

COMM 339-920: Critical Perspectives on Journalism
Summer Session II
July 5 - August 9
Tuesday/Thursday
5:30-9:20 pm
Room TBD

Contact Information:

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

This course will provide undergraduate students with a critical understanding of and orientation toward journalism. Students will read theoretical selections and commentary by and about journalists. Students will analyze and contextualize readings related to current events. Specific attention will be paid to the changing roles of journalists amidst significant technological and political change. A comparative lens of journalism in different cultural contexts will also occur. Students will also engage with different models of journalistic practice; changing norms, values, sourcing practices; and journalism ethics.

Class will comprise of lecture, discussion, and engagement with various forms of news media, including articles, documentaries, etc. The majority of class will be a structured seminar in which students will discuss the required readings within the context of current events and the overarching of the class's context. Students should come to each class prepared to discuss, ask questions and engage in constructive ways with their fellow students and their instructor.

Requirements:

Prior to attending class each day, students must read the required readings on the syllabus and be prepared to share their thoughts, questions, and comments about the material. Every student should also engage with the news daily. This could involve reading a daily newspaper, listening to NPR, or watching a news program like CNN. This is especially important as the class will engage with current events and debates alongside the more theoretical and evergreen reading selections.

Grades:

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Paper 1: 30%

Paper 2: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Participation: 10%

In addition, one extra credit will be made available; date, assignment, and value TBD.

Computer Use:

You will need to bring paper copies of your readings and notes to each class as laptop computers, tablets, phones, and other electronic devices are not permitted.

Disability Services and Accommodations

The University of Pennsylvania welcomes students with disabilities and is committed to providing the same opportunities to all Penn Students. The Office of Student Disabilities Services (SDS) works closely with students who self-identify as disabled in order to ensure them equal access to University activities and services. The instructor for this course is equally committed to ensuring that students have their learning and access needs met; please visit <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/sds/> to learn about how SDS and the University can meet your needs. Please note that SDS must approve any accommodations.

If you have not contacted SDS, and you would like to request accommodations or have questions, please contact SDS as soon as possible at 215-573-9253. The office is located in the Weingarten Learning Resources Center at Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300. You are also encouraged (within legal boundaries and your own personal comfort) to discuss your needs with your instructor. All SDS services, and conversations with your instructor about such matters, are strictly confidential.

Critical Perspectives on Journalism **Course Syllabus** (subject to change)

Tuesday, July 9: What is the news? What is journalism?

Part 1: Introductions and syllabus review

Part 2: Definitions, Concepts, and Boundaries

Required Readings:

Barbie Zelizer, (2004). *Taking journalism seriously: News and the academy*. Thousand Oakes, CA: Sage. [Chapter 2: Defining Journalism, pp. 13-44]
Tim Vos, (2018). Journalism. In T. Vos (Ed.), *Journalism* (pp. 1-17). Boston, MA: Walter de Gruyter Inc.

Part 3: Film Screening and Discussion

In Class Viewing:

Page One: Inside the New York Times (2011, Magnolia Pictures)

Thursday, July 11: Contextualizing Journalism

Part 1: Journalism's Historical Contexts

Required Readings:

James Carey, "A Short History of Journalism for Journalists: A Proposal and Essay," *Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics* 12(3), 2007, 3-16.
Michael Schudson, "Fourteen or Fifteen Generations: News as a Cultural Form and Journalism as a Historical Formation," *American Journalism* 30 (1), 2013, 29-35.
C.W. Anderson, Leonard Downie Jr., & Michael Schudson, (2016). *The news media: What everyone needs to know*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. [Selections]

Part 2: In Class Activity

Explore Pew's State of the Media 2018 report and/or the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism 2018 Digital Report.

Part 3: The Nature of News

Required Readings:

Walter Lippmann, "Public Opinion" (1922), in Howard Tumber (Ed.), *News: A Reader*. Oxford, 1999, 5-10.

Robert E. Park, "News as a Form of Knowledge," *American Journal of Sociology* 45 (March 1940), 669-686.

Tuesday, July 16: Models of Journalistic Practice

Paper One Assigned – Due at the start of class on Thursday, July 14.

Part 1: Gatekeeper, Advocacy, New Journalism

Required Readings

Morris Janowitz, "Professional Models in Journalism: The Gatekeeper and the Advocate," *Journalism Quarterly* (Winter, 1975), 618-626, 662.

John J. Pauly, "The Politics of the New Journalism," in Norman Sims (ed.), *Literary Journalism in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990, 110-129.

Angela Phillips, (2015). *Journalism in context. Practice and theory for the digital age*. London, UK: Routledge. [Selections]

Natalie Fenton (Ed.) (2010). *New media, old news: journalism and democracy in the digital age*. London, UK: Sage. [Selections]

Part 2: In-class exercises / discussion:

Comparing New and "Old" Journalism: Discussion of Vice and BBC North Korean news documentaries

Part 3: Public, Citizen Journalism

Required Readings:

Davis Merritt, "Public Journalism and Public Life: Why Telling the News Is Not Enough," in Howard Tumber (ed), *News: A Reader*. Oxford, 1999, 365-378.

Chris Atton, "Alternative and Citizen Journalism," In Wahl-Jorgensen & Hanitzsch, (eds), *Handbook of Journalism Studies*. Routledge, 2008, 265-278.

Thursday, July 18: Considering Journalists

Part 1: Positioning Journalism

Required Readings:

Barbie Zelizer, "Journalism and the Academy," in K. Wahl Jorgensen and Thomas Hanitzsch (eds), *Handbook of Journalism Studies*. Routledge, 2008, 29-41.

Part 2: Authority

Required Readings

Barbie Zelizer, "Journalists as Interpretive Communities, Revisited," In Stuart Allan (ed.). *The Routledge Companion to News and Journalism Studies*. London and New York: Routledge, 2009.
Barbie Zelizer, (Ed.). (2009). *The changing faces of journalism: Tabloidization, technology and truthiness*. London, UK: Sage. [Selections]

Part 3: Ideology and Values

Required Readings:

Herbert Gans, "Values in the News" and "Objectivity, Values, and Ideology" in *Deciding What's News*. New York: Pantheon, 1979, 39-69 and 182-213.

Tuesday, July 23: Mechanisms

Part 1: Selectivity, Gatekeeping, and Social Control

Required Readings

Johannes Galtung and Marie Ruge, "The Structure of Foreign News," in Stanley Cohen and Jock Young (eds.), *The Manufacture of News*. Beverly Hills: Sage, 1973, 62-72.
David Manning White, "The Gate Keeper: A Case Study in the Selection Of News," *Journalism Quarterly* 27(3), 1950, 383-390.
Warren Breed, "Social Control in the Newsroom," *Social Forces* 33 (1955), 326-355.

Part 2: Movie

First half of *All the President's Men* (1976)

Part 3: Sourcing and Routinization

Required Readings

Gaye Tuchman, "Making News By Doing Work: Routinizing the Unexpected," in Dan Berkowitz (ed.), *Social Meanings of News*. Sage, 1997, 173-192.
Dan Berkowitz, "Reporters and Their Sources," in Karin Wahl-Jorgensen and Thomas Hanitzsch (eds), *Handbook of Journalism Studies*. London: Routledge, 2009, 102-115.
Jane Singer, "The Political J-Blogger," *Journalism*, 2005, 173-198.

Thursday, July 25: Tools of Journalism

Part 1: Words of Journalism

Required Readings

- S. Elizabeth Bird and Robert Dardenne, "Myth, Chronicle, and Story: Exploring the Narrative Qualities of News," in Dan Berkowitz (ed.), *Social Meanings of News*. Sage, 1997, 333-350.
- James Carey, "The Dark Continent of American Journalism," in Robert Manoff and Michael Schudson (eds.), *Reading the News*. New York: Pantheon, 1986, 146-196.
- Michael Schudson, "The Politics of Narrative Form: The Emergence of News Conventions in Print and Television," in *Daedalus* (Fall, 1982), 97-112.

Part 2: Images of Journalism

Required Readings

- Stuart Hall, "The Determination of News Photographs," in Stanley Cohen & Jock Young (ed), *The Manufacture of News*. Constable Press, 1973, 236-243.
- Barbie Zelizer, "Journalism Through the Camera's Eye," in Stuart Allan (ed.), *Journalism: Critical Issues*, Open University Press, 2005, 167-176.
- Barbie Zelizer, "When War is Reduced to a Photograph," in Stuart Allan and Barbie Zelizer (eds.). *Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime*. Routledge, 2004, 115-135.

Part 3: Movie

- Second half of *All the President's Men* (1976)

Tuesday, July 30: Journalism and Public Affairs

Part 1: Journalism and Policy

- W. Lance Bennett, "The Press, Power, and Public Accountability." In Stuart Allan, ed., *The Routledge Companion to News and Journalism Studies*, 2010, 105-115.
- Pablo Boczkowski & Zizi Papacharissi. (Eds.). (2018). *Trump and the media*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. [Selections]

Part 2: Journalism and International Affairs

- Piers Robinson, "Researching U.S. Media-State Relations and Twenty-First Century Wars." In Stuart Allen and Barbie Zelizer, ed., *Reporting War: Journalism in War Time*.
- Wayne Wanta, Guy Golan and Cheolan Lee. "Agenda Setting and International News: Media influence of public perceptions of foreign nations." *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*. 2004.

Part 3: Documentary and Discussion

Watch *Jim: The James Foley Story* and discuss the challenges of reporting abroad.

Thursday, August 1: Journalism in a Global Perspective Paper Two due at the start of class

Part 1: Comparative and Global Journalism Studies

Thomas Hanitzsch, "Comparative journalism research: Mapping a growing field." In *Australian Journalism Review* 35, No. 2: 9-19.

Thomas Hanitzsch et al., "Mapping Journalism Cultures Across Nations: A comparative study of 18 countries." In *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 3, 2011, 273-293.

Peter Berglez, "What is Global Journalism? Theoretical and Empirical Conceptualisations." In *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 6, 2008, 845-858.

Part 2: Journalism in Non-Western Contexts (Latin America)

Claudia Mellado, Sonia V. Moreira, Claudia Lagos, & Maria Hernandez, "Comparing Journalism Cultures in Latin America: The Case of Chile, Brazil, and Mexico." In *International Communication Gazette*. 2012.

Joanne M. Lisosky & Jennifer R. Henrichsen, *War on Words: Who Should Protect Journalists?* Praeger Publishers. 2011. [Selections]

Part 3: In Class Activity

Discuss how a news story is covered as domestic, foreign, and global news

Tuesday, August 6: Journalism and Memory and Exam Review

Part 1: Journalism and Collective Memory

Carolyn Kitch, "'Useful Memory' in Time Inc Magazines," *Journalism Studies* 7(1), 2006, 94-110.

Barbie Zelizer, "American Journalists and the Death of LeeHarvey Oswald: Narratives of Self-Legitimization." in Dennis Mumby (ed). *Narrative and Social Control: Critical Perspectives*. Sage, 1993, 189-206.

Barbie Zelizer, Cannibalizing Memory in the Global Flow of News. In *On Media Memory: Collective Memory in a New Media Age*. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.

Part 2: Exam Review

Part 3: Course Wrap Up and Evaluation

Thursday, August 8: Final Exam