Principles of Journalism (COMM 2302-46400)
Arts & Communications Division
Summer II 2017

Class Meets: Online (3 Credit Hours)
July 11-August 10 (5 weeks)

Instructor  Lori Dann
Phone      972-860-7290, but the best way to reach me is via email.
Office     N-241
Office hours  By appointment only during the summer. Email for an appointment.
E-mail     loridann@dcccd.edu

Course Description
Exploration of ethical and legal boundaries as well as issues and problems facing today's journalists. (3 Lec.)

Course Goals
This is the capstone course in the journalism program. By the end of this class you should be able to:

• Understand the ethical and legal challenges facing media
• Have a clear understanding of the importance of the First Amendment
• Apply this legal and journalistic ethics knowledge to your own career as a journalist
• Evaluate content using media literacy skills

Required Materials and Resources For This Course
• *Journalism Ethics Goes to the Movies*, Edited by Howard Good, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008
• Internet access.
• Ability to stream video content. Note: This course uses movies to illustrate various legal and ethical challenges facing journalists. You will be required to watch these movies. **You will be responsible for renting three of these movies or finding them at your local library. Expected cost is no more than $10 for the semester.**
Student Learning Outcomes
Upon receiving an associate's degree in a journalism field of study you should be able to show mastery of the following student learning outcomes. Each of these will be taught in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Amendment</th>
<th>Journalism students should value the implications the First Amendment has throughout their journalistic work.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Journalism students should be able to edit and communicate messages verbally and non-verbally for different media outlets and audiences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>News</td>
<td>Journalism students should be able to identify newsworthy events, gather information about the same, and communicate those to audiences of different media outlets after editing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Journalism students should demonstrate the use of different technologies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Journalism students should apply the codes of ethics as well as legal rights and restrictions inherent to their chosen field of journalism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Journalism students should demonstrate research skills throughout their practical and academic course work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Journalism students should discuss the diversity of their professional environment as well as their audiences.</td>
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Instructor’s Expectations
My goal is to help you succeed in this course. To ensure an optimal learning environment, I ask every student to follow these policies:

- Communicate with me as well as your other classmates frequently. You must turn in your introduction by July 13 to be certified in the class.
- You are responsible for reading the assigned chapters/articles and watching the assigned videos in order to successfully complete all class work. Failure to do so, and to demonstrate what you have learned in your papers, will likely result in a lower grade. Information from the assignments must be cited in your posts to receive maximum credit.
- If you experience any problems, such as not being able to see assignments, please let me know immediately.
• Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments. Technical difficulties are not an excuse for missed deadlines.
• All work will be submitted through SafeAssign. Do not plagiarize. You become guilty of plagiarism when you submit someone else’s words as your own, whether it is one sentence, one paragraph or an entire paper. Plagiarism is a serious violation of the student ethical code of conduct and will result in measures reaching from a grade “F” for the assignment in question to failing this course. The SafeAssign software will ensure that submissions are authentic.
• This is an online course so you must have reliable internet access and the ability to stream video content. Cell phones do not interact well with Blackboard/eCampus, so please make sure you have computer access for the entire duration of the class. Computer access is available at the Eastfield College library and computer lab.
• Incompletes will only be assigned to students who find themselves in extenuating circumstances, who have completed at least eighty percent of the class, and whose grades so far indicate that this student would otherwise have completed this class with a passing grade of “A” or “B”.

Coursework
Students will be asked to view a series of movies and submit in-depth response papers. There will also be two law and ethics papers, three smaller assignments, a final project, and a final exam.

Assignments and Grading
Film Viewing and Response Papers (5)
Students will write five response papers (500-word minimum) based on reading and movie assignments.
75 points each = 375 total points

Journalism Law/Ethics Response Papers (2)
Students will address two legal and ethical issues in journalism.
75 points each = 150 points

Other Weekly assignments (3)
Students will post an introduction and a response to the SPJ Code of Ethics in the first week. Midway through the semester students will turn in a paragraph and plan for their final project on a professional journalist.
25 points each = 75 points

Final Project: Journalist Profile
Students will arrange to meet with a journalist and will write a profile or produce a video package that focuses on the journalist’s career. The profile should include at least one, but preferably more, legal or ethical dilemmas encountered by the journalist during his/her career. Full details will be uploaded on eCampus.

Note: You should choose a journalist who does the job you want to do. For
example, if you want to be a sports broadcaster, try contacting a sports broadcaster NOW to see if you can shadow him or her.
Value: 200 points

Final Exam
The final exam will include two essay questions worth 100 points each. The exam is not timed. It will be due on the final day of class.
Value: 200 points

Total Possible Points in Course: 1,000

Grading Scale
A = 900-1,000 points
B = 800-899 points
C = 700-799 points
D = 600-699 points
F = 0-599 points

Deadlines and Missed Assignments/Tests
Late assignments will not be accepted without providing proper documentation or getting prior approval from the instructor. Accommodations will be made for students who miss assignments or tests due to an approved extracurricular activity with the school or an extended illness that is accompanied by a doctor’s note.

Submitting Work
All work must be turned in through eCampus. Please do not send any assignments to me through email. If you have any problems submitting, please let me know immediately. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments.

Eastfield College Email Policy
Faculty and students must have and use a DCCCD account for all correspondence relating to academic coursework. I cannot communicate with you about grades via email unless you are using a DCCCD address.

Certification Date
In order to be certified for this class, you must turn in your introduction post by Thursday, July 13. After that point I will not be able to certify you as an active student in the course, so do not miss this deadline.

Students on Financial Aid
If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans and are enrolled in a Distance Learning class, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.
Withdrawing from the Class

If you are considering dropping this class, please contact me immediately. Many times, there might be a better alternative than dropping a class. If we cannot find a more satisfactory solution than dropping a class, then it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to withdraw formally from the course or courses. I cannot withdraw you. The last day to withdraw with a grade of “W” for the Summer II semester is August 3, 2017. Failure to drop or withdraw officially from a course will result in your receiving no credit for any remaining assignments and will likely result in a failing grade for the course. For more information, please follow this link: http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/ari/Drop.asp

Stop Before You Drop

For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

Repeating This Course: (Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course)
The Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester. See Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course at: http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/

Academic Honesty

As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published in the DCCCD Catalog at https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism and collusion. Cheating includes copying from another student’s test or homework paper, using materials not authorized, collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test, knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting the contents of an unadministered test, and substituting for another person to take a test. Plagiarism is the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one’s own written work. Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. Depending on the course and instructor, you can be given a failing grade on an assignment or test, can be failed for the class, or you can even be suspended from college.
In any written paper or online post, you are guilty of the academic offense known as plagiarism if you partially or entirely copy the author’s sentences, words. For such an offense, a student will receive a zero on the assignment and can receive an F for the course. You cannot mix the author’s words with your own or “plug” your synonyms into the author’s sentence structure. The author’s words, phrases, sentences must be put in your words, in your way of writing. When you do this, you are demonstrating understanding and comprehension. **If you summarize, paraphrase or directly quote from an author, you must use the appropriate documentation because the ‘idea(s)’ still belong to the author.**

**Obtaining Final Course Grades**

Final Grade Reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online at www.econnect.dcccd.edu. Use your identification number when you log onto eConnect. Your grades will also be printed on your Student Advising Report, which is available in the Admissions Office.

**Responsibility**

Each student shall be charged with notice and knowledge of the contents and provisions of the District’s policies, procedures, and regulations concerning student conduct. All students shall obey the law, show respect for properly constituted authority, and observe correct standards of conduct. If a student fails to comply with classroom etiquette procedures, the student will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted absent for that class day.

**Sexual Harassment**

Eastfield College has a zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment. All students shall report complaints of sexual harassment informally to the college Human Resources Director or formally to the Vice Chancellor of Educational Affairs.

**ADA Statement**

Students with a physical, mental or learning disability who require accommodations should contact the college Disability Services Office in C237. 972.860.8348 or email efcdso@dccc.edu. For more information: [http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/DSO/index.html](http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/DSO/index.html)

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)**

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the College may release information classified as “directory information” to the general public without the written consent of the student. Directory information includes: (1) student name, (2) student address, (3) telephone numbers, (4) date and place of birth, (5) weight and height of members of athletic teams, (6) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (7) dates of attendance, (8) educational institution most recently attended, and (9) other similar information, including major field of student and degrees and awards received. Students may protect their directory information at any time during the academic year. If no request is filed, directory information is released upon written inquiry. No telephone inquiries are acknowledged. No transcript or
academic record is released without written consent from the student, except as specified by law.

**Key Semester Dates:**
July 11: Class starts
July 13: Introductions and SPJ assignment due. Required for certification
July 16: Film 1 paper due
July 23: Film 2 paper due and Journalism Ethics response paper due
July 30: Film 3 and 4 papers due; final project subject and plan due
August 3: Last day to withdraw with a “W”
August 6: Film 5 paper due and Journalism Law response paper due
August 9: Final project due
August 10: Final exam due and Final Day of Class
August 13: Grades submitted to eConnect

*Note: See Course Calendar on Next Page*

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.
# Tentative Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
<th>Films and related response papers (75 points each)</th>
<th>Other Assignments</th>
<th>Project and Exam (200 points each)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Week 1: July 11-16** | * Syllabus  
* SPJ Code of Ethics  
* Chapter 1: Responsible Journalistic Inquiry (The Paper) | Film 1: The Paper and Video: Richard Jewell (Stream The Paper for $2.99 on YouTube or Amazon or check out at your local library) **Paper Due July 16** | * Introduction and SPJ Code of Ethics response  
Two-part assignment due July 13 (50 points) |  |
| **Week 2: July 17-23** | *Chapter 2: Fabrication in Journalism (Shattered Glass)  
* Magazine article on Shattered Glass posted on eCampus  
* Two assigned Wikileaks articles | Film 2: Shattered Glass (Access free, eCampus) **Paper Due July 23** | Journalism Ethics: Wikileaks videos (Access free, eCampus) **Paper Due July 23** |  |
| **Week 3: July 24-July 30** | * Chapter 9: Ethics in Black and White (Good Night and Good Luck) | Film 3: Good Night and Good Luck (Access free, eCampus) **Paper Due July 30**  
Film 4: Page One (Access free, eCampus) **Paper Due July 30** |  | Paragraph on Subject of Final Project and shadowing date Due July 30 (25 points) |
| **Week 4: July 31-August 6** | * Assigned readings on Watergate and Investigative Journalism  
* Texas Shield Law Articles | Film 5: All the President’s Men (Access free, eCampus) and Short video on investigative journalism **Paper Due August 6** | * Journalism Law: Texas Shield Law **Paper due August 6** |  |
| **Week 5: August 7-10** |  |  |  | * Final Project due Wednesday, Aug. 9  
* Final Exam due Thursday, Aug. 10 |