
FEATURE AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM in Fall 2018 (CM3012)

Course Code	CM3012	Professor(s)	Matthew Fraser
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	689263247
Class Schedule	TF: 10:35-11:55 in G-L22	Office Hours	Wednesday 12-3 pm
Credits	4	Email	mfraser@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	0689263247

Course Description

This course helps prepare students for careers in journalism with focus on researching and writing long-form feature and investigative articles. Students will gain a historical and critical understanding of the tradition of investigative journalism: feature exposés into social conditions in the late 19th century, “muckraking” in the early 20th century, the “New Journalism” movement in the 1960s, investigative journalism in the post-Watergate era, and investigative journalism in the digital age. Issues such as journalism ethics and objectivity will be examined and discussed in the context of investigative journalism.

The course also functions as a “newsroom” in which students will pitch feature and investigative story ideas. Stories will be rigorously researched and written, either individually or in teams, for publication on the Peacock Plume and their own Medium.com pages. Students will receive in-class training on how to structure stories, research, find data, and interview subjects. Students will complete the course with hands-on experience and portfolio work in feature and investigative writing.

Course Learning Outcomes

- gain a critical and historical understanding of the tradition of investigative journalism, and how it has evolved, from its emergence in the late nineteenth century to today
- learn conceptual and practical approaches to different forms and styles of feature and investigative journalism fit for a multimedia distribution
- learn to formulate questions, and test hypotheses, in story ideas and their development into long-form pieces of journalism
- learn advanced research techniques, including databases searches, in producing feature and investigative journalism
- learn to work collaboratively in teams and adhere to ethical standards of journalistic responsibility

General Education

Course Outline

The class schedule is flexible and subject to change as the course progresses.

September

Week I - 10th - 14th

Tuesday 11th - Session I

TOPICS Introduction and overview. Practice and ethics for investigative journalists.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Friday 14th - Session II

TOPICS Newsroom – story pitches and discussion. Launching a Medium page; using Twitter and social media as journalism tools.

READINGS Aucoin, *Evolution of American Investigative Journalism*, Introduction

September 16th – last day to drop/add courses online

Week II - 17th – 21st

Tuesday 18th - Session I

TOPICS Researching stories – online researching techniques.

READINGS Articles on the course blog.

Friday 21th - Session II

TOPICS Newsroom – discussion of story assignments. Issue for discussion: objectivity.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Week III - 24th – 28th

Tuesday 25th - Session I

TOPICS History of Investigative Journalism – the “muckraking” era. *McClure’s* magazine and Standard Oil.

READINGS Aucoin, *Evolution of American Investigative Journalism*, chapter 1; articles on Ida Tarbell and muckraking on course blog.

Friday 28th - Session II

TOPICS Newsroom – discussing approaches, research, and story structure. Issue for discussion: sourcing your stories and interview techniques.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

October

Week IV – 1st - 5th

Tuesday 2nd - Session I

TOPICS History of Investigative Journalism – “New Journalism” in 1960s

READINGS Aucoin, *Evolution of American Investigative Journalism*, chapter 2 & 3

Friday 5th - Session II

TOPICS Newsroom – student progress reports on story assignments.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Week V – 8th -12th

Tuesday 9th - Session I

TOPICS Watergate and the “high modernist” period of investigative journalism.

READINGS Daniel Hallin, “The Passing of High Modernism in American Journalism Revisited”.

Friday 12th - Session II

TOPICS Newsroom – student progress reports on story assignments.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Week VI - 15th - 19th

Tuesday 16th - Session I

TOPICS Investigative journalism today — a “post-modern turn”?

READINGS Broersma & Chris Peters, “Rethinking journalism: the structural transformation of a public good”. Articles on course blog.

Friday 19th - Session II

TOPICS Newsroom – student progress reports on story assignments.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Week VII – 22nd – 26th

Tuesday 23rd - Session I

TOPICS The new economics of journalism — implications for investigative reporting.

READINGS Rasmus Nielsen, “The Changing Economic Contexts of Journalism”; articles on course blog.

Friday 26th - Session II

TOPICS Mid-term exam.

October 26th, Mid-semester grades due

Week VIII – 29th – Nov. 2nd

Tuesday 30th - Session I

TOPICS Newsroom – student progress reports on story assignments.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

October 31st , November 2nd, (included) fall break, no classes

November

Week IX – 5th – 9th

Tuesday 6th - Session I

TOPICS Impact and role of social media in investigative journalism.

READINGS Articles on the course blog.

Friday 9th - Session II

TOPICS Newsroom – student progress reports on story assignments.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

November 9th, Last day to withdraw from a course/no credit option

Week X - 12th -16th=

Tuesday 13th - Session I

TOPICS Collaborative efforts in investigative journalism. Case study: Panama Papers.

READINGS Articles on the course blog.

Friday 16th - Session II

TOPICS Newsroom – student progress reports on stories.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Week XI -19th – 23rd

Session I

Tuesday 20th -

TOPICS Fake news and investigative journalism in the age of Trump.

READINGS Articles on the course blog.

Friday 23th - Session II

TOPICS Newsroom – student progress reports on stories.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Week XII -26th - 30th

Tuesday 27st - Session I

TOPICS Published story reviews and student presentations.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Friday 30th - Session II

TOPICS Published story reviews and student presentations.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

December

Week XIII – 3rd – 7th

Tuesday 4th - Session I

TOPICS Published story reviews and student presentations.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Friday 7th - Session II

TOPICS Published story reviews and student presentations.

READINGS Articles on course blog.

Week XIV - 10th - 14th

Tuesday 11th - Session I

TOPICS Conclusion and evaluation of work produced.

December 12th, Last day of classes, December 13th -16th, Reading days

December 17th – 21st, Final exam

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
The Evolution of American Investigative Journalism	James Aucoin	University of Missouri	9780826216151	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

- **50% -- Evaluation of Published Work**

Half of the final grade will be based on evaluation of work produced and curated on Peacock Plume and/or posted on Medium.com. Evaluation will be based on the output quantity and quality of published work, including writing ability, depth of research, use of data, sourcing, photos, and multimedia. The number of articles produced over the course of the term will be discussed with each student, depending on the length and scope of story ideas.

- **25% -- Attendance, Participation, and Presentation**

Every student will be evaluation on attendance, participation, and teamwork. Also, students will (either individually or in groups) give a short in-class assessment of a feature and investigative piece, outlining their challenges in working on the piece and offering an assessment of the published article.

- **25% -- Mid-Term Exam**

Mid-term exam will cover the historical component of the course, testing students on their knowledge of the history, traditions, and different investigative styles over the past 150 years.

Other

Course blog: <https://investigativejournalismaup.wordpress.com/>