

JRN501: REPORTING & FACT-CHECKING

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SECTION 1

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OFFICE HOURS in CCE 267: 9-11 a.m., Mondays & 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesdays

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to JRN501: Reporting & Fact-Checking. You are embarking upon a graduate level reporting and writing course that will emphasize the tools, tasks and tribulations behind GREAT STORYTELLING.

First, **the tools.**

To succeed in this course, the tools you will need are **CURIOSITY, COURAGE** and **TIME & EFFORT**. You need curiosity to *find* great ideas and potential stories. You need courage to ask people about those ideas and stories. And, you need the time and effort to turn someone's answers and your ideas into great stories.

Next, **the tasks.**

You will learn about different narrative styles and the kinds of reporting required to employ those styles. We will begin with vignettes about people you see every day. But, to find out about those people, you will need to know how to interview well, what kinds of questions to ask, what public documents you need to triangulate and verify information and, ultimately, you need to **WRITE**.

Lastly, **the tribulations.**

We will talk a lot about failing, about not getting the job done. You will be given the opportunity to fail, to do a not-so-great job – wait. What is she talking about? This is a class and you want an “A.” I know that. But, to figure out what works, you will need to go through what doesn't work. This is as soft a landing as you will have and we will work through struggles, shortcomings and failures in order to figure out how to report, to strike a voice and to tell a great story.

PURPOSE

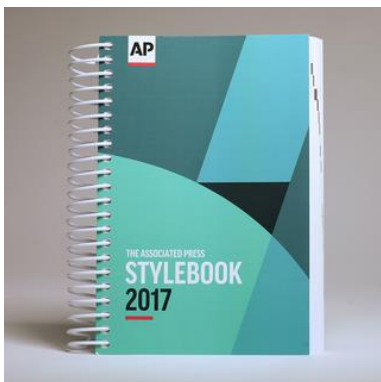
At the conclusion of this course, the assigned readings, class discussions and completed assignments should have helped you to be able to:

- Identify and appreciate strong journalistic material
- Conduct strong interviews
- Understand how to get and where to find public documents
- Triangulate information for full verification
- Use that information to put together strong, narrative journalism articles

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- AP Stylebook (or, digital subscription to APStylebook.com)

TEXTBOOKS



GRADING

Your grade will be comprised of the total score of the following:

Homework assignments	50 points
Attendance/Engagement	10 points
<u>FINAL Article</u>	<u>40 points</u>
Story pitch	5 points
First draft	10 points
Second draft	10 points
Final draft	15 ppoints

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Engagement

Attendance is mandatory. Engage; you're here so you might as well learn. Attendance and engagement points are awarded at my discretion and will be the determining factor for grades "on the edge." **IF YOU MISS CLASS, it is YOUR responsibility to makeup work: do not ask the professor what you missed; ask a classmate.**

Technology and Respect

Out of respect for your professor and fellow classmates, laptops, tablets and phones are not permitted for use in class unless specified by the professor beforehand. They should be stored, in the off/silent position. Note-taking should be done via pen/paper and can be transferred to electronic format outside of the class time.

Assistance

If you have health or educational needs, please inform me ***within the first week of the semester***. Consistent with its responsibilities, Quinnipiac University also provides [reasonable accommodations to promote equal educational opportunity](#). If you require assistance beyond what I can provide, please contact John Jarvis, Coordinator of Learning Services at 203-582-5390 or John.Jarvis@Quinnipiac.edu.

Supplemental Assistance

Understanding and using the basics of grammar, punctuation and writing structure are expected. If you are having difficulty with this, please seek assistance from the QU Learning Center at TH 119, or call (203) 582-8628.

Academic Integrity

Familiarize yourself with Quinnipiac University's policy on Academic Integrity. ([Available in full here](#).) *Along with the University's policy, understand that made-up sources, made-up quotations will result in failing and/or lower grades.*

UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Quinnipiac University has established Essential Learning Outcomes and learning paradigms. They include Interpersonal Proficiencies: Written communication, oral communication, responsible citizenship, diversity awareness & sensitivity and social intelligence, and Intellectual Outcomes: Critical thinking & reasoning, scientific literacy, quantitative reasoning, information fluency, creative thinking and visual literacy.

More on these outcomes is [available here](#).

The Department of Journalism states that its mission is “to prepare journalism professionals who reflect and can effectively report on the diversity of the human experience.”

Students who graduate with a degree in journalism should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to research, report, write and edit news stories that conform to professional journalism standards, including the ability to apply basic numerical and statistical concepts.
2. Demonstrate command of the techniques used to produce and present news in print, broadcast and digital environments, and understand the interconnectedness of these systems.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the history of journalism, its social responsibility and the underpinnings of its practice in a culturally and racially diverse society.
4. Understand the implications of the First Amendment and the role journalism plays in democracy.
5. Engage in the ethical practice of journalism.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The lectures, classroom activities, and all materials (including the syllabus, assignments and lectures, but excluding outside readings/videos) associated with this class and developed by the instructor are copyrighted in the name of Molly Yanity. Some of the reading list/schedule was gleaned from [Kevin Van Valkenburg's journalism course](#) at the University of Montana.