JOURNALISM (JRN)

College of Arts and Humanities

Courses

JRN 200. Communications Media. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the media of communications, emphasizing the development and characteristics of print and electronic media forms and their impact on American society.

JRN 212. Digital Journalism. 3 Credits.
This is a multimedia course which introduces students to various social media platforms and offers them an opportunity to publish blogs, commentaries, reviews, profiles and other features on the Web. Students will also create Web pages using online resources to gather, write and edit information, use digital cameras to shoot photos/videos and edit them using digital editing software.
Typically offered in Spring.

JRN 225. Newswriting. 3 Credits.
A course designed to develop proficiency in the writing of news stories for daily and weekly newspapers. News values, the structure and style of news, and the preparation of copy in accordance with professional standards will be stressed.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.

JRN 226. Public Affairs Reporting. 3 Credits.
Instruction and practice in basic news reporting techniques coupled with an introduction to newspaper feature writing. Outside assignments will include coverage of speeches, local government meetings, and the courts.
Pre / Co requisites: JRN 226 requires prerequisite of JRN 225.

JRN 250. News Editing. 3 Credits.
A course designed to acquaint students with the skills involved in the preparation of copy for publication in newspapers and magazines. Instruction and practice in the mechanics of copy editing, headline writing, layout, and photo editing.
Pre / Co requisites: JRN 250 requires a prerequisite of JRN 225.

JRN 272. Feature Writing. 3 Credits.
Practical instruction in the skills for successful feature writing for print and electronic media, with an emphasis on techniques used in personality profiles, critical reviews, column writing, and op-ed pieces.

JRN 312. Sports Reporting and Writing. 3 Credits.
Instruction and practice in basic sports reporting techniques, including live-event coverage and feature writing, as well as an introduction to routine duties associated with working on the sports desk.
Pre / Co requisites: JRN 312 requires prerequisite of JRN 225.

JRN 315. Magazine Article Writing. 3 Credits.
Practical instruction in the skills required for successful freelance magazine writing with emphasis on research, interviewing, writing techniques, and marketing. Students will write and submit for publication short features and a full-length magazine article.
Pre / Co requisites: JRN 315 requires prerequisite of JRN 225.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.

JRN 325. History of Journalism. 3 Credits.
A historical survey of the American press from Colonial times to the present, with special emphasis on the continuing struggle for press freedom and the new journalistic environment created by the emergence of mass media.

JRN 335. Ethical Issues in Mass Media. 3 Credits.
A course designed to investigate how mass media shape the public's perceptions of political, economic, and social power structures and how it shapes moral standards. Emphasis will be placed on freedom of speech issues and professional ethics of journalists.

JRN 345. Mass Media and the Law. 3 Credits.
The course explores First Amendment and other constitutional guarantees of a free press, as well as statutory and judicial protection/limitations of the media. Major issues to be covered include censorship and prior restraint, defamation, invasion of privacy, copyright, obscenity, free press vs fair trial, advertising and commercial speech, broadcast regulation, media ownership regulation, access to public information, and citizens' access to the mass media.

JRN 411. Journalism Practicum. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to give students in the journalism minor practical experience in writing news stories, columns and features for newspapers and other edited news sources. Students are strongly encouraged to submit their stories to the Quad, the student weekly newspaper of West Chester University, or some other weekly or daily newspaper. See journalism coordinator for specific requirements.
Pre / Co requisites: JRN 411 requires prerequisites of JRN 200 and JRN 212.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.