Course Syllabus

Topics in Communication: History of Journalism

COM 505.002

Fall 2010

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Office: Boynton 205  
Office Hours: 10-10:50 a.m. Monday and Wednesday; 10 a.m.-noon Friday; 2-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday; and by appointment  
Class meeting time and place: 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in Boynton 104

Course Description: History of American print journalism, with emphasis on newspapers, from the Colonial Period through the Modern Era.

Program Learning Objectives:

1. Students enrolled in the master's program should be able to recognize the role and function of media in society.
2. Students enrolled in the master's program will be able to demonstrate knowledge of research and gathering information through interviewing sources and research from libraries, archives, documents, databases and electronic sources.
3. Students enrolled in the master's program will be able to demonstrate understanding of legal and ethical principles relating to media.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Graduate students will learn how American print media, with emphasis on newspapers, have developed from the Colonial Period through the Modern Era.
2. Graduate students will learn about major and minor men and women in American journalism with emphasis on their contributions.

3. Graduate students will learn about various periods in American journalism with emphasis on characteristics and contributions.

4. Graduate students will understand, design and conduct research using quantitative and/or qualitative communication methods.

5. Graduate students should be able to demonstrate comprehension of leadership communication as it relates to journalism history.


**Course Requirements:** Requirements include three major examinations, a semi-comprehensive final, a creative paper and a period-long lecture with an accompanied paper (10-12 pages) and visual presentation. In addition, graduate students will assist the professor in a research project that should result in a published article. Each graduate student will prepare 10-12 pages of scholarly work to be used in this project.

**Considerations:**

1. Major tests will cover notes, text, videos, etc., and will include objective questions as well as items to define and identify and short-answer and essay questions. All tests include questions based on material found in the text but not discussed in class. In other words, to do well, you must know notes, book, etc.
2. The final will cover everything since the third test plus some review material.
3. Information (handouts) will be forthcoming on the creative and term papers and the oral presentation.
4. I do not e-mail grades or give them out/discuss them on the telephone.

**Course calendar:** attached.
Grading Policy:

Three major one-hour examinations = 50%
Creative paper = 10%
Scholarly paper #1 = 10%
Scholarly paper #2 = 10%
Semi-comprehensive final = 20%

100%

Attendance Policy:

1. No distinction is made between excused an unexcused absences. If someone is absent, no matter what the excuse, he or she has missed. Therefore, please do not bombard me with excuses. **Anyone who misses 25 percent of the classes will have his/her grade lowered one letter; 35 percent, two letters; 45 percent, three letters.** I reserve the right to enforce the above policy.

(continued on next page)
2. Three tardies count as one absence. (Please see me the period you are late if you believe your tardy should be excused.) If you come in 15 minutes or later after the class has begun, you are absent.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will
automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disability_services/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disability_services/).

**Additional Considerations:**

1. Early tests (major exams, final) will not be given.
2. No one is exempt from the final.
3. I have absolutely no problems with students recording lectures. In fact, given the bulk of the material, I recommend it.
4. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Please do not ask me to lend you my notes. Find another student who is willing to do this.
5. Students are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen. Such behavior as whispering, talking, reading, studying material for another class, etc., will not be tolerated. The above are grounds for dismissal. Students also are expected to remain in their seats throughout the period unless there is a dire emergency, which should be explained at the end of the period. Leaving the classroom, returning and not explaining why will result in an absence for that period.
6. Texting (text messaging) during class is crude, rude and socially unacceptable. Anyone caught during this will be asked to leave and possibly will be dropped from the class. The same holds true for sending and checking e-mails.
7. Cell phones—or anything that looks like a cell phone, for that matter—should be clearly placed out of sight, especially during tests. If a student is caught with a cell phone on his/her desk, she/he will be asked to leave the classroom. If this should occur during a test, he/she will receive a zero on the test. Please turn off all cell phones.
8. Course feedback is provided throughout the semester. Everything (tests and papers) but the final will be returned to you.

9. Regarding the book review, anyone who plagiarizes will receive a zero. No opportunity will be given to redo the assignment or write a different summary/critique.

***Outlines: Students receive “outlines” to help them spell words, etc. In no way is an outline a complete study guide. Many, many points will be discussed that are not included on outlines. In 306, you will be held responsible for all lecture notes!!

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SPA students succeed.
History of Journalism (MCM 401, COM 505)  
Fall 2010  
Dr. Mayer

**TENTATIVE DISCUSSIONS**

**Tues., Aug. 31:**  
1. Introduction. **Discussion of syllabus.**  
2. “Heritage of the American Press.” **Countries other than England.**

**Thurs., Sept. 2:**  
1. “Heritage of the American Press.” **Development of the newspaper in England.**  
2. “Colonial Journalism.” **Development of the newspaper in Colonial America.**

**Tues., Sept. 7:**  
“Colonial Journalism.” **Significant early newspapers.** James and Ben Franklin.

**Thurs., Sept. 9:**  
1. “Colonial Journalism.” **Ben Franklin.**  
2. “The Zenger Trial.” **Political background, the newspaper, the trial, final points.**

**Tues., Sept. 14:**  
“Revolutionary Journalism.” **James Rivington, John Dickinson and Sam Adams.**

**Thurs., Sept. 16:**  
“Revolutionary Journalism.” **Isaiah Thomas, Thomas Paine, characteristics of Revolutionary newspapers.**

**Tues., Sept. 21:**  
“The Party Press.” **Background. Federalist newspapers and editors.**

**Thurs., Sept. 23:**  
“The Party Press.” **Anti-Federalist newspapers and editors. The press under Jefferson and Jackson.**

**Tues., Sept. 28:**  
Catch-up. **Making sure all significant points have been covered.**
Thurs., Sept. 30:  *TEST 1.*

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*Benjamin Day.*


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*Movie is a history of the black press in the United States.*


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Tues., Oct. 26:  Catch-up.  *Making sure all significant points have been covered.*

Thurs., Oct. 28:  *TEST 2.*

Thurs., Nov. 4:  "Joseph Pulitzer." Biography and contributions.

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Thurs., Nov. 18:  TEST 3.

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2. "After Yellow Journalism." Pulitzer, Hearst, Scripps, Munsey, the muckrakers.

Thurs., Nov 25:  THANKSGIVING!

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2. *Citizen Kane*: feature-length movie that is really about William Randolph Hearst.

Thurs., Dec. 2: *Citizen Kane.*

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Thurs., Dec. 9: “Wartime Journalism.” American journalism during World War I and World War II.