

Survey of Media

JRSM 1700-M50

Spring 2020

eCourseware/Online

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Catalog description

Social background, scope, functions and organization of modern communication media, attention to all major mass communication media; philosophy and goals of modern journalism; impact on governmental, social and economic systems.

Prerequisites

None

Textbooks, Software and Required Materials

Mass Communication: Living in a Media World, 5th or 6th edition, Ralph E. Hanson. Sage. Do not purchase the 7th edition. See online instructions on text.

You may purchase the book's loose-leaf bundle (Loose leaf: Bundle ISBN: 9781506365824) or the paperback custom bundle (Paperback: Bundle ISBN: 9781506365886).

Classroom format

This is an online course is an introduction to all professional areas falling under the umbrella of journalism. You will read about and discuss the history, purpose, role, function and future of newspapers, magazines, publishing, radio, television, advertising, public relations and other related industries and media activities.

The course covers:

- How primary research, including focus groups and surveys, determine target audience selection for certain products/services.
- Roles that media play in audience consumption behavior and media use.
- The development and differences between print and electronic media.
- The ongoing government regulation of the U.S. media as well as the constitutional principles that guide it.
- How new technology, including the increase of social media, affects consumers.
- Media ethics.

The course also demonstrates how students should critically analyze and determine how their use of mass media, including advertising and public relations, affects their lives.

This course covers the techniques of computer-assisted reporting (CAR):

- Developing a research question;
- Gathering primary information (interviews)
- Analyzing data sets using Excel or Access software: and
- Writing a professional investigative reporting project.

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 JRSM 1700 –M50 to enter your course and read the instructions on the welcoming page.

Course Requirements

The basic requirements for this course include:

1. Completing assigned readings from the textbook each week as indicated in the course timetable. The reading requirements for this text take a lot of time, so plan accordingly.
2. Completing the chapter tests for assigned reading each week by Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
3. Posting relevant comments on the discussion board topics each week by Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
4. Completing a critique of a media film assignment explained later in the syllabus.
5. Completing the media professional interview explained later in the syllabus.

No late work will be accepted for any reason, including power outages. All chapter tests and discussion board posts for each week's assigned reading close at 11:59 p.m. Sunday night.

You should complete the chapter assignments in the following order:

1. Read the assigned chapter. Read it again.
2. Read and/or watch supplemental content posted in ecourseware under the content link.
3. Post comments in the discussion forum for that chapter. Be sure to check for discussion prompts.
4. Take the test for that chapter.
5. Reading for each week includes two chapters. It's a lot of reading, so allocate your time accordingly.

Chapter Tests:

Tests are timed to ensure that you understand the reading instead of looking up individual answers. Typically, you will have from 30 seconds to 1 minute to answer each question. Therefore, you should read thoroughly and study each assignment before taking the chapter test. You are allowed two attempts at each test, and your highest grade is recorded. Generally, there are 20 questions for each chapter.

Watch the clock when you take each test and make sure you save each answer when you select it. That way, if you run out of time, the questions you have completed will still count. If you do not hit the save button, no grade will be recorded. All tests have questions extracted from a large database for each unique user, and all answer options are shuffled for each person who takes a test to ensure exam security and limit potential for cheating. It is a waste of your time to try to cheat, and anyone caught

cheating will be prosecuted to the full extent possible within the UM Student Handbook to include potential dismissal from the university, as noted elsewhere in this syllabus.

Discussion board posts:

You should interact and develop discussion threads with your course colleagues each week. Some weeks will include specific discussion prompts, but you also are free to discuss anything related to the chapter.

Both the frequency of your postings and the quality of your contributions will be evaluated for the final grade in this category. **Each week, discussion comments should relate to both chapters of the assigned reading and sometimes to specific questions from me. You will need to initiate a discussion at least once each week.**

In is how discussion posts are graded: You need to make at least three posts to receive a D, five posts to receive a C, seven posts to receive a B, and nine posts to receive an A. If you post less than three posts a week, you will receive an F. Discussion board comments must be at least two sentences long and relate to the topic being discussed. Any postings deemed irrelevant by your professor will not count, such as short posts like "I agree" or "LOL."

Media film critique:

In preparation for the chapter in the textbook on films, students will watch a media related film and write a critique of the film's content and impact. Details on the assignment, as well as a list of acceptable films and due dates, are provided on ecourseware.

Interview with a media professional:

In addition, each student will interview a media professional who works in print media, PR, broadcast, Internet/web, film, visual communication, or advertising. Your goal is to discover the skills, issues and future directions for a particular media job and field. If you have trouble finding a source for your story, ask me for help well in advance. The assignment deadline is noted on ecourseware.

More specifically, answers these kinds of questions in your interview:

1. Who is this person and where do they work?
2. What does this person do?
3. When did this person start their job or career?
4. How did this person get into this career field? Were there any obstacles/challenges the person faced when beginning this career path? What were the obstacles and does this person have any advice to help avoid them?
5. Would this person suggest this career for an aspiring young professional? Why?
6. What are the positive aspects of this career for an aspiring journalist? What are the negative ones?
7. How much does this kind of job pay? How should a person like you improve your chances to succeed in this career?

This is an exploratory exercise to help you learn more about the media. Have fun with the interview. The assignment will be graded for content, writing, grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Your essay should be 350 words and provide a summary of the interview. Write in third person (no personal pronouns such as I, me, etc.). You may quote the person interviewed.

At the top of your submission, include your name and email, as well as the name, title, email, and business telephone number of the person you interview. Your professor may call the source to verify the interview.

This is meant to be journalistic writing, so do not use library or internet sources or footnotes. Think of yourself as a reporter who is interviewing a subject and writing a story based on what you have been told in your interview. This is a newspaper type story, not a research paper.

Other ground rules for the media professional interview story:

- You should interview by phone or in person. You may establish contact by email, but you cannot conduct the interview by email. You must talk to the person you interview.
- Local and national media professionals are accessible. Most media professionals will be very kind to journalism students, so use that to your advantage. Direct messages via social media can be more effective than email for contacting sources.
- You may complete this assignment at your convenience during the semester, so long as it is turned into the eCourseware drop box by the final deadline.
- No late submissions will be accepted.
- You should file your essay in the drop box in a word document. No other format will be accepted. For instance, if you file your essay in the WPS format from Apple, you will receive a zero.
- Do not forget to put your name on the essay!
- And finally, this assignment counts for 20 percent of your grade. Students who do not turn in this assignment, oftentimes do not pass the course.

Grading

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Chapter exams: | 50 percent |
| Discussion board participation: | 20 percent |
| Media professional interview: | 20 percent |
| Media film review: | 10 percent |

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%

Other issues

Survey of Media is taught as a seven-week online course and includes a lot of reading in a short time, so give yourself enough time to assimilate the reading before taking the online tests. And remember: Deadlines are firm.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1, Jan. 20 – 26

Read: Hanson Chapter 1: Living in a Media World and Hanson Chapter 2: Mass Communication Effects.
Assignments: Practice quiz, post student bios, take tests for chapters 1 and 2, post on class discussion board.

Week 2, Jan. 27 – Feb. 2

Read: Hanson Chapter 3: The Media Business and Hanson Chapter 4: Books
Assignments: Take tests for chapters 3 and 4, post on class discussion board.
Extra credit: "Updates from German Public Broadcast," 5:30-7:30 p.m. (MJ room 100)
Feb. 1: JRSM scholarship deadline. [See scholarship manager here.](#)

Week 3, Feb. 3 – 9

Read Hanson Chapter 5: Magazines and Hanson Chapter 6: Newspapers
Assignments: Take tests for chapters 5 and 6, post on class discussion board. **Deadline for film review is Feb. 9 at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 4, Feb. 10 – 16

Read: Hanson Chapter 7: Audio and Chapter 8: Movies
Assignments: Take tests for chapters 7 and 8, post on class discussion board. Email me (padenney@memphis.edu) the name and title of your source for interview story, due next week.

Week 5, Feb. 17 - 23

Read: Hanson Chapter 9: Television and Hanson Chapter 10: Online Media.
Assignments: Take tests for chapters 9 and 10, post on class discussion board. **Deadline for media professional interview story is Feb. 23 at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 6, Feb. 24 – March 1

Read: Hanson Chapter 11: Advertising and Hanson Chapter 12: Public Relations.
Assignments: Take tests for chapters 11 and 12, post on class discussion board.

Week 7, March 2 - 6

Read: Hanson Chapter 14: Media Ethics and Hanson Chapter 15: Global Media.
Assignments: Take tests for chapters 11 and 12. No discussion board post this week.
Note: All work and tests must be completed by Friday, March 6. Please plan accordingly.

ASSESSMENT AND OUTCOMES

Five Pillars in JRSM 1700

- *Critical Thinking:* Students analyze the criticism levied at the media, such as "fake news" and "alternative facts" and discuss what criticism may have some legitimacy and may need improvement. Critical thinking skills are developed through ethics discussion and in-class

exercises; through question-and-answer sessions with guest speakers from the profession; and media effects class where questions, such as “Does the media reflect reality or create it?” and “Does media influence the values of individuals and society?” are discussed.

- *Media Literacy*: Students develop media literacy through lectures, discussions and guest speakers about newspapers, books, magazines, radio, TV, the internet, movies, advertising and public relations.
- *Multimedia*: Students discuss the importance of multimedia skills and how those skills are developed in the 21st century.
- *Professionalism*: Students learn the skills required to work in media today by practicing more advanced applications of the basics: ethics, deadlines, information gathering, and writing news stories and features. Increasingly, work is evaluated on professional standards. Students learn how to pitch story ideas and how to publish stories in print and online.
- *Writing*: Students learn the importance of good writing skills in all segments of journalism and strategic media.

Professional Values and Competencies in JRSJ 1700

- Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press, for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications.
- Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society.
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity.

How professional values and competencies will be met

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

- Recognize the role of media in influencing the political and cultural dynamics on the global stage.
- Develop a strong historical sense of how mass communication technologies originated and developed.
- Understand the variety of relationships between media and their audiences, including diverse audiences.
- Be sensitive to the needs of diverse and under-represented groups in programming and creating messages.
- Understand the ongoing government regulation of the U.S. Media as well as the constitutional principles that guide it.
- Recognize the ethical and philosophical issues that arise in media culture and understand the range of viewpoints regarding these issues.
- Understand the behind-the-scenes operations and decision-making processes of major

mass communication industries.

- Understand how new technology affects the media and communication.
- Understand what's involved in preparing for and advancing a career in the changing media.
- Understand the allied fields of advertising and public relations and their relationship to media systems.
- Understand mass communication theories and their application to media professions.

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

- Earn a passing score on periodic tests and/or exams.
- Participate in one or more outside activities (e.g., attend FOI lecture, interview media professional, visit media organization, participate in applied research) at the discretion of the instructor.

How assessment of student learning will be met

Awareness

- Grow awareness of the First Amendment and basics of media law
- Recognize major divisions of mass media, including newspaper, magazine, TV, radio, the internet, books, movies, public relations and advertising.
- Aware of need for diversity in all areas of mass communication.

Understanding

- When ethical decision making is discussed throughout the semester as it applies to each media profession, students will be required to present justification for their opinions during discussion and class exercises to show they are not just repeating the instructor's lecture points, but showing understanding of the process.
- Discussion questions will be posed in class to stimulate critical thinking. Independent thinking is encouraged.

Application

- Each student will interview a media professional and write an informal paper on what you learned. This is not a writing class, so you will not be graded on writing proficiency. Content and student's obeying the rules set for the assignment will determine the grade.
- There will be four smaller media assignments. Specifics to be announced throughout the semester.

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

Students 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.