narratives, authoritarian regimes, and sporadic or ongoing conflict. Graduate students are expected to read additional and more complex materials provided by the professor (in the schedule listed as Optional and For Grad Students - some require memos). They will also occasionally meet for additional sessions with the professor. In addition, they will be required to complete an in-depth country report on or a research paper on a specific element relating to international journalism, worth an additional 20% of their total grade. Graduate-level requirements include reading additional and more complex materials provided by the professor (in the schedule listed as Optional and For Grad Students - some require memos). Grad students will also occasionally meet for additional sessions with the professor. In addition, they will be required to complete an in-depth country report on or a research paper on a specific element relating to international journalism, worth an additional 20% of their total grade. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 528 Entrepreneurial Journalism

This course will be a hands-on class in which you research and develop an idea for a news website and begin implementing the necessary steps to see your idea become a real website. By the end of the class you should have a website, which you can launch and begin publishing content and start generating revenue. Graduate students will be required to research an emerging trend in journalism entrepreneurship. The student will write an eight-page paper on the subject and present findings to the class and local media outlets. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 531 - Inside the Beltway: Press, Politics, and Policymakers in Washington DC

This class will give students the lay of the land for journalists and others working in information and content in Washington DC. Students will learn about Washington media, past and present. They'll learn about how members of Congress and their staffs do their jobs. Federal agencies, laws, and policymaking will be examined. Students will explore how different interest groups, PACS, lobbyists, and others operate, as well as how to make sense of all of the voices. Graduate students will conduct research throughout the semester on a topic that involves an intersection of professional practice, historic DC events and journalism ethics. Students will conduct a literature review to begin, then with the instructor select which materials will be used for the final project. Students will produce a paper and a class presentation. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 532 Social Justice Movement Media: History, Functions, and Theory

This online course will survey the history and functions of social justice publishing. Students will consider the theoretical and practical frameworks of social justice media, which serve a swathe of social movements involving human and civil rights, education, labor, immigration, globalization, feminism, environmentalism, ethnic and racial equality, transgender rights, and global inequity. This course will provide students with the historical and theoretical frameworks necessary to evaluate and publish social justice media. Course expectations are higher for students taking the course at the 500-level. Standards for quality of writing and depth of research are higher, and assignments are more demanding. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 533 Digging with Data

Learn how to find, request and create databases, uncover stories using various software programs, and turn them into compelling visuals. Whether you call it data journalism, computer-assisted reporting, precision journalism, or power reporting, these skills will set you apart from your peers in any line of work. Graduate-level requirements include an in-depth research paper on a topic of their choice related to CAR. Please confer with the course instructor early in the semester to have topic approved. This project will substitute for participation points for graduate students. (elective, 3 units)

JOUR 539 Ethics and Diversity in the News Media

Analysis of ethical theory and how it relates to journalists' roles and responsibilities in a democratic society. Case studies involve questions of bias, accuracy, privacy and national security. Graduate-level requirements include a research paper examining a major ethical issue and providing a critique regarding how the media covered the issue. (highly recommended for studies track, 3 credits)

JOUR 547 Access to Government Information

The course will focus on access to government records and meetings. From the perspective of the journalist acting on behalf of the people in a democracy, it will look at the benefits and harms caused by access to government information. Graduate-level requirements include the research paper being twice as long as the undergrad. It is expected to be of graduate-level quality, and pose a suitable research question that could lead to a later study. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 555 Environmental Journalism

This applied course teaches you to write compelling, substantive stories that illuminate environmental subjects, trends and issues, often in human terms. This course emphasizes the role of the environmental journalist not as an advocate but as a reporter who accurately and fairly reports the news. We examine the principles of journalism, the scientific process and the differences between environmental journalism and environmental communication. Readings and discussions examine issues of balance, scientific uncertainty, risk, accuracy and ethical codes. Graduate-level requirements include writing an additional story and leading the writing workshops and case study discussion. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 558 Opinion Writing

This class explores the role and purpose of editorial and opinion writing and the process of writing opinion pieces. Graduate-level requirements include reading additional materials, meeting with professor weekly about theoretical issues or to examine news items in more depth, and a student analysis paper. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 560 International Media Systems

This course is designed to introduce students to the changing role of news media in our evolving globalization and its impact on rapidly changing news events. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 565 Issues in Covering Science and the Environment

Science is one of the most powerful forces of change in the world. This discussion course introduces students to the professional, legal, economic and ethical factors that affect the science news agenda and the work of science journalists. We'll study the principles of science journalism, the scientific process and the differences between science journalism and science communication. We'll examine reporting methods used by print, television and online news organizations. Guest speakers -- prominent science journalists and scientists -- will explore the ways in which science news both reflects and influences the attitudes of the public and policymakers. Readings, case studies and discussions will look at issues of balance, scientific uncertainty, accuracy and ethical codes for science journalists. Graduate-level requirements include longer response papers and a longer research paper. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 572 Science Journalism

Science is one of the most powerful forces of change in the world. This applied course covers the fundamental elements of producing news reports about science events and issues. We'll examine the principles of journalism, the scientific process and the differences between science journalism and science communication. Guest speakers -- prominent science journalists and scientists -- will explore key issues involved in communicating with the public about science. Readings, case studies and discussions will examine issues of balance, scientific uncertainty, accuracy and ethical codes for science journalists. You'll write professional-quality science articles for general interest and specialized news media. You'll learn how to gather, evaluate and organize information in ways that will produce accurate, comprehensive information for the public. Each student will write one short piece, and in pairs you'll research and produce an in-depth article. Graduate-level requirements include writing an additional story proposal, query letter and news report plus the in-depth story or multimedia piece will be longer than at the undergraduate-level. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 573 Reporting in the U.S. – Mexico Borderlands

Students will gain an understanding of best practices and challenges specific to reporting in the borderlands, and will conduct research in and about the border region, including interviews with area residents. Graduate students are expected to take on a leadership role in the class and from time to time will be assigned to lead class discussions. Graduate students may also be assigned additional readings and duties, such as increased research, writing, and organizing responsibilities. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 580 Advanced Multimedia

This is a hands-on advanced multimedia course that will provide students with the opportunity to refine their multimedia storytelling and technical production skills by producing journalistically interesting multimedia projects. The multimedia projects will be well researched and include some combination of text, video, audio, still photographs, graphics that will be presented on a website. Through interactive exercises and assignments, emphasis will be given to improving audio, video, still image capture and editing skills. This course is a combined lecture with outside lab work being required. Intermediate computer technical knowledge and skills, basic photojournalism and multimedia are required for successful completion of this course. Graduate students will be required to produce a well-researched and cited 30- to 45-minute in-class PowerPoint presentation on a documentary film or filmmaker. Acceptable subjects will be listed in the assignment sheet handout. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 584 Mobile App Development

This course will be a hands-on, interactive class in which you research, and develop a mobile news application. You will develop and pitch an application, form teams and implement web technology to launch your application. By the end of the semester, you and your team will have a working application deployed on the internet. This course will take you from idea to application launch. Graduate students will be required to also research an emerging trend in news application design and functionality. The student will write an eight-page paper on the subject and present findings to the class and local media outlets. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 587 History of American Journalism

The course explores the evolution of U.S. journalism and its intersection with American politics, economics, and culture. Students will read original primary published sources as well as secondary historical works and develop skills in historical research methods. Graduate-level requirements include a research paper suitable for presentation at an academic conference or publication in a scholarly journal in the field. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 589 Research Methods

Students will be exposed to qualitative and quantitative research methods, such as historical and legal research, media analysis, content analysis, in-depth interviewing and discourse analysis. (required course for studies and professional tracks, 3 credits)

JOUR 590F Arizona Sonora News

Students in Arizona Sonora News produce strong enterprise stories in written and multimedia formats, which are then provided to media for professional publication. Students learn the techniques of search engine optimization and key word construction, and apply what they have learned in their other classes through the major. This engaged learning news service class enables students to demonstrate that they can produce professional quality work. Graduate-level requirements include an additional assignment and/or taking on a leadership position. (elective course, 3 credits)

JOUR 593 Internship

Work on-site for a news or news-related organization under the supervision of an experienced communication professional. (elective, 1-3 credits)

JOUR 594 Practicum

An opportunity to do field research to explore journalistic ethics, theory and practices and their impact on contemporary society. (elective, 1-3 credits)

JOUR 596D Journalism Seminar

The course will be shaped around a series of case studies of the legal, ethical and management issues facing the contemporary news media. Graduate-level requirements include a 4,000 word paper including at least 20 primary published sources and 25 sources cited in the endnotes. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 596F Media Coverage of International Crises

How international media cover conflicts and other humanitarian crises, focusing on the Arab/Muslim world. Understanding of the business and culture of global news organizations. Graduate-level requirements include more extensive research and papers. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 596L U.S. Press and Latin America

This course will examine the history and development of U.S. press coverage of Latin America. Graduate-level requirements include a longer research paper and leading a class discussion. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 597B Advanced Photojournalism

The course is intended to give students a forum in which to hone their skills in communicating with readers of newspapers, magazines and the Internet, through the use of still photography. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 597C Coups & Earthquakes: Reporting the World

This course is about understanding the world as a journalist, an international specialist or an informed citizen. It teaches how foreign correspondents gather news and examines factors that shape the global exchange of information. Graduate-level requirements include a higher standard of quality than undergrads. Grad students meet for a short session with the professor each week to discuss more theoretical issues or to examine international news items in more depth. Assignments 1. Will be required to read at least two books from the list (on D2L) or of their choosing & run it by the professor & write short reflective book reports (format on D2L). Due anytime before the last class. (10 percent each) AND 2. Will write an additional, short analytical research paper on a specific facet of either media coverage of, or international reaction to some aspect of your beat (3000 words). OR, will do a reporting/writing project focusing on some aspect of a refugee group here in Tucson. Must be of publishable quality. Consult early with the professor on the topic. (elective, 3 credits)

JOUR 599 Independent Study

An extended exploration of a journalistic topic under supervision of a full-time faculty member. The project can take many forms -- research paper, investigative news stories, photo essay, broadcast documentary or online report. (1-3 credits)

JOUR 909 Master's Report

Individual study or special project or formal report thereof submitted in lieu of thesis for certain master's degrees. (1-3 credits)

JOUR 910 Thesis

Research for the master's thesis (whether library research, laboratory or field observation or research, artistic creation, or thesis writing). (1-6 credits)