

Appendix F: News Literate Journalism Curriculum Scope and Sequence

Courses

Principles of Journalism

This course provides students a foundational understanding of journalism as public service and journalists' role in informing and educating the public. Special emphasis will be paid to historically important moments in journalism, core values and ethical norms of journalism, and advocating for civic engagement and literacy. Principles of Journalism provides a grounding in news literacy, thus giving students the knowledge and skills to navigate the complex news and media ecosystem.

Information Gathering

The first tenant of ethical journalism is to seek the truth and report it. Information Gathering helps students gain the knowledge and skills to report ethically and reflectively. This class provides students with a grounding in various reporting strategies, techniques, and behaviors, such as database building and queries, interview development and execution, open records requests, community engagement and audience analytics, and more. Students will build informational resilience through assessing credibility, staying current, relationship-building, and audience understanding. Information Gathering emphasizes process-based thinking.

Media Writing

Students will understand, practice, and reflect on various media writing genres in this class. Media Writing focuses on structures, usages, and mechanics in writing while emphasizing elements of style and nuanced approaches to storytelling in journalism across platforms and media. This class teaches students a grounding in lede writing, genre-based story structures, alternate story forms, revision, copy editing, and quote and data integration, synthesis, and paraphrasing. Students will build process-focused writing and communication behaviors emphasizing service, engagement, transparency, and metacognition.

Multimedia Storytelling

Students will learn to bring together the knowledge and skills they learned in Information Gathering and Journalistic/Media Writing to tell multimodal stories that reflect news values. Multimedia Storytelling helps students think critically about the appropriate means to tell a story, how different genres and methods complement one another, and how to design stories for differing audiences. Students must incorporate text, images, audio, video, and data to tell these stories. Multimedia Storytelling continues to build students' understanding of process and explaining their journalistic decisions.

Journalism Capstone

The final course in the journalism major is the Journalism Capstone. In this course, students will focus on portfolio development, job search preparation, networking and interviewing strategies, and reflecting on the body of work the students produced in the major. The major project for this capstone is a series of multimedia stories emerging from the students' content specialization focus.

Important Context

Experiential Learning

Students should be expected to participate in hands-on learning experiences across the curriculum and required internships or student media experiences as part of their graduation requirements. Journalism knowledge and skills are best learned by doing; however, part of the experiential learning process should be building metacognitive behaviors where students must reflect on the processes of producing journalism, their actions in legal and ethical manners, and the community-engaged significance of their actions. Opportunities should be explicit in the curriculum, whether for-credit internships or student media experiences, syllabus language, or technological infrastructures to track growth and progress (e.g., portfolios or websites).

Specialization Focus

Students should be encouraged to have a content specialization separate from a second major or minor; however, it can build from and complement both. Specializations represent students' capacity to delve deeply into a topical area and showcase their ability to think critically about it. Specialization areas emphasize socially responsible areas of study and encourage students to tell authentic stories based on reliable information that empowers all members of the public to participate in democracy fully. Students are expected to have a specialization to become critical of the term democracy and interrogate how and why journalism can serve as an avenue to uphold their communities' rights to lead dignified lives. Specializations should be constructed with an emphasis on journalism as a public service, meaning ways journalism can serve their communities better.

Liberal Arts Emphasis

A journalism curriculum should be rooted in students' capacity to translate a liberal arts education into the knowledge and skills required of the field. As such, consideration should be given to promoting students taking courses that are common beat areas in journalism. Research shows that students should take political science, law and policy, economics, science, and history courses.

Placement of Law and Ethics

Students should experience law and ethics early in their program to help them guide their decision-making. This can be done through curricular integration into the preliminary curricular sequence, as a combined course required in the first two years of study, or in separate courses students take before progressing to the advanced-level coursework. Law and ethics should be considered foundational courses in the curriculum and prerequisites to the advanced work students will do in their third and fourth years in the major.

Consideration of Journalism History

Students should be aware of the historical development of journalism from its advent to present-day conversations and debates, such as the moral reckoning associated with marginalized communities. While this does not necessarily need to be considered a required course in a journalism major, it should be included and offered in the curriculum. Students should be encouraged to take the course when offered.

Journalism Major ***Core Courses***

Media Production (3) [a technology/skills course]
Principles of Journalism (3)

The following courses are required but can be taken interchangeably; Principles of journalism is a prerequisite

Information Gathering (3)
Media Writing (3)

The previous four courses must be completed with a C-average before taking the following course:

Multimedia Storytelling (3)

Media Law (3)
Media Ethics (3)
Journalism Capstone (3)

J-Core Credits: 24 Credits

Advanced Courses

The major is flexible to a school's current journalism curriculum. This curriculum should include at least 15 credits of advanced courses, which could be specializations or focuses on tracks. It is strongly encouraged that journalism history is an advanced course option for the major.

Total Major Credits: 39 Credits

Journalism Minor

Principles of Journalism (3)
Information Gathering (3)
Media Writing (3)
Multimedia Storytelling (3)
Media Ethics (3)
Two Advanced Journalism Courses (6)

Journalism Minor Total Credits: 21 Credits

Scope and Sequence

Included below are the most likely places journalism students could take the courses listed above and additional course requirements as part of the journalism major.

Year 1, Semester 1
Principles of Journalism
Media Production

Year 1, Semester 2
Information Gathering or Media Writing
Media Production

Year 2, Semester 1
Information Gathering or Media Writing

Year 2, Semester 2
Multimedia Storytelling

Media Law or Media Ethics

Year 3, Semester 1
Advanced Journalism Course

Year 4, Semester 1
Advanced Journalism Course

Media Law or Media Ethics

Year 3, Semester 2
Advanced Journalism Course

Year 4, Semester 2
Advance Journalism Course
Journalism Capstone