Term: Summer 2019
Course: COMM-2302-45410
Course Dates: June 6-July 3
Class Location: Online

| Instructor: | Lori Dann |
| Phone: | 972-860-7290 |
| Email: | loridann@dcccd.edu |
| Office & Office Hours: | N-241 | By appointment only during the summer |

A&C Division: G-Building: Room 138 | 972-860-7124

Course Drop Date: June 25, 2019

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.

Institutional Policies: Eastfield College Institutional Policies (www.eastfieldcollege.edu/syllabipolicies)

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 Mass Communications/Journalism and Broadcast Journalism fields of study.
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
- Internet access.
- A basic understanding of eCampus
- 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 these films or finding them at your local library. Expected cost is no more than $16 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, guidelines, and suggestions:

- This is a month-long, accelerated course. If you’ve never taken a summer course, be advised that the workload is more intensive because we will be covering the same material in a shorter time period. You will be completing multiple assignments each week that involve readings, films, and videos, as well as a final project and final exam, so be prepared to set aside time throughout the week to work on this course.
- With the exception of the final week, which ends on a Wednesday, your assignments will all be due on Fridays and Sundays, but the earlier you work on your assignments the better. If you prefer to work on the weekends, I strongly suggest that you work on your Friday assignments the weekend before it is due.
- Communicate with me if you have any questions about an assignment or don’t see content posted for assignments that are due in any given week.
- Late assignments will not be accepted. You must turn in your introduction by Friday, June 7, to be certified in the class.
- The final project in this class involves shadowing a media professional. This is not just a course assignment worth 20 percent of your grade. It is an opportunity for you to network with a local media professional and learn more about a job that you are interested in holding in your professional career. This is much more important than a grade, so I strongly suggest starting to contact media professionals in your area of interest as soon as possible so you can get the most out of the project.
• 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 result in a lower grade. **Information from the assignments must be cited in your papers.**

• This is the capstone course for the Mass Communications/Journalism and Broadcast Journalism fields of study, so I do expect you to be able to write well and think critically about the content you are asked to analyze. Please do not submit assignments filled with spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization errors. If you struggle in these areas, I strongly suggest downloading the Grammarly extension for your web browser. There will be deductions for writing errors, so make sure to read over your assignments carefully.

• Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments. Technical difficulties are not an excuse for missed deadlines.

• Since this is an online course, **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 also available at the Eastfield College library and computer lab.

**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 Shadowing and Profile**
Students will arrange to shadow a media professional doing a job they are interested in doing and then interview that media pro for their final project. Students will write a profile or produce a video package that focuses on the journalist's career path and current job. 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. Students regularly tell me this is their favorite part of the course and the one that helps them learn the most about the field they will soon be entering.

**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 be a two-part in-depth analysis. 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 and Financial Aid
In order to be certified for this class, you must turn in your introduction post by Friday, June 7. After that point I will not be able to certify you as an active student in the course, so do not miss this deadline. If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans this could affect your status. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your status 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 I semester is June 25. 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.

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 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. 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.

### Tentative Course Calendar (Topic and date changes are possible)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
<th>Films and response papers (75 points each)</th>
<th>Other Assignments</th>
<th>Final Project and Final Exam</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1: June 6-9</td>
<td>* Syllabus * SPJ Code of Ethics * Chapter 1: Responsible Journalistic Inquiry (The Paper)</td>
<td>Film 1: The Paper and Video: Richard Jewell (Stream The Paper for $3.99 on YouTube or Amazon or check out at your local library) Paper Due June 9</td>
<td>• Introduction and SPJ Code of Ethics response Two-part assignment due June 7 (50 points)</td>
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<td>* Chapter 2: Fabrication in Journalism (Shattered Glass) * Magazine article on Shattered Glass * Wikileaks articles</td>
<td>Film 2: Shattered Glass (Stream it for $3.99 on YouTube or Amazon or check out at your local library) Paper Due June 16</td>
<td>Journalism Ethics: Wikileaks videos (Access free, eCampus) Paper Due June 14</td>
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<td>Week 3: June 17-23</td>
<td>* Chapter 9: Ethics in Black and White (Good Night and Good Luck)</td>
<td>Film 3: Good Night and Good Luck (Stream it for $3.99 on YouTube or Amazon or check out at your local library) Paper Due June 21 Film 4: Spotlight (Access on Netflix, through your local library, or stream online) Paper Due June 23</td>
<td>Paragraph on Subject of Final Project and shadowing date Due June 23 (25 points)</td>
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<td>Week 4: June 24-30</td>
<td>* Assigned readings on Watergate and Investigative Journalism * Texas Shield Law articles</td>
<td>Film 5: All the President’s Men (watch on Netflix or check out at your local library) Short video on investigative journalism Paper Due June 30</td>
<td>* Journalism Law: Texas Shield Law Paper due June 28</td>
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<td>Week 5: July 1-3</td>
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<td>• Final Project due Tuesday, July 2 • Final Exam due Wednesday, July 3</td>
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