

# Sports Writing/Reporting

JOUR 4150/6150-001

Spring 2020

Meeting: M/W 9:10-10:35 MJ212

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Monday 11-2

Tuesday 12-3

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Catalog description

Gathering, writing and presentation of sports content for print and television. Students will shoot, write, edit and produce stories, and voice packages for use in both the reporting and producing classes.

### Prerequisites

JOUR 3526 & JOUR 3120

### Textbooks, Software and Required Materials

- Textbook: Multimedia Sports Journalism: A Practitioner's Guide for the Digital Age, Oxford University Press, Kian, Schultz, Clavio, Lou Sheffer, 2019.
- Equipment: An external hard drive on which to keep your stories (at least 250 GB)

### Classroom format

Lecture/Lab

### Accessing the course website

1. Go to the University of Memphis eLearn home page: <http://elearn.memphis.edu>
2. Log in using your University of Memphis username and password.
3. In the Term Year course list available to you, click on the link for JOUR 4150/6150- 001 to enter your course and read the instructions on the welcoming page

### Course Requirements

This course will use lecture and hands on experiential-learning methods to teach the students how to write and report sports news.

The objectives of this course are for students to be able...

1. to plan and execute video productions from concept to finished product

2. to improve videography with emphasis on composition, lighting, and technique
3. to understand the principles and practice of editing and other post-production issues
4. to understand elements of producing for both studio and remote field production
5. to improve those basic production skills necessary to achieve the above goals
6. to practice good grammar and solid writing skills with strict attention to accuracy, detail, and industry standards
7. to acquire an awareness of the various kinds of sports writing and reporting
8. to deepen their knowledge of writing skills pertaining to sports
9. to understand the sports routines of a sports journalist
10. to understand the importance of thorough research and reporting to effectively cover sports.
11. to understand the need of multimedia skills in sports.

## Grading

Assignment categories and points or percentage weights.

A+ = 96.5-100%; A = 92.5-96.4%; A- = 89.5-92.4%  
 B+ = 86.5-89.4%; B = 82.5-86.4%; B- = 79.5-82.4%  
 C+ = 76.5-79.4%; C = 72.5-76.4%; C- = 69.5-72.4%  
 D+ = 66.5-69.4%; D = 59.5-66.4% F 0-59.4%

5 Reading Reviews	250
4 Written Stories	400
3 Social Media Posts	150
1 Sports Package	100
1 Portfolio	100
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>1000</b>

## Graduate Student Details

Students enrolled in 6150 will be required to complete a final project in place of the final package and portfolio. It'll count for 200 points and have a heavy emphasis on research and video production. We'll discuss it individually.

5 Reading Reviews	250
4 Written Stories	400
3 Social Media Posts	150
Final Project	200
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>1000</b>

## Other Issues

Assignments will be turned in via eCourseware or a class Vimeo account. Late work is not accepted. All assignments have a firm deadline. The course schedule is subject to change. We may adjust from time to time. But we'll always provide adequate time to make those adjustments.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*Week 1, Jan 22: Course Introduction*

*Week 2, Jan 27: Landscape of Sports Journalism*

*Week 3, Feb 3: Sports Information*

*Week 4, Feb 10: Interviewing*

*Week 5, Feb 17: The Game Story*

*Week 6, Feb 24: TV Sports Production*

*Week 7, Mar 2: On-Air TV Formats*

*Week 8, Mar 7: SPRING BREAK*

*Week 9, Mar 16: The Feature Story*

*Week 10, Mar 23: The Profile Story*

*Week 11, Mar 30: The Profile Story*

*Week 12, Apr 6: Column Writing*

*Week 13, Apr 13: TV Sports Pkg*

*Week 14, Apr 20: In Class Editing*

*Week 15, Apr 27: Pkg & Portfolio Due*

## ASSESSMENT AND OUTCOMES

### Five Pillars in JOUR 4500/6500

- *Critical Thinking:* Students are trained to have a critical eye for professional works and demonstrate an understanding of the target audience that are likely to view and get exposed to their web projects. They must have a final project proposal approved before being allowed to work on the project
- *Media Literacy:* Students are exposed to the vocabulary and tools of computer technology and internet technology. Students learn how web projects are produced by doing real web projects in groups or on their own.
- *Multimedia:* Students incorporate photographs, images, audio and video elements as part of their web projects.
- *Professionalism:* Students learn the professional standards of the web design and publishing by discussing and preparing wire frames, writing 10-element proposal, and learning web vocabulary and web design and production skills.
- *Writing:* Students produce original text content for web projects. Students also write a web critique, a technology essay and a final project proposal

### Professional Values and Competencies in JOUR 4500/6500

- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity.
- Think critically, creatively and independently. „Ä®
- Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work. „Ä®
- Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve. „Ä®

- Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness.
- Apply current tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work, and to understand the digital world

## How professional values and competencies will be met

### *Cognitive objectives to be mastered (ability to explain, analyze, understand, think critically)*

- Acquire an awareness of the various kinds of sports writing.
- Deepen knowledge of writing skills, specifically as it pertains to sports.
- Understand the professional routines of sports writers.
- Understand the critical need for thorough reporting and research in order to write effective sports writing pieces.
- Be sensitive to the needs of diverse and under-represented groups in sports media.
- Understand the role of multimedia skills in sports.

### *Performance standards to be met (demonstrable skills, abilities, techniques, applied competencies)*

- Write various kinds of sports stories for print and web (thematic feature, profile, review of a sports book, opinion columns), all on deadline.
- Cover live sports events digitally.
- Hold knowledgeable conversations with the professional sports writers brought to class.
- Pass weekly sports news quizzes.
- Prepare and participate in radio sports programming.

## How assessment of student learning will be met

### *Awareness*

- Recognize various kinds of sports writing
- Learn about a variety of sports (outside of men's basketball, men's football and men's baseball)
- Find out what opportunities exist in the field of sports writing

### *Understanding*

- Understand the professional requirements needed to become a sports writer
- Understand the importance of reporting on diverse populations and of writing for equally diverse readers
- Understand the differences between journalistic sports writing and fan-written sports stories, and between critical analysis and opinion
- Appreciate the role of multimedia in sports writing

### *Application*

- Read pre-selected news stories about “minor” sports (any sport other than men’s football, men’s basketball and men’s baseball)
- Take weekly quizzes about these stories about “minor” sports
- Meet professionals from the sports media industry
- Cover live sports events on Twitter and with full-length stories
- Write an in-depth thematic feature, a profile, a review of a sports book, and opinion

- columns, all on deadline
- Record one-minute sports news audio updates

## JOURNALISM AND STRATEGIC MEDIA POLICIES

### Portfolio requirement

All students in the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media are required to develop and maintain an active portfolio of their work. Undergraduate students are to begin the portfolio in JRSM 3900 and graduate students are to begin in JRSM 7002. Students are to contribute to it in every skills course thereafter. The portfolio should contain samples of the student's work from courses and/or professional experiences and should develop as the student builds skills. Portfolios will undergo a final, external review while students are enrolled in their capstone courses.

Students may use any type of web hosting for their portfolios, but it must have an independent and professional URL. Students may use any content management system, but students are encouraged to use WordPress, Wix or Squarespace. Students are encouraged to consider purchasing a URL and hosting if they plan to use the portfolio for a long term, but they must keep the portfolio active for six months following graduation from the University of Memphis.

Students should have a professional email address they plan to use throughout their professional lives, via a common email service, such as Gmail.

All portfolios must contain the following items:

- Samples of work from courses and/or professional activities. (Example: Broadcasting students must include a video reel)
- A current résumé
- A personal profile
- Contact information/means of contact
- Social media links

Students might wish to include a blog, video reels, photograph galleries, SoundSlides presentations, design PDFs, audio files and writing pieces as examples of professional work. The professional work should ultimately be tailored to the career the student seeks after graduation. Thus, each student's portfolio should show a unique blend of work.

### Email

Students must have their UofM email accounts activated. Students using another provider, such as Google, are required to have all UofM email forwarded to that account. Students should go to the <http://iam.memphis.edu> website to implement forwarding of UofM email. Students are required to check their email daily. They are responsible for complying with any email sent to by professors or others in the University.

### Electronic devices

Some classes require a tablet, laptop or a smartphone. Others do not. Instructors will set the policy for their specific classes.

## Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory in Journalism and Strategic Media. Students may be assigned a failing grade for the semester for nonattendance or habitual late arrival. No late work will be accepted without prior arrangements with the class professor. Students may not be permitted to make up any missing work unless it is for an absence because of illness or other catastrophic emergency, such as a death in the family that can be documented (e.g. with a doctor's note or a copy of the newspaper obituary). Journalism and Strategic Media is a professional program, and students are expected to understand and comply with deadlines. Students who have some problem making it to class on time should make arrangements to correct the problem or consider taking another class. Students should consider this class as a "job" in the educational process and be on time just as they would elsewhere.

## Course repetition

Majors and minors who fail to earn the minimum passing grade ("C-") in a class required by their program of study in Journalism and Strategic Media more than three times will be dropped from the program.

Students may not use or submit work from a previous course, even if it is the same course being repeated, to fulfill requirements for assignments in another course. If students wish to substantially rework the original submission, or to work with the same general idea, that may be permissible upon discussion with and written approval from the professor of the current course. All written work will be checked for policy adherence via TurnItIn.com. All creative work will be checked for policy adherence by the professor, and judged against previous submissions. The only exception to this policy is the student's online portfolio and its attendant pieces (for example, the résumé and logo).

## Academic integrity

In addition to University-wide policies stated in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media considers making up quotes from sources, turning in substantially the same assignment for credit in two different courses or students receiving any assistance from others for work assigned to be done on their own, as acts of cheating punishable to the degree determined appropriate by the course instructor and department chair. Punishment may include grade reductions or seeking dismissal of the student from the University.

Further, as this is a journalism and strategic media class, students are expected to comply with copyright law and must have sufficient permission to use any copyrighted materials used in creative projects, unless otherwise informed in cases of exercises or reproduction.

Your written work may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar electronic detection method, for rating originality of your ideas. Also to evaluate proper use and assignment of sources. As part of this process, you may require to submit electronic as well as hard copies of your work. Other instructions to follow may also be given. By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may undergo this review process. The assignment may be included as a source document in Turnitin.com's restricted access database. It is solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Assignments not submitted according to the instructor's procedures may be penalized or may not be accepted at all. (*Office of Legal Counsel, October 11, 2018*)

## Online SETEs

Students are urged to complete the SETEs evaluation of this course. Once the instructor has posted grades, student can immediately see that grade, provided they have completed a the SETE for that class.

To access evaluation forms, students should log in to MyMemphis using their UUIDs and email passwords; click on the gray “Student” tab; complete an evaluation for each course listed and hit the “Submit” button at the bottom of the form. Completing the SETE will only take a few minutes. Faculty take the evaluations very seriously and use them to improve courses and instructional quality. Student feedback is essential and is appreciated.

### **Deadlines**

All deadlines are firm. This is journalism and strategic media. Students needing an extension on an assignment must receive approval from the instructor. Exceptions will be made for reasonable circumstances if the student notifies the instructor prior to the due date.

### **AP Style and grammar**

All written work in this class must follow the AP Stylebook and accepted rules of grammar and punctuation. Students are responsible for learning these rules and checking their work for errors.

### **Disability and accommodations**

Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office for Disability Resources for Students at 901-678-2880 in 110 Wilder Tower Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### **Diversity and inclusivity**

Students are required to respect the differences of others and treat all persons with respect. Discriminatory, derogatory and threatening language or behavior will not be tolerated. Further, students are expected to consider their work through a diverse mind. Media reach a mass audience, and students should be aware of how those messages are received by a diverse audience.

### **Weather policy**

Always check with local media and the University of Memphis website regarding inclement weather. If the University is closed or classes are canceled, this course will not meet. However, students will still be responsible for that day’s work.

### **Student support**

Student who are experiencing personal or academic challenges including, but not limited to food or housing issues, family needs, or other stressors, should visit the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach & Support page to learn about resources that can help: <https://www.memphis.edu/saos/sos/crisis-resources.php>. Any student who faces personal challenges including, but not limited to securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach & Support (901-678-2187) located in the University Center, Suite 359 for assistance. Students may also talk with course instructors about the challenges they are experiencing. Instructors may be able to assist in connecting with campus or community support.