

Journalism 630 Depth Reporting Fall 2016

M-W 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Stauffer-Flint 202

Professor:

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Professor

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Office Hours: T-Th 1-3 p.m.; drop-ins are welcome.

We report the news.

We inform the public.

And we tell great stories.

This is not a class; it's an experience.

This experience will focus on developing in-depth, investigative-style stories that go beyond daily beat newspaper and magazine journalism. It will allow you to report and write Hearst Award-caliber stories that incorporate extensive research, reporting, and narrative storytelling.

Course objectives are listed below. However, you should set objectives for yourself as well. What do you want to gain from this experience and how will you achieve that? Here are a few objectives:

- Report, write and present great stories that examine important social, economic, political and cultural community issues.
- Develop content that informs and educates a local community.
- Gain the experience of digging deep into an issue and making a difference by producing important journalism.
- Improve listening skills in an effort to better extract information and tell great stories.
- Understand your role as a journalist doing good journalism in a community.
- Behave as an ethical professional journalist, adhering to the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics.

Coursework

- During the semester students are required to produce two (2) well-written, well-reported in-depth stories of consequence. The stories must be complete and publishable. Being published will be considered in grading.
- Read assigned materials and be prepared to thoroughly discuss in class. Your insights will drive in-class discussions.
- Provide weekly progress reports of work being completed on projects. Progress reports are due at noon each Friday.
- Carefully and frequently communicate with the professor, colleagues and industry professionals about complications in reporting or writing stories.

The book: *Writing for Story: Craft Secrets of Dramatic Nonfiction*, Jon Franklin

Grading

Your grade will be a performance evaluation of:

- Class participation and cooperation
- Your reporting and newsgathering skills
- Your development of story ideas and execution of those ideas
- Meeting deadlines
- Your professionalism (attendance, participation in class, completing assignments on deadline, ethical behavior, and people skills in working with colleagues in the newsroom, sources and the public)
- Specific work production will be established for each individual.
- Everyone is required to produce a publishable product.
- Weekly reports

Assignment breakdown

- Weekly progress reports: 10 points each (25%)
- Story 1: (25%)
- Story 2: (25%)
- Participation and professional: (25%)*

* Includes being prepared for class discussions, meeting deadlines, class participation, and clear communication with professor, classmates and sources.

Materials used to evaluate performance includes:

E-Portfolios: You are required to develop an electronic portfolio of all your work. Your electronic portfolio will be evaluated at the end of the two-week experience. The portfolio should include:

- Short bio. On your website, you should provide a bio page with a picture and some basic information. Keep it professional and informative. This isn't your Facebook page.
- J630 work. This webpage should include all the work produced during this experience. Anything published or broadcast should be included.
- Other work. This webpage should include other work you would like prospective employers to see. It can be from other classes, internships or other media opportunities. It should be the "Best of..." page. It obviously also should include some work from this class. It would seem reasonable that what you produce here would be among your best work.

Ethics and academic misconduct:

As reporters, you are expected to adhere to the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics. For example, you should

- Inform interview sources that you are a University of Kansas media reporter;
- Avoid using family or friends as sources, and avoid writing about issues or entities with which you have a personal connection and thus a conflict of interest;
- Never include the work of others in your story without proper attribution and credit for their contributions;
- Never fabricate or fictionalize facts, sources or quotes;
- Always clearly attribute source of information presented in your stories.

Ethics violations will lead to a failing grade in the course. If you have questions, please seek advice from the instructor.

As students in the School of Journalism, you are subject to the school's zero tolerance policy for plagiarism and other academic dishonesty. Sanctions can range from a failing grade in this course to expulsion from the School.

Policy on Plagiarism and Fabrication/Falsification -- Adopted May 7, 2004:

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications does not tolerate plagiarism, fabrication of evidence and falsification of evidence.

Penalties for plagiarism, fabrication or falsification can include a failing grade for this course and expulsion from the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, please consult the professor(s) of this course.

The following definitions are from Article II, Section 6, of the University Senate Rules and Regulations, revised FY98.

Plagiarism

Knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the information or ideas are common knowledge.

Fabrication and Falsification

Unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Journalism School Policy on Classroom Attendance:

"No student may add a journalism class after the 20th day of a semester.

"Students must attend their classes and laboratory periods. Instructors may take attendance into account in assessing a student's performance and may require a certain level of attendance for passing a course. Instructors may choose to drop students from a course, based on attendance, without consent.

"The School of Journalism reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of students who fail to attend the first class or laboratory meeting."

"The KU Office of Student Financial Aid is required by federal law to determine whether students who receive aid are attending each class in which they are enrolled. Instructors are required to report to that office absences of students who have stopped attending and names of those who have enrolled but never have attended. Students who do not attend classes may be required to repay federal and/or state financial aid.

"Students who receive any form of financial aid should learn all requirements including minimum hours of enrollment and grades to qualify for and retain that aid."

Inclement Weather and Special Needs

In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel classes is made by KU officials. To determine whether snow or icy conditions have canceled classes, call 864-7669 (864-SNOW). The Office of Student Access Services, 22 Strong Hall, 785-864-2620 (v/tty), coordinates accommodations and services for KU students with disabilities. If you have a

disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted Student Access Services, please do so as soon as possible. Please also contact me privately in regard to this course.

Revised 8/3/06

Copying or Recording

Course materials prepared by the instructor, as well as content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the instructor's property. Video and audio recording of lectures without instructor consent is prohibited. On request, the instructor usually will permit students to record lectures, on the condition that these recordings are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless the instructor gives explicit permission, recordings of lectures may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

August 11, 2016

Final Words

As children, we learn to read and write in first or second grade. Then we spend the entirety of our lives improving those skills. This course is designed to assist you in that improvement. We will sharpen your reporting and writing skills, skills that can be utilized in whatever profession you choose. The right words at the right time can move mountains. There is no guarantee we will move mountains during this experience. Instead, we'll shoot for the moon and hope to land on the roof. Either way, I think you'll enjoy the view.