

History of Journalism in the United States
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Fall 2008

Course: Journalism 61-371

Class hours: Mondays, Wednesdays from 9:40 - 11:10 a.m

Room: Clow C45

Instructor: Grace Lim

E-mail: limg@uwosh.edu (if possible, e-mail first, before calling)

Phone: 920-233-2012 (use this number and leave message);

920-424-1042 (use Journalism main number as last resort)

Office: Clow 124

Office hours: 8:15 -9:15 a.m., Monday to Thursday and by appointment

TEXTBOOK:

Wm. David Sloan (editor), *The Media in America: A History*, Seventh Edition, 2008, Vision Press.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is designed to provide students an overview of the history of journalism in America. What fills our daily papers, news magazines and broadcasts -- political sex scandals, race, crime, to name a few -- has a long history. How did these issues and others form the foundation of early U.S. media, and how has that affected the media today? We will answer these questions by analyzing the how the media -- daily papers, magazines, photography, radio, TV and the Web - covered America's seminal events.

This will not be a names-and-dates approach to history, although understanding the journalism history timeline will be important. The class will look at the media as cultural artifacts -- products of our culture, institutions, beliefs and prejudices. News media institutions have an impact on history and, in turn, are affected by history.

This will not be a strictly lecture class. Students will be expected to participate in discussions and are encouraged to bring in topics of current journalistic importance in the news so they can be explored from a historical perspective.

By the end of the semester, students should have a better understanding of why the news today is as it is and what the historical reasons are for this. As members of an informed public, students will also gain stronger analytical skills with which to cast a critical eye on the media and their products.

The role of journalism in Liberal Arts education - Journalists are the eyes, ears, voice and heart of society. Journalists question status quo; they fight for the proverbial "truth, justice and the American way." The skills students learn in this class are not exclusively tailored to those who will become editors or journalists. These skills will enable the students to value accuracy and fairness. They will not be afraid to ask questions. They will not be afraid to prompt change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

EXAMS (65 percent)

Two during the semester (each worth 20 percent of final grade)

Final (25 percent of final grade)

The exams will consist mostly of essay questions, with some multiple choice questions included. In the essay questions, students will be expected to display their knowledge, in detail and using facts and examples, of the historical significance of an individual, a publication or media outlet, terminology, or article, essay or book.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS (10 percent)

Students will be assigned to small groups that will give presentations on topics being covered in class. The presentations should be from 15 to 20 minutes in length, and include handouts and/or visual elements such as PowerPoint displays. They will be evaluated on the depth of research done, knowledge of the topic, and quality of the presentation. Sources must be cited, and presenters should be prepared to answer questions from the class.

HISTORY THEN AND NOW PAPER ASSIGNMENT (25 percent)

Students will write a 8-10-page paper examining and analyzing an aspect of journalism history (an important individual, publication, development, period or concept) and discuss the impact that has had on the media today. This will involve detailed research on the topic, both then and now, and an assessment of how a historical figure or development is intertwined with elements or events of the news media today. It also will require the use of several sources of information, and the paper must include a detailed bibliography. More details on this writing assignment will be provided well in advance of the date the paper is due.

Paper submission:

You must write in Microsoft Word. If you have something other than Microsoft Word, you must save your document file in rich text format (.rtf). I suggest you save your files to a jump drive, and, as an extra precaution, e-mail the files to yourself. You will bring in a hard copy of the story and upload a copy to the dropbox in D2L.

Late papers: Not accepted.

Spelling, grammar and punctuation count. Don't rely exclusively on spell check. If in doubt, check a dictionary or the AP Stylebook.

Accuracy: A misspelled proper name of any kind – first name, last name, company name, country name, city name or any other proper name – will result in an automatic zero on your story.

Attendance: Mandatory. Also, be on time. I will take attendance. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the assignment/notes from a classmate.

If you are not prepared to come to class every day, please drop the class immediately.

In the event of a major illness, a death in the family or other serious situation, please contact me by telephone or leave a message on voice mail before you are absent. It is important and mandatory that you contact me the day of your absence by phone or in person. We will work out a solution regarding your class work. **Routine medical appointments, part-time or full-time jobs do not constitute valid reasons for missing class.**

You are allowed two absences without penalty. After that, every class missed for reasons not specified by University policy is one letter grade off your final grade.

Final letters grades will be based on the following scale:

A	90-100
AB	89-89.9
B	80-88.9
BC	79-79.9
C	70-78.9
CD	69-69.9
D	60-68.9
F	59 and below

Cheating, plagiarism and academic dishonesty: Do not cheat. We follow the university policy on cheating and plagiarism. I will pursue and punish any case of cheating or plagiarism. Anyone who cheats and plagiarizes will be given an automatic “F” in the class. No exceptions.

Students with Disabilities: We follow the university policy on disabilities. Contact the Dean of Students at 424-3100 (voice) or 424-1319 (TTY). The Web site is <http://www.uwosh.edu/dean/disabilities.htm>.

Course schedule may change depending on the pace of the class, the pace of the instructor, guest speakers or forces beyond human control.

Date	Monday	Date	Wednesday
		9/3	Intro; syllabus review Readings: Chapter 1
9/8	Readings: Chapters 2-3	9/10	Readings: Chapter 4
9/15	Readings: Chapters 5	9/17	Readings: Chapter 6
9/22	Readings: Chapter 7 Group 1 Presentation	9/24	Readings: Chapter 8 Group 2 Presentation
9/29	Exam 1	10/1	Group 3 Presentation Readings: Chapter 9

10/6	Group 4 Presentation Readings: Chapter 10	10/8	Group 5 Presentation Readings: Chapter 11
10/13	Group 6 Presentation Readings: Chapter 12	10/15	Group 7 Presentation Readings: Chapter 13
10/20	Group 8 Presentation Readings: Chapter 14	10/22	Group 9 Presentation Readings: Chapter 15
10/27	Group 10 Presentation Readings: Chapter 16	10/29	Exam 2
11/3	Group 11 Presentation Readings: Chapter 17	11/5	Group 12 Presentation Readings: Chapter 18
11/10	Group 13 Presentation Readings: Chapter 19	11/12	Group 14 Presentation Readings: Chapter 20
11/17	Group 15 Presentation Readings: Chapter 21	11/19	Paper Due beginning of class Group 16 Presentation Readings: Chapter 22
11/24	Group 17 Presentation Readings: Chapter 23	11/26	Thanksgiving
12/1	Group 18 Presentation Readings: Chapter 24	12/3	Group 19 Presentation Readings: Chapter 25
12/8	Group 20 Presentation Readings: Chapter 25	12/10	Final Exam