

Journalism 2001

Professor Brian Poulter

Office: Buzzard Hall 1837

Office hours: M-Th 8-9 a.m., or by appointment

E-mail: bpoulter@eiu.edu

Course Description: An examination of the role of journalism and news in a democracy, the effect of the news media on a society and the individual, the importance of an informed electorate in a free society, and the responsibility of both journalists and citizens to know, think, and speak out about public issues.

Course Goals

Students will be able to:

- Identify and describe how individuals can use the news media to fulfill their responsibilities as American and global citizens.
- Identify the Constitutional principles of freedom of speech and press and the journalistic principles of truth, accuracy, objectivity, credibility and diversity.
- Explain and evaluate how the roles of news media as watchdog, gatekeeper and agenda setter influence public perceptions and opinions.
- Explain and evaluate the social, political and cultural impact of coverage of women and minorities by the news media.
- Understand how journalism functions in a global context.

Prerequisites

None. Journalism and Democracy class is required of all Journalism majors and minors. It also satisfies a Social/Behavioral Sciences requirement of the general education curriculum.

Required Reading & listening

NPR: Morning Edition (from previous M-W): <http://www.npr.org/programs/morning-edition>

Attendance Test

In journalism (and most other professions) being on time and hitting deadlines is assumed. Because the lesson that take place in class cannot be duplicated outside of class, you will be tested on this skill. You have been given 100 points a – perfect score on this test. You will lose ten point every time you are late or fail to attend a class. The only exceptions are university excused absences (ex: weather cancellations, collegiate sport competitions, or approved academic absences.)

There will be at least 20 points available via extra credit to all students, allowing you to make up points should you miss a class or two.

Turn off cell phones during class. The reading or sending text messages/chat during class will result in you being marked absent for that class. Checking your phone during class will result in you losing five of your 10 points for attendance that day.

If you need to have you cell phone on for a specific reason, please work out arrangements with me before class begins.

Academic Dishonesty

You are responsible for knowing and following the Academic Integrity Standards as published in the EIU Course Catalog including standard one included below:

Standard I.

Eastern students observe the highest principles of academic integrity and support a campus environment conducive to scholarship. Violations of this standard:

- a. Conduct in subversion of academic standards, such as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, collusion, misrepresentation or falsification of data.
- b. Theft or the unauthorized possession of examinations; alteration, theft, or destruction of the academic work of others, or academic records, library materials, laboratory materials, or other University equipment or property related to instructional matters or research.
- c. Submitting work previously presented in another course unless specifically permitted by the instructor.

- d. Conduct which disrupts the academic environment; disruption in classes, faculty offices, academic buildings, or computer facilities.
- e. Complicity with others in violations of this standard.

Grading:

Test #1	100 pts
Test #2 (mid term)	100 pts
Final Exam (essay/short answer)	200 pts
News content quizzes: 10 @ 20pts each	200 pts
Paper	100 pts
Attendance	100 pts
Quote	Pass/Fail
Total	800 pts

Grading scale:

- A 100-91%
- B 90-80%
- C 79-70%
- D 69-60%
- F 59-0%

Student who has 94.5% or more of the passible class points at the beginning of week 15 may elect to forgo the final and they may choose to accept their current grade (A).

The instructor reserves the right to modify the requirements of this class as necessary to achieve the objectives of this class during the semester.

There will be a news quiz every Thursday. It will cover the previous:

Monday – Thursday editions of NPR Morning Edition.

<http://www.npr.org/programs/morning-edition/>

I maintain an online depository of articles for this class. I will email you the link in the first few weeks. Hang on to that email so you have the URL available as needed.

Week 1 Introduction to course

What is: Gestaltism? What is Truth. What is a Methodology?
Press values. What is Fake news? What does it mean to be a “real journalist”?

Week 2 Why Journalism and Democracy are so intertwined.

How the press helped start, refine, and define our Government. Adams, Madison, and Paine and more.

The Hard Questions and History.

Week 3 John Stuart Mill and the Open Market places of Ideas.

Controlling the market place: In-class exercise.

Week 4 Assessment

In class exercise

Week 5 Review for test 1

TEST #1

Week 6 Libel, Slander and Defamation. Propaganda.

What you can and can't do.

Week 7 Real diversity and the Media

In-class exercise

- Week8** **The Law: Obscenity, freedom of the press, parody, etc.**
(Paper due)
- Week 9** **It's the law: Free Press, the FCC and the courts**
China versus the Alternate Viewpoint
- Week 10** Spring Break.
- Week 12** **Test 2 Review**
Test #2
- Week 13** **The “free press” and the rest of the world. North Korea and Great Britain.**
Where do they rank (and where do we rank) in press freedom?
- Week 14** **Ethics, free press, public relations and big business.**
The problem with \$\$ vs. democracy.
- Week 15** **How to bring down a President**
All the President's Men (in-class exercise).
All the President's Men (in-class exercise).
- Week 16** **Review for Final (Test #3)**

Final Examination:

Mon., Apr. 29

10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.