

Syllabus

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE: MULTIMEDIA NEWSWRITING & REPORTING (JRN 101)

Spring 2010 Three (3) credits CRN 20317

T&Th, 10:15 a.m. to 11:40 a.m., Room: 902

Instructor: Gina Germani

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Course Website: IVCJournalism.com/JRN101

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will help develop the student as a Digital Age reporter with the fundamental skills for gathering and reporting news journalistically and interactively. The student will learn, among other things:

- Basic understanding of online news media
- The purposes and practices of interactive storytelling
- How to determine appropriate interactive and multimedia elements for a news story, and how to produce them
- 'Best practices' use of multimedia journalism tools in text, photography, videography, sound and infographics

The culmination of the student's learning will be a final semester project to be proposed for publication on the University of Texas, El Paso's Borderzine.com. Final grades for this course are NOT contingent on the student's work being published by Borderzine.com. All final projects completed with a passing grade will be published at IVCJournalism.com.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

English Language Proficiency & Introductory Journalism

This course requires a working knowledge of journalism basics in news gathering, news writing, and reporter responsibilities. If you have not had previous learning or training in journalism, then I strongly urge you to enroll in "JRN100: Introductory Journalism" before you take this course.

A sound and enjoyable learning experience in JRN 101 requires that you are proficient in writing and speaking English. If you do not possess the skills for writing and speaking English fluently, then I urge you to take—and pass—an English 101 course prior to enrolling in this journalism course.

If I determine that you do not possess the skills for writing and speaking English fluently, then you agree that I have the right to use my discretion as your instructor to ask that you voluntarily drop the course, or I will do so for you.

Required Textbooks

Journalism 2.0: How to Survive and Thrive...A digital literacy guide for the information age

This book can be read online at http://www.j-lab.org/Journalism_20.pdf free of charge.

In addition to the online text, you will be required to read and review several selected news and information websites and tutorials on a weekly basis. *Please make note of the Internet access requirements farther down in this syllabus.*

Assignment Deadlines and Course Work Outside of Classes

You will be required to meet the deadline for submitting all class assignments. If you miss the deadline, then you will score a zero (0) on the assignment, although I will still edit your assignments and give you the necessary feedback for improvement. You are also required to submit your assignments in DOCUMENT format, either in Microsoft Word or Notepad and send them to me via email. *Please do not copy and paste your assignment submissions into the body of the email you send me; you must attach your assignment document to the email.*

All of your assignments will require you to attend public meetings, community events and self-initiated interviews outside of the classroom—including evenings and weekends.

I will make no exceptions for these requirements.

Computer/USB Drive/Digital Camera/Editing and Design Software

JRN 101 is being taught as a digital age journalism course, which requires digital age tools. In order to fulfill assignments in JRN101 you are required to own or have ready access to a computer that supports Microsoft documents and has thumb drive/USB port capabilities.

You are required to own a thumb or USB drive of 4- to 8-gigabytes capacity.

It is also strongly recommended that you secure your own still and/or video camera for use in this course.

NOTE: JRN101 has a limited number of laptop computers as well as still and video cameras dedicated solely for use in producing JRN101 assignments. This equipment is available for check-out through me for your assignments. Equipment check-out will be connected to student financial accounts, meaning if you check out a piece of equipment and fail to return it or return it in disrepair, you will be financially liable for the equipment. Further:

- **IF YOU FAIL TO RETURN A CHECKED-OUT ITEM ON TIME WITHOUT DISCUSSING AN EXTENSION WITH ME PRIOR TO THE RETURN DATE OF THE EQUIPMENT, I WILL PROMPTLY FAIL YOU IN THE COURSE.**
- **IF YOU FAIL TO RETURN A CHECKED-OUT ITEM DUE TO "THEFT," THEN YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT ME WITH AN OFFICIALLY RECORDED POLICE REPORT ON THE THEFT OF THE ITEM. IF YOU DO NOT PRODUCE A POLICE REPORT, THEN YOU WILL BE FAILED IN THE COURSE AND HELD FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EQUIPMENT.**

Email Account and Internet Access

You are required to have a working email account that you check daily. That also means you must have Internet access either at home or by the use of IVC campus computers, or by other means.

Most of your course work will rely on you having Internet access in order to FTP assignments to your own personal class website and/or to email to me. Additionally, you will need Internet access to frequently check the course website noted at the top of this syllabus for weekly writing and reading assignments as well as other class notices.

I will make no exceptions for these requirements.

Cell Phones in Class

I do not require students to turn off their cell phones in class. However, I do require that you leave the room during class periods if you need to make or receive a phone call. I also expect you to promptly return to class within two minutes of making or receiving a phone call.

Do not abuse this courtesy I am extending you.

Personal Entertainment Devices

You will not wear head or earphones in this class unless the use of those devices relates to learning in this class. You will not play games on a portable gaming device in this class. If you choose to do so, you will be asked to leave the class and it will be marked as an unexcused absence.

Attendance

I expect you to attend all 32 class sessions in this semester. However, I do understand that illness, personal emergencies and other unforeseen problems may prevent your attendance. In those events, I require you to call me *before* your absence in a class at the provided phone number listed at the top of this syllabus. Please, do not assume that emailing me before or after a scheduled class that you intend to miss or you have missed will be sufficient for excuse. It will not be.

You must call me, or personally speak to me, to obtain an excused absence prior to the class you will miss.

If you incur any number of unexcused and/or excused absences which I believe jeopardizes your learning experience and/or the learning experience of other class members, then you agree that it will be my right, and it will be left to my discretion as the instructor, to ask that you be dropped from the course—at any time during the semester. ***Additionally, if you fail to attend any three of the first six class sessions of this course—excused or not—I will promptly drop you from the course.***

Being Late

In the same vein as responsible attendance, I require you to call me—not email me—so that I am aware you will be late to a class. If you know that you will be regularly late to class, please talk to me about it so we can work out an arrangement and so I may understand the circumstances that will cause you to be late.

Plagiarism and Fabrication

If a student is found to have committed plagiarism, which is literary theft of another's original work, or if a student fabricates facts, which is lying, in any of his or her works for this course, then the student will receive an "F" for the entire course.

Grading

A perfect semester score in JRN 101 is 1,000 points. You will have seven assignments, one midterm project, and one final semester project. Your attendance and your *meaningfully active* participation in classes will also count in your score.

The following lists the weight of each portion of your grade:

Assignments (7)	300 points
Midterm	200 points
Final Project	400 points
Attendance & Participation	100 points

Disability Information

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible:
Room 2117 Health Sciences Building, 760-355-6312.

Office Hours

I do not hold office hours, although I warmly welcome meetings with my students—in person or by phone. I am easily reached by email or at the phone number listed in the heading of this syllabus. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns about your coursework at any time.