OPEN-SOURCE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING II

JRSM 7122 - **S01/001**
SPRING 2025
CLASS MEETINGS: Tuesday, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Memphis time
ROOM: Meeman 106

Credit Hours: 3

Prof. Meghnad Bose
Office Hours: Room 324, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 pm to 5 pm | Or by appointment.
Book office hours here: https://calendly.com/mbose-memphis/30min
Email: mbose@memphis.edu
Phone: +1 516-988-1076

First Day of Classes: January 20, 2026 / Tuesday
Spring Break: March 9-15, 2026 / Monday-Sunday
Last Day of Classes: April 29, 2026 / Wednesday
Study Day: April 30, 2026 / Thursday
Finals week: May 1-7, 2026 / Friday-Thursday

Course description

The course trains students to find and analyze digital information from a variety of sources, including social media, satellite imagery, public records, ground reporting, and more. Students will work on open-source investigative projects during the course.

Accessing the course website

1. Go to the University of Memphis online learning home page:
   http://memphis.instructure.com
2. Login using your University of Memphis username and password.
3. In the course list available to you, click on the link for Open-Source Investigative Reporting II.

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SYLLABUS

Welcome to the Open-Source Investigative Reporting II class!

This is a living document, and is subject to change over the course of the semester.

Your professor

Meghnad Bose is an award-winning investigative journalist with over ten years of experience as a reporter and editor. Prior to joining the University of Memphis, Bose was a reporter and Delacorte Fellow at Columbia Journalism Review, and an independent journalist reporting for publications such as The Intercept, Drop Site News, Documented, Hyperallergic, Votebeat, New York Focus and more.

Bose is an alum of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. Before moving to the United States, Bose worked as a reporter and editor in India, where his investigations tracked down discrepancies in a government-run COVID relief fund, exposed the modus operandi of organized anti-Muslim lynch mobs, and uncovered the tampering of marks of millions of high school students. He is a two-time recipient of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award, considered India's top journalism honor, and a five-time winner of the South Asian Digital Media Award conferred by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).

Course requirements

Over the course of the semester, you will produce multiple journalistic stories using the skills and techniques learned in class. You will also be expected to participate in, and will be graded on, classroom engagement.

Class format

We will meet on Tuesdays, in Meeman Room 108, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
Online students will join the Microsoft Teams link at the time of the class, and will be required to keep their camera on.

Do not be late to class.

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class in the course. For each class missed, points will be deducted from your grade.

AI Usage

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbots such as ChatGPT, Claude and others for the purposes of writing assignments is strictly prohibited. However, the use of AI chatbots is permitted while searching for story links and other sources of information. The chatbots can be used to *direct* you to proper sources of news and information, but the responses given by the AI chatbots are not to be used or relied upon for your assignments or for researching topics for the course.

Assignments

You will be graded on

- **Stories**
- **Workshop assignments**
- **Classroom participation**

Details of assignments will be added.

You will also receive points for your attendance. These points will count towards your final grade.

Class overview

Week 1 - January 20
- Introductions
- An overview
- Open-source around you

Week 2 - January 27
- OSIR Module 1 Part 1

Week 3 - February 3
- OSIR Module 1 Part 2

Week 4 - February 10

- OSIR Module 2 – Part 1

Week 5 - February 17
- OSIR Module 2 – Part 2

Week 6 – February 24
- Story 1 due on February 24, 11:59 am
- Story 1 review

Week 7 – March 3
- OSIR Module 3 – Part 1

Week 8 - March 10 – NO CLASS

Week 9 - March 17
- OSIR Module 3 – Part 2

Week 10 - March 24
- OSIR Module 4 – Part 1

Week 11 - March 31
- OSIR Module 4 – Part 2

Week 12 - April 7
- Story 2 due on April 7, 11:59 am
- Story 2 review

Week 13 - April 14

- OSIR Module 5 – Part 1

Week 14 - April 21
- OSIR Module 5 – Part 2

Week 15 - April 28
- Revisiting modules 1 to 5

Week 16 - May 5
- Story 3 due on May 5, 11:59 am
- Story presentations
- Story 3 review
- Reflections and looking ahead

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ASSESSMENT AND OUTCOMES

Professional values and competencies in JRSM 7122

- Apply the skills and techniques of open-source investigative reporting in finding, reporting and producing stories

How professional values and competencies will be met
Cognitive objectives to be mastered (ability to explain, analyze, understand, think critically)

- Students will learn to find and analyze digital information from a variety of sources, including social media, satellite imagery, public records, ground reporting, and more.

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

- Students will work on open-source investigative projects during the course.

How assessment of student learning will be met

Awareness

- Become aware of what constitutes open-source investigations, and have an overview of the kind of skills, tools and techniques required to work on them

Understanding

- Understand the role of open-source skills in modern investigative journalism

Application

- Report investigative stories with significant open-source components

JOURNALISM AND STRATEGIC MEDIA POLICIES

Email

You must have your UofM email account activated. If you are using another provider, such as Google, you are required to have all UofM emails forwarded to that account. Go to the account management website for information about implementing email forwarding. You are required to check your email daily.

Electronic devices

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

AI/ChatGPT

The use of artificial intelligence software, such as ChatGPT, is prohibited in some courses and required in others in Journalism & Strategic Media. Please refer to specific guidelines for this course in the course-specific part of the syllabus.

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory in Journalism & Strategic Media. You may be assigned a failing grade for the semester for nonattendance or habitual tardiness.

Course repetition

Majors and minors who fail to earn the minimum passing grade (C-) in a class required by your program of study in Journalism & Strategic Media after three attempts will be dropped from the program.
You 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. Substantially reworking the original submission, or working with the same general idea, may be permissible upon discussion and with written approval from the professor of the current course.

Academic integrity

The University of Memphis expects all students to behave honestly and follow the policies stated in the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities. If you need more information about the University policy on academic integrity visit the Office of Student Accountability's website.

In addition to University-wide policies, the Department of Journalism & Strategic Media considers making up quotes from sources, turning in substantially the same assignment for credit in two different courses or receiving any assistance from others for work assigned to be done on your own, as acts of cheating and 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, you are expected to comply with copyright and intellectual property laws 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 and to evaluate proper use and assignment of sources. All creative work may be checked for policy adherence by the professor. The only exception to this policy is your online portfolio and its attendant pieces (for example, the résumé and logo). 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.

Online SETEs

You are encouraged to complete the SETEs evaluation of this course. If completed, once the instructor has posted final grades, you can immediately see that grade. To access evaluation forms, log in to MyMemphis; click the "Student Pages" dropdown menu and select "My Resources" and find the SETE evaluation forms; 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 seriously and use them to improve courses and instructional quality. Your feedback is essential and is appreciated.

Deadlines

All deadlines are firm. Because Journalism & Strategic Media is a professional program, students are expected to understand and comply with deadlines. 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. You may be permitted to make up missing work if it is for an absence because of illness or other catastrophic emergency, such as a death in the family that can be documented.

AP Style and grammar

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

Disability and accommodations

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact Disability Resources for Students at 901-678-2880 in 110 Wilder Tower Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Weather policy

Always check with local media, the University of Memphis website regarding inclement weather.

Student support

If you are experiencing personal or academic challenges including, but not limited to food or housing issues, family needs, or other stressors, visit the Student Outreach & Support page to learn about resources that can help:
https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/index.php
or contact the Dean of Students Office at 901-678-2187, or in person in Suite 359 in the University Center for assistance. You may also talk with course instructors about the challenges you are experiencing. Instructors may be able to assist in connecting you with campus or community support.