



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: May 2009
 REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2023
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): March 2029
 Course outline form version: 09/08/2021

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: CMNS 201		Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: Foundations of Journalism Practice Course Short Title: Found. of Journalism Practice															
Faculty: Faculty of Humanities		Department (or program if no department): Communications													
Calendar Description: <p>Students learn about the fundamentals of news writing and reporting as demanded by newsrooms across different forms of media. The training requires practicing foundational journalism skills. Students explore a variety of skills such as interviewing, fact gathering, image selection and caption writing, headline and lead writing, news analysis, and routine newsroom operations.</p> <p>Note: This course is offered as CMNS 201 and JRNL 201. Students may take only one of these for credit.</p> <p>Note: Students with credit for CMNS 300/JRNL 300 cannot take this course for further credit.</p>															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		One of the following: CMNS 125, CMNS 175, or ENGL 105.													
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		NONE													
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		NONE													
Antirequisite Courses <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: JRNL 201 Equivalent course(s): JRNL 201, CMNS 300/JRNL 300 <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Every other year Maximum enrolment (for information only): 25													
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tutorials/workshops</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total hours</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	25	Tutorials/workshops	20							Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.	
Lecture/seminar	25														
Tutorials/workshops	20														
Total hours	45														
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Transfer Credit <i>(See bctransferguide.ca.)</i> Transfer credit already exists: No Submit outline for (re)articulation: Yes <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>													
Department approval		Date of meeting: December 2022													
Faculty Council approval		Date of meeting: January 13, 2023													
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting: March 24, 2023													

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify stories by applying news values and gather facts using digital and analog tools.
2. Select and organize information and images by using the opportunities provided by the most recent digital software and hardware.
3. Produce concise news reports employing professional standards of fairness, accuracy, context, and truthfulness.
4. Explain the unique role, responsibilities and ethical considerations of a journalist.
5. Prepare interview questions and employ culturally competent reporting strategies and digital tools to conduct interviews.
6. Identify the importance of journalistic storytelling, in conversation with Indigenous ways of knowing.
7. Make informed decisions about the balance between core journalistic values and non-objective advocacy journalism.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Assignments:	60%	Project:	30%	Quizzes/tests:	10%
	%		%		%

Details:

Assignments:

- Weekly writing assignments: 20%
- Two news writing assignment: 40%

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	McKercher, C., Thompson, A., & Cumming, C.	<i>The Canadian reporter: News writing and reporting</i>	2011
2. Textbook	James McCarten	<i>The Canadian Press Stylebook, 19th edition</i>	2021
3. Textbook	Gillespie, B.	News Writing and Reporting: An Introduction to Skills and Theory	2017
4. Textbook	McCue, D.	Decolonizing Journalism	2022

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

None

Course Content and Topics

- **Introduction to the course and each other**
 - What is journalism? What is news?
 - Factors that influence whether an event is newsworthy.
 - The role of the journalist: the public interest vs. what interests the public.
- **Background: history and development**
 - Journalism and the evolution of societies: a mirror to the times; from the not-so-Free Press to the effects of technology and the role of unions. Reading assignment. AP Style and Copy presentation study assignment.
 - The relationship between journalism and Indigenous peoples in Canada.
 - Institutional, political and social Influences on journalistic content
- **Hard news reporting I**
 - Journalist, Know Thy Sources: Primary and secondary sources of information; structure and formulas: writing leads, headlines and cutlines; ethics; interview techniques; News Project 1, formation of micro-newsrooms, reporting assignment; reading assignment: discussion.
- **Guest speakers**
 - Local reporters offer first-hand advice, discuss methods and strategies.
- **Hard news reporting II**
 - Vetting: The Final Frontier; News Project 1: newsroom reports; discussion. The art of editing.
- **Accent on style**
 - Different writing styles; identifying differences between news reports, editorial pieces and feature stories; micro-newsroom
 - Project 2, Op-ed; reading assignment. AP Style test.
- **News and social commentary**
 - Project 2 newsroom reports; discussion; micro-newsroom