



## **JOUR 301 Journalism in a Free Society**

- *Credits: 3, Section: 010*
- *Spring, 2019 | T/Th 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.*
- *Memorial Hall Room 113*

Hello, and welcome to Journalism 301!

Before we begin, I'd like to share a little bit of my backstory.

My name is Deborah Howlett. I grew up in Oregon but have lived in New Jersey nearly as long. In between I lived in Washington, DC, and Chicago. I'm married to a wonderful woman who has nothing to do with journalism and we have two daughters in high school. I like sports and politics, and I'm a decent cook.

I wanted to be a journalist as far back as I can remember. I spent my career as a reporter mainly at USA Today, first as a national reporter, then as a political reporter and ultimately as the bureau chief in Chicago. I've covered wars and presidential campaigns; murder trials and Super Bowls; terrorist attacks and natural disasters. I've reported from 48 of the 50 states and at least a dozen foreign countries.

I began teaching journalism as an adjunct professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, before I came to the University of Delaware in 2017. My interest in journalism is in using emerging digital platforms to deliver news that adheres to the highest professional standards. I am also interested in issues of gender and media

My Contact Information:

E-mail address: [dhowlett@udel.edu](mailto:dhowlett@udel.edu)

Website: <http://debhowlett.com>

Office location: Memorial Hall Room 221

Office hours: Monday 2:30-4:30 or by appointment

Phone number: 609-712-0445

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

An exploration into the purpose of U.S. journalism in a democracy, raising issues of ethics, the First Amendment and the process by which information is gathered and presented by all members of the news community. Covers the impact of history, economics and technology on the future of journalism, as well as the growing importance of news literacy by news consumers.

Prerequisites: Grade of B or better in ENGL110

## COURSE DELIVERY

This course is a “lecture” format, though it will require much more of you than sitting silently in your seat. We will do a substantial amount of reading/viewing (3-4 hours per week), which will provide a foundation for our discussions during our time together. Most weeks there will be one activity/assignment related to the readings. We will also work on two projects, including a major effort at the end of the semester.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

- Articulate the role journalism has played in shaping American democracy and culture, from the First Amendment through the evolution of radio, television, and the internet.
- Define the ethical practice of journalism, including libel law and the rights and responsibilities of journalists.
- Analyze news stories for quality and accuracy, including parsing the content for factual errors, journalistic standards, and bias.
- Identify significant contributors to the craft and the role they played in shaping American democracy and culture.
- Create high-level journalistic content for a web site, including print, video, audio, and images.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

### Print Materials

- *Covering America: A Narrative History of a Nation’s Journalism*, University of Massachusetts Press, 2012, ISBN 978-1558499119 *Note: Specific chapters will be available as PDFs on the class Canvas site.*
- The New York Times. Students have free access to the digital version of the NY Times through the University of Delaware. <https://library.udel.edu/databases/nytdigital/>
- *Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in all its Phases*, Ida B. Wells, <http://www.gutenberg.net/1/4/9/7/14975/>
- *Hiroshima*, John Hersey, *The New Yorker*, Aug. 31, 1946 (PDF)
- *Silent Spring (Part 1)*, Rachel Carson, *The New Yorker*, June 16, 1962 (PDF)
- Harvey Weinstein, *The New York Times*, Oct. 5, 2017 (PDF)
- *Pizzagate: From rumor, to hashtag, to gunfire*, *Washington Post*, Dec. 6, 2016 (PDF)

### Digital Materials

- *Inherit the Wind* <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0053946/>
- *Shattered Glass* <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0323944/>

- The Fourth Estate: <http://www.sho.com/video/61230/the-fourth-estate-official-trailer#/closed> (Showtime)
- The Post, <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6294822/>
- The News in Your News Feed, <https://the1a.org/audio/#/shows/2017-08-28/the-news-and-your-newsfeed/111937/@00:00>
- BBC's Hersey's Hiroshima, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07pfdvw>

## ASSESSMENTS

### Midterm Project

- Student's will produce a poster board biography of a journalist.
- The finished projects will be presented in class.
- Projects will be graded on accuracy, clarity, insight, and depth of research.
- The project will count for 25% of the student's grade.

### Final Project

- The class will create a website to highlight student work analyzing news stories for truth, accuracy and journalistic standards.
- Each student will produce a site post that analyzes a specific news report using the knowledge acquired over the course of the semester.
- The post will evaluate the accuracy of the work and assess the use of ethical standards and professional journalistic practices.
- The post will conform to the tone and style of web writing. It will include at least one multi-media element -- video, audio, gif, graphics or image..
- Projects will be graded on accuracy, clarity, insight, and depth of research.
- The project will count for 35% of the student's grade.

### DAILY ASSIGNMENTS -- Quizzes, discussions, etc.

- Students will also be responsible for completing work as assigned by the instructor, including discussions, quizzes, reading analyses, and classroom participation.
- These small assignments will be graded for participation and insight. The total will count for 40% of the student's grade.

## GRADE SCALE

Grades will be awarded according to the guideline established by the University of Delaware, which are outlined here: <http://www1.udel.edu/registrar/students/grades.html> This is how they break down by percentage of available points: A >93; A- ≥90; B+ >87; B >83; B- ≥80; C+ >77; C >73; C- ≥70; D+ >67; D >63; D- ≥60; F ≤59

## COURSE POLICIES

### Attendance

There is no mandatory attendance policy for this course. However, much of what we learn will happen during class and that means your attendance is vital. If you miss a daily quiz or an in-class assignment without an excused absence, there will be no make-up. Missing class for a recognized holiday when the university is open (for example Diwali or Yom Kippur or Eid al Adha) is acceptable. If serious illness, family emergencies, or other crises occur during the term, you must contact the Dean of Students Office (831-8939) as soon as possible. This office can assist you in notifying faculty and in validating for your teachers what has happened.

### Distractions

Cell phones should be on silent and in your pocket or bag. Please refrain from texting or tweeting during class time. Laptops may be used for note-taking and research, not Netflix. Sleeping during class is frowned upon, especially if you snore.

### Readings

All readings should be done before the class period for which they are listed. Think of it as pre-reading so that we might have an intelligent discussion of the material in class. Early in the semester, much of the reading will be from the text. In the second half, it will mostly be long-form works of journalism in the genre we will be discussing that week.

### Assignments

Deadlines are sacrosanct in journalism. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. Late work will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made in advance.

### Communication

Because I am old and set in my ways, I prefer email as a means of quickly communicating information (or even a phone call). Please check your email at least daily. However, I am not averse to receiving texts, if that is your preferred means of communication. If there is a more complicated issue please feel free to call me or stop by my office during regular office hours or make an appointment.

### Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with UD policies regarding academic dishonesty. To falsify the results of one's research, to steal the words or ideas of another, to cheat on an assignment, to re-submit the same assignment for different classes, or to allow or assist another to commit these acts corrupts the educational process. Students are expected to do their own work and neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance. Complete details of the university's academic integrity policies and procedures can be found at <http://www1.udel.edu/studentconduct/policyref.html> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Office of Student Conduct, 218 Hullahen Hall, (302) 831-2117. E-mail: [student-conduct@udel.edu](mailto:student-conduct@udel.edu)

### Harassment and Discrimination

The University of Delaware works to promote an academic and work environment that is free from all forms of discrimination, including harassment. As a member of the community, your rights, resource and responsibilities are reflected in the non-discrimination and sexual misconduct policies. Please familiarize yourself with these policies at [www.udel.edu/oei](http://www.udel.edu/oei) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. You can report any concerns to the University's Office of Equity & Inclusion, at 305 Hullahen Hall, (302) 831-8063 or you can report anonymously through UD Police (302) 831-2222 or the EthicsPoint Compliance Hotline at [www1.udel.edu/compliance](http://www1.udel.edu/compliance) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. You can also report any violation of UD policy on harassment, discrimination, or abuse of any person at this site: <http://sites.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct/how-to-report/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

### Faculty Statement on Disclosures of Instances of Sexual Misconduct

If, at any time during this course, I happen to be made aware that a student may have been the victim of sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual violence, domestic/dating violence, or stalking), I am obligated to inform the university's Title IX Coordinator. The university needs to know information about such incidents in order to offer resources to victims and to ensure a safe campus environment for everyone. The Title IX Coordinator will decide if the incident should be examined further. If such a situation is disclosed to me in class, in a paper assignment, or in office hours, I promise to protect your privacy--I will not disclose the incident to anyone but the Title IX Coordinator. For more information on Sexual Misconduct policies, where to get help, and how to reporting information, please refer to [www.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://www.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. At UD, we provide 24-hour crisis assistance and victim advocacy and counseling. Contact 302-831-1001, UD Helpline 24/7/365, to get in touch with a sexual offense support advocate.

For information on various places you can turn for help, [click here.](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. For more information on Sexual Misconduct policies, where to get help, and reporting information please refer to [www.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://www.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..

### Inclusion of Diverse Learning Needs

Any student who thinks he/she may need an accommodation based on a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) office as soon as possible. The DSS office is located at 240 Academy Street, Alison Hall Suite 130, Phone: 302-831-4643, fax: 302-831-3261, DSS Website (<http://www.udel.edu/DSS/www.udel.edu/DSS> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.). You may contact DSS at [dssoffice@udel.edu](mailto:dssoffice@udel.edu)

### Non-Discrimination

The University of Delaware does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, disability, religion, age, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by applicable law in its employment, educational programs and activities, admissions policies, and scholarship and loan programs as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. The

University of Delaware also prohibits unlawful harassment including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

For inquiries or complaints related to non-discrimination policies, please contact: Director, Institutional Equity & Title IX Coordinator- Susan L. Groff, Ed.D. [groff@udel.edu](mailto:groff@udel.edu), 305 Hullahen Hall Newark, DE 19716 (302) 831-8063

For complaints related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact: Director, Office of Disability Support Services, Anne L. Jannarone, M.Ed., Ed.S. - [ajannaro@udel.edu](mailto:ajannaro@udel.edu) Alison Hall, Suite 130, Newark, DE 19716 (302) 831-4643 OR contact the U.S. Department of Education - Office for Civil Rights (<https://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.)

## CALENDAR

| WEEK | DATE     | CLASSWORK  | PREP  |
|------|----------|--|---|
| 1    | Feb. 12  | Syllabus<br>First Amendment  | + Read Syllabus<br>+ Find an image the represents what "news" means to you. Print it and bring it to class.         |
|      | Feb. 14  | What is Journalism?<br>Ethics/Rights & Responsibilities                              |   |
| 2    | Feb. 19  | Slavery & A Free Society   | + Read Southern Horrors<br>+ Read Covering America, Chap 4, Radicals All!   |
|      | Feb. 21  | Advocacy Journalism  |   |
| 3    | Feb. 26  | Muckrakers, Gray Ladies and Yellow Kids  | + Read Covering America, Chap 6, Professionalizing the Press<br>+ Watch Inherit the Wind                            |
|      | Feb. 28  | Professionalizing the Press  |   |
| 4    | March 5  | Technology advances;<br>Radio and TV emerge  | + Read Covering America, Chap 8, The Hard Times   |
|      | March 7  | On-line discussion comparing FDR's fireside chat with Trump tweets; no class meeting |   |
| 5    | March 12 | Covering Conflict<br>Pentagon Papers, Ernie Pyle, Hiroshima, 9/11                    | + Read Covering America, Chap 9, The Good War<br>+ Read Hiroshima, New Yorker<br>+ Listen to BBC Hersey's Hiroshima |
|      | March 14 | The A Bomb<br>In-class assignment  |   |

|             |          |  |  |
|-------------|----------|--|--|
| 6           | March 19 | New Journalism   | + Read Silent Spring - Part I<br>+ Watch The Post  |
|             | March 21 | Pentagon Papers  |  |
| 7           | March 26 | Harvey Weinstein and #MeToo movement   | + Read Harvey Weinstein, NY Times<br>+ Read Covering America, Chap 13, Big Media                           |
|             | March 28 | Big media takes charge<br><br>Midterm Project  |  |
| 8           |          | SPRING BREAK   |  |
| 9           | April 9  | Here comes the Internet  | + Read <i>Covering America</i> , Chap 14, "Going Digital"<br>+ Listen to "The News in Your News Feed," NPR |
|             | April 11 | Social Media   |  |
| 10 & 11     | April 16 | The press and the presidency   | Watch The Fourth Estate (S1: E1-4)   |
|             | April 18 | Trump and the failing NY Times   |  |
|             | April 23 | White House News Conference (watch in class and create a list of the important points) |  |
|             | April 25 | News Writing Exercise: Write a 500-word news story off the news conference.            |  |
| 12, 13 & 14 | April 30 | Fake News Project  | Read Pizza Gate  |
|             | May 2    |  |  |
|             | May 7    |  | Watch Shattered Glass  |
|             | May 9    |  |  |
|             | May 14   |  |  |
|             | May 16   |  |  |