

JOU 2001 Journalism & Democracy

Term: Spring 2022

Course title: Journalism & Democracy
(JOU 2001-001)

Course meeting time: 2-3:15 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Meeting location: Buzzard Hall 2442

Instructor: Dr. Ensung Kim

Email: ekim2@eiu.edu (Emailing would
be the fastest way to reach me.)

Office phone: 217-581-6003

Office Location: Buzzard Hall 2540

Office Hours: Noon-1 p.m. (Tuesdays
& Thursdays); Noon- 2 p.m.

(Wednesdays) or by appointment. I
accept all forms of meeting: in-person,
remote (via Zoom or Teams), or phone
call

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

Text:

Required:

- Craft, S. & Davis, C. (2016). *Principles of American Journalism, An Introduction*. 2nd ed., Routledge.
- Kovach, B. & Rosenstiel, T. (2021). *The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect*, 4th ed., Crown.
- Other reading materials from various sources

Course Description

A study of the role of journalism in a democracy, the effects of the news media on society and the individual, the importance of an informed electorate in a free, diverse society, and the responsibility of citizens to know, think, and speak out about public issues.

Course Objectives

At the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe how individuals can use the news media to fulfill their responsibilities as American and global citizens. (EIU Learning Goal: Responsible Citizenship, Speaking & Listening)
- Identify the Constitutional principles of freedom of speech and press and the journalistic principles of truth, accuracy, objectivity, credibility and diversity. (EIU Learning Goal: Responsible Citizenship, Critical Thinking, Writing and Critical Reading, Speaking & Listening)

- Explain and evaluate how the roles of news media as watchdog, gatekeeper and agenda setter influence public perceptions and opinions. (EIU Learning Goal: Responsible Citizenship, Critical Thinking, Speaking & Listening, Quantitative Reasoning)
- Explain and evaluate the social, political and cultural impact of coverage of women and minorities by the news media. (EIU Learning Goal: Responsible Citizenship, Critical Thinking, Writing and Critical Reading, Speaking & Listening)
- Understand how journalism functions in a global context. (EIU Learning Goal: Responsible Citizenship, Critical Thinking, Speaking & Listening)

Prerequisites

None. This course is required of all journalism majors and minors. It also satisfies a Social/Behavioral Sciences requirement of the general education curriculum.

How to communicate with me

The best way to reach me is by emailing to my PantherMail ekim2@eiu.edu. I check my email several times a day during the week, but not on weekends. My office hours are listed above, and I accept all forms of meeting: face-to-face, remote via Zoom or Teams, or phone calls.

When emailing me, make sure to list the course number JOU 2001 on the subject line.

Student Requirements

Students taking this course are expected to complete the following works:

- Attendance and class participation (throughout the semester; connected to professionalism grade)
- Current event news quizzes (throughout the semester; 10 points each, random quiz dates but likely to be on Tuesdays)
- Reading reflection notes (Feb. 24, Mar. 31, Apr. 28)
- Mid-term exam (during week 8)
- Final exam (Thursday, May 5)
- Professionalism (no specific due date; remain professional throughout the semester)

Detailed explanations for each assignment are as follows:

At a Glance

Required Items	Frequency	Each worth (points)	Due
Current event quizzes	5	10	Throughout the semester

Reading reflection notes	3	50	2/24, 3/31, 4/28
Mid-term exam	1	100	Thursday, 3/3
Final exam	1	200	Thursday, 5/5
Professionalism (attendance, participation, communication, etc.)	Throughout the semester	100	every week
Total for the course		600	

Item-by-Item

Attendance & Class Participation One of the things this course relies on to achieve learning goals is your participation in class discussions. As a class, we read assigned chapters, unpack and evaluate the materials, and construct our understanding. In this format, your participation is a critical for everyone's success. Attendance and participation are checked in every class.

Current event quiz (10 pts. each) Pay attention what is happening in the U.S. and the world. Look where good journalism takes place. At random times (but likely to be on Tuesdays) throughout the semester, current event quiz will be given. Each quiz will have 10 questions, 1 point each.

Reading reflection notes (50 pts. each) As you read assigned chapters from Kovach & Rosenstiel's *The Elements of Journalism*, write your reading reflection notes. Three times in this semester. These notes are short: 200-250 words (minimum & maximum word counts should be met). Due by Feb. 24, Mar. 31, Apr. 28.

Mid-term & Final exams (100 pts. & 200 pts. respectively) There are two exams in this course: the mid-term and the final.

Professionalism (100 pts.) The value of professionalism is something that cannot be overemphasized. I expect students to develop a sense of professionalism throughout their college career. Professionalism can be displayed in cooperation, attitude, and respect, and leadership. It means thinking and behaving professionally. It includes fair and just thinking, ethical behavior, and respect for others. Display these elements when interacting with classmates and the professor online and off-line. Approach each work with a good attitude. I take this part of the course very seriously.

Evaluation

The final grade in this class will be calculated as follows:

Current event quizzes	10 pts. each
Reading reflection notes	150 pts.
Mid-term exam	100 pts.
Final exam	200 pts.
Professionalism	100 pts.
Total	600 pts.

Grade Distribution: **GRADES ARE NOT CURVED.**

90% or above	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
below 60%	F

Policies

COVID-19 Practices & Expectations

To ensure the safety of all of us on campus, as well as the community, your roommates and loved ones at home in the current environment of the COVID-19 Pandemic, EIU is committed to follow public health guideline and COVID-19 policy developments:

- Masks are required indoors everywhere on campus regardless of your vaccine status.
- Faculty members must wear a mask or face shield while teaching regardless of vaccine status.

Academic honesty and academic integrity

Students' honest work ethic is assumed in this course. In case you're unsure about what constitutes academic misconduct, here are the rules:

All work must be your own and your work alone. Ethical communicators are careful to give sources credit for quotes and ideas. Plagiarism is a failing offense. All out-of-class assignments require contact information for the persons interviewed. Some will be contacted to verify the interview and the accuracy of your information. Please review the EIU Student Conduct Code: www.eiu.edu/~judicial. Eastern Illinois University is committed to the learning process and academic integrity that is defined in the Student Conduct Code (1.1). **To encourage original and authentic written work, any written assignment created in this course may be submitted for review to Turnitin.com and will become a searchable document with the Turnitin-protected and restricted use database. Failing to comply this rule results in an F and failing the course.**

The papers (assignments) should be created new solely for the purpose of this course. The items (papers) you cannot use as your paper for this class include the following, but they're not limited to:

- a paper you submitted to another course in previous or current semester
- a paper written by someone else

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Late papers or assignments

For each 24-hour period after the due date/time of the paper, the student will receive a 10% reduction in the total available points for that assignment. Papers that fail to get turned in will receive 0 point.

Students with disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

About the instructor

My teaching interest includes new media communication technologies, online journalism, computer-mediated communication, and political communication. My research interest overlaps with the teaching interest. My research has often focused on new media technology, political communication, gender in computer-mediated communication environment, among others.

I have a doctorate degree in Mass Communication from Indiana University-Bloomington. My specialty areas are political communication and media technologies. My dissertation was about how political and nonpolitical bloggers used new technology during the 2004 U.S. presidential campaign. The effects of new media in political campaigns still remain as one of my research interests.

Tentative course schedule**Week 1 (Jan. 11 & 13): What is democracy?**

*State, nation, government, democracy – what are they? How are they similar?
How are they different?*

- Merriam-Webster dictionary <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/democracy>
- Britannica.com <https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy>
- Stability of a nation: reflecting on the Jan. 6 insurrection in 2021

Week 2 (Jan. 18 & 20): Democracy and Journalism

Is journalism necessary for a healthy democracy?

- Discovering what democracy means (by Bill Moyers)
<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2007/02/12/discovering-what-democracy-means>
- Connecting the threads of democracy and journalism (by Gerald Jordan)
<http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/reportsitem.aspx?id=100425>
- Kovach & Rosenstiel, Ch. 1. What is journalism for?

Week 3 (Jan. 25 & 27): The Mirror, the Watchdog and the Marketplace
What is the relationship between journalism and democracy?

- Craft & Davis, Ch. 1, The mirror, the watchdog and the marketplace
- Kovach & Rosenstiel, Ch. 2. Truth: The first and most confusing principle
- Evolving definitions of news (by Tom Bettag)
<http://niemanreports.org/articles/evolving-definitions-of-news/>

In February, you'll read chapters 2, 4, and 5 of Kovach & Rosenstiel's book. Do your reflection note #1 on one of them. Submission must be made before the chapter is covered in class.

Week 4 (Feb. 1 & 3): What is journalism?
So what is journalism, anyway?

- Craft & Davis, Ch. 2, What is journalism?
- Kovach & Rosenstiel, Ch. 2. Truth: The first and most confusing principle

Week 5 (Feb. 8 & 10): How is News Made?

- Craft & Davis, Ch. 3, How is news made?
- Kovach & Rosenstiel, Ch. 4, Journalism of verification

Week 6 (Feb. 15 & 17): Who Pays for Journalism?

- Craft & Davis, Ch. 4, Who pays for journalism?
- Kovach & Rosenstiel, Ch. 5, Independence from faction

Week 7 (Feb. 22 & 24): New Voices, New Models

- Craft & Davis, Ch. 5, New voices, new models

In March, you'll read chapters 6 and 7 of Kovach & Rosenstiel's book. Do your reflection note #2 on one of them. Submission must be made before the chapter is covered in class.

Week 8 (Mar. 1 & 3): Mid-term exam. No readings are assigned.
Exam: Thursday, March 3

Week 9 (Mar. 8 & 10): What Do Journalists Owe Us?

- Craft & Davis, Ch. 6, What do journalists owe us?
- Kovach & Rosenstiel, Ch. 6, Monitor power & add voice to the less powerful

Week 10 (Mar. 15 & 17): Spring Break: No Classes

Week 11 (Mar. 22 & 24): The Foundations of Free Expression

- Craft & Davis, Ch. 7, The foundations of free expression
- Kovach & Rosenstiel, Ch. 7, Journalism as a public forum

Week 12 (Mar. 29 & 31): The Declaration of Journalistic Independence

- Craft & Davis, Ch. 8

In April, you'll read chapters 10 and 11 of Kovach & Rosenstiel's book. Do your reflection note #3 on one of them. Submission must be made before the chapter is covered in class.

Week 13 (Apr. 5 & 7): News Literacy

- News literacy project (by Alan Miller)
<http://niemanreports.org/articles/news-literacy-project-students-figure-out-what-news-and-information-to-trust/>
- Why we need news literacy now (by Dean Miller)
<http://niemanreports.org/articles/why-we-need-news-literacy-now/>
- Kovach & Rosenstiel, Ch. 11, The rights and responsibilities of citizens

Week 14 (Apr. 12 & 14): News Media Ethics

Do news organizations and news professionals try to do the right thing? What is the right thing?

- Numerous articles on this topic can be found from the SPJ website
<https://www.spj.org/rr.asp?t=ethics>
- Whether to publish newtown 911 tapes (by Andrew Beaujon)
<http://www.poynter.org/latest-news/mediawire/232586/whether-to-publish-newtown-911-tapes-a-good-question-but-not-the-best-one/>
- CORRECTING THE RECORD; Times Reporter Who Resigned Leaves Long Trail of Deception (by Ellyn Angelotti)
<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/11/us/correcting-the-record-times-reporter-who-resigned-leaves-long-trail-of-deception.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm>
- What's Fit to Print (by Kelly McBride)
<http://www.poynter.org/column.asp?id=53&aid=33614>

Week 15 (Apr. 19 & 21): Ethics (continued)

- Kovach & Rosenstiel, Ch. 10, Journalists have a responsibility to conscience

Week 16 (Apr. 26 & 28): New Media VS. Legacy Media
What are the promises and the perils of new media?

- Legacy media still have the strongest online audience overlap in the US and UK
<http://journalismresearchnews.org/article-legacy-media-still-strongest-online-audience-overlap-us-uk/>
- Saving American Journalism: A radical plan to save journalism in America (NOW on PBS) – dated but it's still useful
http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/603/index.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+NOWonPBS+%28NOW+on+PBS%29
- “Most original news reporting comes from traditional sources, study finds” (by Ben Fritz)
<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jan/11/business/la-fi-ct-newspapers11-2010jan11>
- “How to Save the News” (by William F. Baker)
<http://www.pbs.org/now/journalism-crisis.html>
- Your guide to citizen journalism (by Mark Glaser)
<http://mediashift.org/2006/09/your-guide-to-citizen-journalism270/>
- The 11 layers of citizen journalism (by Steve Outing)
<http://www.poynter.org/uncategorized/69328/the-11-layers-of-citizen-journalism/>
- “Amateur Hour” Journalism without journalists” by Nicholas Lemann
http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2006/08/07/060807fa_fact1

Final Exam: 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Thursday, May 5