

**History of Journalism in the United States University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Fall  
2009**

**Course:** Journalism 61-371 **Class hours:** Tuesdays, Thursdays from 1:20-2:50 p.m. **Room:** Clow 243 **Instructor:** Grace Lim **E-mail:** [limg@uwosh.edu](mailto: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:** Office hours:

**Textbook:** Voices of a Nation: A History of Mass Media in the United States (5th Edition) by Jean Folkerts (Author), Dwight Teeter (Author), Ed Caudill (Author) Publisher: Allyn & Bacon; 5 edition (August 2, 2008) ISBN-10: 0205486975 ISBN-13: 978-0205486977

**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 (70 percent)** Four during the semester, each worth 17.5 percent of the final grade.

The exams will consist essay and multiple choice questions. 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. *Reading the book will not be enough to ensure a good grade on the exams.* The exams will cover concepts raised in class (current events,

videos, guest speakers, etc.)

**QUIZZES** (10 percent) Short multiple choice quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Maybe online or in class.

**MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS (20 percent)**

Students will be assigned to small groups that will give presentations on topics being covered in class. These presentations (videos, podcasts) will be uploaded onto iTunesU, where it will be available to the public. Students 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.

**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.**

Final letters grades will be based on the following scale:

|    |    |    |          |
|----|----|----|----------|
| A  | 93 | C  | 73       |
| A- | 90 | C- | 70       |
| B+ | 87 | D+ | 67       |
| B  | 83 | D  | 63       |
| B- | 80 | D- | 60       |
| C+ | 77 | F  | Below 60 |

**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>.