

JO 357
History & Principles of American Journalism
Prof. Chris Daly

Boston University
Syllabus, Fall 2013

Contacts

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Office: Alden Hall (704 Comm. Ave.), Room 307B.
Office Hours: Tues, Thurs, 1-3. Or by appt.

Required Readings

1. *Covering America*, by Chris Daly.
ISBN-13: 978-1558499119
2. *Taking their Place*, (2nd Ed.), by Maurine Beasley and Sheila Gibbons
ISBN-13: 978-1879383104
3. *The Elements of Journalism*. By Bill Kovach and Tom Rosensteil.
ISBN-13: 978-0307346704
4. *Muckraking!* By Judith and William Serrin.
ISBN-13: 978-1565846814
5. **Blackboard** site. This site contains key documents as well as study guides, announcements, links, and other materials. Use it.

Objectives

Students will be introduced to the major issues and themes in the history of journalism in America. The course will trace substantial changes in the practice of journalism and the key instances in which the practice of journalism brought change to America. Students will learn the most important eras in journalism history and the prevailing business model in each. Students will also learn the most important definitions of news across eras and across various media. The course will also expose students to the major legal and ethical doctrines of journalism.

Tests and Assignments

You will be assigned to a Teaching Assistant by alphabet. If you have routine questions, please e-mail your TA. If your TA cannot help, then you should contact the professor.

There will be four tests. Tests cover readings, lectures, guest lectures, and videos. Each test will also include a section that will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of current affairs. A missed test scores zero. It is almost impossible to pass this course if you miss a test. So, you should plan to be present for each one, **especially the final**. In case of illness or other emergency, you must contact your TA before the test to arrange a make-up.

You may take only one make-up over the course of the semester.

One optional paper is allowed and will be counted as a fifth grade; it is NOT “extra credit.” The paper is a 6- to 8-page analysis of a topic in journalism history, based on additional research. All topics must be approved in advance and developed in consultation with the professor. The deadline for papers is one week before the last class. Students may not submit a paper that is substantially the same as work submitted in another class. For details, consult the Blackboard site.

If you have questions, contact Prof. Daly.

Each test counts 25%.

If you write a paper, it will count 20%, and other scores will be adjusted accordingly. Test scores are not “curved.” Tests are graded by the TAs. Papers are graded by the professor.

Boston University’s Percentage-based Grade Scale (%)

A: 93 - 100

A-: 90 - 92.99

B+: 87 - 89.99

B: 83 - 86.99

B-: 80 - 82.99

C+: 77 - 79.99

C: 73 - 76.99

C-: 70 - 72.99

D: 60 - 69.99

F: 0 - 59.99

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. (It is also educational!) If you are unable to attend a lecture, there is no need to e-mail the TA or the professor. Return to class as soon as you are able, and ask another student for notes on the class you missed.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism -- the presentation of another's work as your own, even by mistake - - is an abomination and will not be tolerated. In journalism, truth and candor are the bedrock of our work. Plagiarism will result in failing this course and possible further penalties. Never do it, and never tolerate it in others.

If you are in doubt, consult the professor.

BE SURE TO READ AND COMPLY WITH B.U.'s UNIVERSAL ACADEMIC CONDUCT CODE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

It is available at: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

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“Please note that classroom proceedings for this course may be recorded for purposes including, but not limited to, student illness, religious holidays, disability accommodations, or student course review. Note also that you may not use a recording device in the classroom except with the instructor's permission.”  
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Your instructor:

Chris Daly is a veteran journalist with experience in wire services, newspapers, magazines, books and on-line. A Harvard graduate, he spent 10 years at The Associated Press. From 1989 to 1997, he covered New England for *The Washington Post*. He is the author of a narrative history of the U.S. news business titled *Covering America*. He holds a master's degree in history from the University of North Carolina, where he was a co-author of *Like a Family*, a social history of the South's industrialization. His writing has appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Parents*, *New England Monthly*, *Boston*, *American Prospect* and other magazines. He contributes freelance articles and essays to newspapers and magazines, and he blogs at www.journalismprofessor.com.

Course schedule

Part one: 1704-1860

Readings: *Covering America*, chaps 1, 2, 3. Plus, Chap 4, pgs 1-24.
Taking Their Place, Part I.
Muckraking! (Check Courseinfo website)

Week 1

- Introduction/ Colonial period
- Ben Franklin, printer

Week 2

- Independence/First Amendment (Jefferson)
- The partisan press (1790-)

Week 3

- 1830s (the "Penny Press")
- 1840s (the telegraph, the AP)
- Antebellum journalism: polarization and politics.

Week 4

TEST #1 Sept. 24



Part two: 1860-1918

Readings: *Covering America*. Chaps. 4, 5, & 6.
Taking Their Place, pages 31-90.
Muckraking! (details at Courseinfo)
 Schudson, "The Objectivity Norm," Blackboard site.

Week 4

--Civil War journalism
 VIDEO: Excerpt from "The Civil War"

Week 5

--The Press Lords, Part I
 --Pulitzer and Yellow Journalism
 VIDEO: Excerpt, "Nellie Bly"
 --The Press Lords, Part II
 --William Randolph Hearst
 VIDEO: Excerpt, "Citizen Kane"

Week 6

--Muckraking / The Great Gray Lady (The *NYTimes*)
 --Origins of photojournalism

Week 7 [No class Oct. 15 / Monday classes meet.]

--The Great War (and censorship)

Week 8

TEST #2 Oct. 22

Part three: 1918-1963

Readings: *Covering America*. Chaps. 7, 8, 9, & 10.
Taking Their Place, pages 91-108, 117-131.
Muckraking! (details at Courseinfo)

Week 8

--The origins of radio

VIDEO: "Empire of the Air"

--The development and regulation of broadcasting.

Week 9

--Magazine journalism: Henry Luce and Harold Ross

The great columnists: Winchell, Lippmann, Thompson

Week 10

--World War II (censorship again)

--Covering civil rights

--VIDEO: "Dateline Freedom"

Week 11

--The birth of television news

TEST #3 Nov. 14

Part four: 1963-2012

Readings: *Covering America*. Chaps. 11, 12, 13 & 14.
Taking Their Place, pages 150-210.
Elements of Journalism (all)
Muckraking! (details at Courseinfo))

Week 12

- Vietnam and the “credibility gap”
 - VIDEO: Excerpt, “Reporting America at War”
- The Pentagon Papers
 - VIDEO: Excerpt, “The Most Dangerous Man in America”

Week 13

- Watergate and the 1980s (CNN, *USA Today*)
 - VIDEO: Excerpt, “All the President’s Men”

Thanksgiving break

Week 14

- Media conglomeration/ Law and ethics./ 1980s and ‘90s
- News goes digital. Citizen journalism and the future of news.

Week 15

- Journalism as a “discipline of verification.”
 - VIDEO: Excerpt, “The Paper.”

FINAL EXAM

DEC. 17, 12:30-2:30