

Syllabus for
JRN 101 Introduction to Journalism
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2017

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers students the opportunity to gain insight into the diverse opportunities in convergence journalism with this seminar class covering all the various facets of media and career paths available to 21st century journalist. Introductory course held in the ORU Global Learning Center so that various guest speakers who are news media professionals can address and interact with students via live internet feed. Topics covered include a broad media industry overview that includes print, TV radio, Internet, film and social media based journalism, a survey of journalism ethics and media law, best industry practices, the importance of incorporating Christian worldview, a global focus, and critical thinking in news gathering and producing, research strategies and professional formation. Course utilizes Launch Pad Solo in addition to a conventional text book for the purpose of an interactive classroom learning experience.

Prerequisites: None
Course Fee: \$40.

II. COURSE GOALS

Students will learn all the basics of the news media, and leave the course knowledgeable about the crucial role the news media plays in the community and culture, government, society and the world learn the basics about news reporting across all media platforms. This course prepares journalism students to approach learning the complex and diverse field of converged news media reporting with a good grasp of the basic tenants, best practices and operating principles governing the professional journalist and their work product.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

After completing this course, the successful student will to be able to do the following:

- A. Develop basic news stories through the use of journalistic research, writing and interviews.
- B. Know the functions and operating principles of all types of news media outlets.
- C. Understand best practices in researching, writing and reporting the news.
- D. Discuss the importance of good writing, recognizing the basic elements of good writing, while developing talents as a discoverers and reporters of the news.
- E. The general methods used in adapting basic news stories to other types of media presentations.
- F. Explain the principles and practices of effective reporting.
- G. Produce plans and strategies for developing compelling news stories.

- H. Determine what is and is not ethical and legal in the reporting process.
- I. Plan, investigate, research for and execute news coverage for a defined audience in situations including regional, national and International settings.
- J. Analyze and evaluate news coverage as performed by specified news outlets. Perform deeper investigations on existing stories.
- K. Discuss cogently, from a Christian perspective, the ethical issues involved in interpretative reporting, investigative reporting, "New Journalism," and public affairs reporting.
- L. Above all, learn to "hear God" in all the processes and procedures of investigative reporting.

IV. TEXTBOOK AND OTHER LEARNIG RESOURCES

Required Materials

Textbooks: *News Reporting and Writing 12th Edition* ((2017) Brooks, B., Kennedy, G., Daryl, M., and Ranly, D. ISBN 978-319-03481-8

Course utilizes Launch Pad Solo as an auxiliary component to text book.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments. "Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
- B. Department Policies and Procedures
1. **Attendance**—At Oral Roberts University, students are expected to attend all classes. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for illness, personal business, and personal emergency. Students may consider these personal days or sick leave. If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's excuse.
 2. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for University sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
 - a. Inform the professor before the event.
 - b. Arrange to complete missed work within one week.
 - c. Not commit to class performances (oral reports, speeches, television tapings, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
 - d. Present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts and Cultural Studies, the day the student returns.
 3. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, tardies are calculated in the attendance provision for this course. Three tardies equal one absence and are included in the absences when determining the course grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the student late; the student is the one responsible to convey that information following that class. Students should not expect to be credible the following class session concerning a late arrival on a previous day.
 4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. If late work is accepted, a substantial penalty will be assessed.
 5. **Literacy**—The Communication, Arts, and Media Department does not accept for credit any written assignment that contains more than an average of three grammatical and/or typographical errors per page.
 6. **Whole Person Assessment**—Refer to the Communication, Arts, and Media WPA handbook for policies at <http://oru.edu> by clicking on **Current Students**, > **Resources**, then **Whole Person Assessment** (via pop up window). Use the **Handbooks** link on the

left and then **Communication, Arts, and Media WPA Handbook**. The direct link: http://www.oru.edu/current_students/my_academics/resources/whole_person_assessment/documents/comm_arts.pdf

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Evaluation—Participation in classroom, team and seminar processes, (15%), individual assignments (50%), team work on class projects 15% and the student's quality of work as evidenced in the writing of a final project (10%) and a final test (10%) will constitute 100% of the final grade.

a. Examinations—A final comprehensive exam will be given. This test will cover all class material and reading assignments, with a final comprehensive writing project due as a final.

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements: None

V. COURSE CALENDAR

	Course features several guest speakers from a variety of roles in news media
Weeks 1-2	Industry review and the job of the journalist.
Weeks 3-6	Media law and ethics, fair reporting, fact checking, conducting revealing interviews, doing the research and other reporting tools and trade secrets
Weeks 7-10	Storytelling across media platforms, how to write compelling copy and dig for concise information. Building relationships and understanding our world. Pitch story ideas and report professionally. Learn to research, report and investigate.
Weeks 11-13	Understanding and working in the big picture of global news media. Where do you belong? Learning about convergence media. Writing and producing across venues.
Weeks 14-16	Pitch, Work on and Complete final projects. Publish to class Wiki.
Week 17	Final Test

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

JRN 101 Introduction to Journalism Fall 2017

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge				X
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit				X
1C	Evangelistic capability				X
1D	Ethical behavior	X			
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives			X	
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship	X			
4E	Leadership capacity			X	