

JOUR 2050: News and Information Literacy
Fall 2019-20

Journalism 2050 (Class no.: 10454): News and Information Literacy
Fall 2019-20

Time: M, W, F (10:45 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.)

Venue: 111, Scripps Hall

Instructor: Jatin Srivastava

Office: 248, Schoonover Center

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Office Hours: M, W: 1:00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Course Description

The primary objectives of this course are as follows:

1. Develop skills to critically analyze media content.
2. Develop understanding and critical awareness of the production, dissemination, consumption and influence of information.
3. Develop understanding of prominent theories and frameworks explaining the nature and function of information at different levels and how it may relate to different audience and producer related factors.
4. Develop understanding of modern media innovations, ways in which information is generated and disseminated among them at different levels, and in what way they might relate to the users and the society.

Course Material

There are no required texts for the class. Course material will primarily consist resources from web, and digital resources available from Ohio University library. Access to the content will be provided through Blackboard.

Class Policies

Assignments and grades:

The breakup of the grade points is as follows:

Final project (Case Study): 300 (30 %)

Mini case studies: 400 (40%)

Online quizzes: 300 (30%)

Total Number of Points: 1000 (100%)

Final Project (case Study): You will develop a 6-8 pages (Double spaced) long case study exploring an issue/problem relevant to the contemporary media environment and

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will provide recommendations about addressing the issue of interest. The case study will be worth 300 points and will be due on Blackboard during the finals week.

Mini Case studies: These will essentially be solutions for a problem rooted in practical contexts presented in a condensed bullet point based format (one single-spaced page). There will be four such case studies, each worth 100 points, during the semester. Unlike the final project where students will select their case study topic, I will provide the problem/topic for all mini case studies.

Online Quizzes: There will be 5 online take home quizzes during the semester. Different quizzes may have different number of points assigned to them but the total number of points for all the quizzes will be 300 points. You will take the quizzes outside the classroom using the Blackboard website. The quizzes may consist questions in different kind of question formats. The duration of different quizzes may also be different based upon the nature of the problems.

Expectations about in-class behavior: Counterarguments and challenges during conversations are some of the driving elements for this class. Though these elements will be most welcome during class discussions, I would also expect you to be respectful of others during class interactions.

Grading scheme:

A	940-1000	B-	800-839	D+	670-699
A-	900-939	C+	770-799	D	640-669
B+	870-899	C	740-769	D-	600-639
B	840-869	C-	700-739	F	0-599

Extra Credits: Depending on their availability, I may offer some extra credit opportunities during the semester.

Challenging a grade: In case you are not satisfied with the grade you received, please provide me in writing a reason for your dissatisfaction. Please also include a statement about the grade you expect and why you think you deserve that grade. I will not entertain any verbal request for reconsideration/alteration of grades.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. I do understand that there might be valid reasons that make it impossible for you to attend the class. You can miss up to nine classes without any penalty. Any more missed classes after that may incur loss of five points for each missed class from the total points scored in the class.

Beyond the nine-day limit, attendance may be excused if acceptable documented proof is presented. I reserve the right to decide what is acceptable. I would like to point out that documents like advisor's note, prescription receipts, and obituaries from newspaper are

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more likely to be unacceptable. You have been given nine excused days to address such eventualities.

Academic Misconduct: Two primary forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. Cheating involves responding to assignments/quizzes from sources not authorized for use for the assignment/quiz. Using information or material from a source and not crediting it is plagiarism. If you are not sure about crediting a source, please ask me. Not being aware of what constitutes plagiarism is not an excuse. In Cases of plagiarism, I may apply a grade penalty. I may also file a complaint with the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility, and university Judiciary may impose additional sanctions. If you are charged with academic misconduct, you can avail of the appeal process and also seek services of Students Defending Students, a voluntary organization. For more details, please refer to the following web link:
<http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/academic/students.cfm>

Accommodations for disability: Any student who suspects s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the class instructor privately to discuss the student's specific needs and provide written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, s/he should contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services.

Class Calendar

	Theoretical Topic	Assignment & Due date
Week 1		
August 26	Discussion about syllabus	
August 28	Important issues: A broad overview	
August 30	Important issues: A broad overview	
Week 2		
September 2	Labor Day (Class not in session)	
September 4	Theoretical ideas about information and its use and effects	
September 6	Theoretical ideas about information and its use and effects	
Week 3		
September 9	Theoretical ideas about information and its use and effects	
September 11	Theoretical ideas about information and its use and effects	

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September 13	Theoretical ideas about information and its use and effects	Quiz 1 Opens on Blackboard at 5 pm/ Closes on September 20th, 11:59 pm
Week 4		
September 16	Theoretical ideas about information and its use and effects	
September 18	Theoretical ideas about information and its use and effects	
September 20	Theoretical ideas about information and its use and effects	
Week 5		
September 23	News media and information	
September 25	News media and information	
September 27	News media and information	Quiz 2 Opens on Blackboard at 5 pm/ Closes on October 4th, 11:59 pm
Week 6		
September 30	News media and information	
October 2	News media and information	
October 4	Fall Break (Class not in session)	
Week 7		
October 7	News media and information	
October 9	News media and information	
October 11	News media and information	Quiz 3 Opens on Blackboard at 5 pm/ Closes on October 18th, 11:59 pm
Week 8		
October 14	News media and information	
October 16	News media and information	
October 18	News media and information	Mini case study 1 announced/ Due on Blackboard on October 25, 11:59 pm
Week 9		
October 21	Strategic communication and Information	
October 23	Strategic communication and Information	
October 25	Strategic communication and Information	Quiz 4 Opens on Blackboard at 5 pm/ Closes on November 1st, 11:59 pm
Week 10		
October 28	Strategic communication and Information	

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October 30	Strategic communication and Information	
November 1	Strategic communication and Information	Mini case study 2 announced/ Due on Blackboard on November 8th, 11:59 pm
Week 11		
November 4	Information In New Media	
November 6	Information In New Media	
November 8	Information In New Media	Quiz 5 Opens on Blackboard at 5 pm/ Closes on November 15th, 11:59 pm
Week 12		
November 11	Veterans Day (Class not in session)	
November 13	Information In New Media	
November 15	Information In New Media	Mini case study 3 announced/ Due on Blackboard on November 22nd, 11:59 pm
Week 13		
November 18	Information In New Media	
November 20	Information In New Media	
November 22	Information In New Media	
Week 14		
November 25	Information In New Media	Mini case study 4 announced/ Due on Blackboard on December 6th, 11:59 pm
November 27	Thanksgiving Break (classes not in session)	
November 29	Thanksgiving Break (classes not in session)	
Week 15		
December 2	Open hour to work on class projects	
December 4	Open hour to work on class projects	
December 6	Open hour to work on class projects	
Finals week		
December 9		Final Project due on Blackboard on December 9th,12:30 p.m.

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