“The difference between literature and journalism is that journalism is unreadable, and literature is not read.” ~ Oscar Wilde

Instructor / Contact
Email: rrodgers@jou.ufl.edu (However, use Canvas mail.) I will respond within 24 hours Monday through Friday.
Office: 3058 Weimer Hall, 392-8847
Office Hours: On my schedule or make appointment. Link to schedule: http://bit.ly/1mcr63C

Course Description
This course will converge at the intersection of literature and journalism. We will:
1. Explore the mission of journalism by looking under the hood of that form described as literary journalism.
2. Recognize that the field of journalism has pliable borders and how this genre stretches those borders into other fields. As one former student of this class concluded after much discussion over many weeks about the subjectivity inherent in journalism as literature: “Literary journalism is journalism – but in another place.”
3. Reach some semblance of an understanding about the notions of objectivity and subjectivity and their relevance to the journalistic act because – and this is a mantra for this class: “All pain is anecdotal.” And therefore, the question is: Can journalism employ the contested notion of “objectivity” to measure that pain – that is the straits, the troubles and the tribulations of complex and often marginalized lives lived at the periphery of our vision?
4. Reveal – in relation to the notion that “all pain is anecdotal” – the intersubjective possibilities of this form of journalism and reach some conclusions about the significance to our world views and to democracy in general of empathetically revealing – through anecdote / narrative / metaphor / internal dialogue, etc. – “The Other.” For instance, one recent work of literary journalism is the much-lauded The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America – an example of synoptic writing to achieve some semblance of reality/truth. Another is Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity. See footnote.¹

Course Structure
• This class involves an Active Reading of the required readings. Follow this concentrated, focused, and annotative method in all your reading this semester.
• This course is a reading seminar built around informed discussion.
  a. You are expected to participate in this class by submitting your essays, offering your ideas about the subject in class, allowing other people to express their views, respecting others’ opinions, and exchanging ideas that will make us better readers and writers.
  b. Seminar discussions require a fine balance. On the one hand, you do not want to take over the conversation. On the other, you do not want to let others do all the talking.

Textbooks / Readings & Resources
• No required text.
• Readings/Screenings linked in the Assignment section below or in a folder on the Canvas site.
• Follow me on Twitter at @ronrodgers and regularly check out the class hashtag #IOU4008. Material from this will become part of a weekly Thought Probe and the class discussion in each class.
• See Appendix 3: Additional Writing & Research Resources
Other Dicta

- Work turned in late will not be accepted without a legitimate and documented excuse.
- Bring a laptop or tablet to class, but keep it closed unless we need it for class activity.
- Except where noted, all assignments or any other written work will be filed through Canvas http://lss.at.ufl.edu
- To dispute a grade, do so within 24 hours of when the grade was posted. After that, it is final.

Email Policy

- All email will be sent through the Canvas system – no exceptions.
- The email should include your full name and be as specific as possible.
- I check my email once in the morning and once in the evening Monday through Friday.
- I do not read emails of more than half a screen long. Come talk to me.

Management Issues

- Syllabus Changes: I reserve the right to alter, with notification, the syllabus as the need arises.
- Accommodation for disabilities: Let me know immediately – informally and then with a formal letter from the proper authorities – if you have a life issue that would hinder your work in this course. I will do my best to help you. Students requesting accommodation must register with the Disability Resource Center https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.
- Be Good: You need to conduct yourself in a courteous manner when it comes to dealing with fellow students or your instructor. That means any rude, obstructive or aggressive behavior will not be tolerated, and manifestations of same will mean your ouster from the class. The UF Counseling and Wellness Center (https://counseling.ufl.edu/) is located at 3190 Radio Road and the phone number for Appointments & After-Hour Assistance is 352-392-1575.
- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575.
- CAVEAT: A class such as this will deal with controversial topics, so be warned words that may be considered offensive or ideological may be spoken in the context of subjects we are discussing. As a teacher I have no political or social agenda – I am clean of received wisdom – so do not try to answer in a way you believe might comport with what I want to hear or read. Feel free to advocate any position as long as you remain respectful of others’ opinions, and always be able to defend your point of view.
- Plagiarism and Academic Honesty: It is your responsibility to make certain you understand what constitutes plagiarism and to ensure that you give proper credit any time you draw on someone else’s writing. See Appendix 2 for more on this. I will make the assumption you have read and understand the material there.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Participation</td>
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<td>2. Attendance</td>
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<td>3. Takeaways</td>
<td>100 Noon Tuesdays</td>
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<td>4. Thought Probes</td>
<td>100 Near Beginning of Most Classes</td>
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<td>5. Reaction Essays</td>
<td>400 Noon Sundays</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Non-Fiction Work</td>
<td>150 11 p.m. April 14</td>
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<td>7. Non-Fiction Work Presentation in Class</td>
<td>50  Due 11 a.m. April 15</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Note: There is no final exam.

Final Grades Based on These Standard Break-Points

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>900-935</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>599 or Lower</td>
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Assignments

Class Participation & Attendance

Participation: You are expected to participate meaningfully in discussions. Windy verbosity with no point and hushed passivity will not go unnoticed and will figure in your grade. I also weigh relevant tweets with #JOU4008

Grading Rubric:
1. You add significant, insightful content to discussion but do not dominate the conversation.
2. You speak from time to time, but look for more opportunities to add to our discussions.
3. Your perspective is important. I need to hear much more from you!

Attendance: You are expected to attend every class. You will receive a failing grade for missing 3 or more classes without a legitimate excuse. Excused absences include documented medical excuses and religious observances (with advance notice). University-approved absences must be documented (in advance, if for an approved university activity).

100 points

Thought Probes

I will ask you to respond to one or more questions about the readings/screenings for the week, any tweets using the #JOU4008 hash tag, and/or mind puzzles about language, words and communication in general.

10 points each: Totaed at end

Class Takeaways

In one full page discuss at least two of the most significant (central, useful, meaningful, surprising, disturbing) things you have learned in class that day, in your readings, in screenings, or in my posts. Include anything you did not understand. Avoid being superficial or perfunctory. Please note: If you are not in class, then you cannot post a Takeaway. Period.

Format: 12 pt. Times-Roman, single-spaced, one-inch margins, Word doc. (5 Points off if format not followed to the letter)

10 points each: Totaed at end

Deep-Think Reaction Essays

Two things here:
1. A Reaction Essay of at least three full pages dealing with all readings or screenings of the week. Your essay should not just summarize and describe the readings but instead reflect your deep thinking about the readings. Your essay should offer analysis and leap off from the readings into a brief discussion reflecting critical thinking and creative ruminations.
Your essay should:
   a. Be clear that you have read ALL the readings
   b. Respond to any discussion points I list under the readings.
2. Include at least one substantive discussion question of no more than 100 words. This question cannot be perfunctory, overly broad, or unrelated to our class readings. Up to 10 points off for questions that are overly long, convoluted, or off the point of subject matter for the week.

Format: This should be constructed as I have above. No. 1 for your essay and No. 2 for your question.

Format: 12 pt. Times-Roman, single-spaced, one-inch margins, Word document. (10 Points off if format not followed)

See Appendix 1 for Essay Grading Rubric

30 points for essay and 10 points for substantive discussion question: Totaed at end. Due at noon Tuesdays

Non-Fiction Work of Literary Journalism

Depending on class size, you or squads of two will research, report, and write a 10- to 15-page non-fiction narrative using the techniques of literary journalism. The subject for this semester is a package of stories from all in class under the subject headline A Restless People. One of the goals of this class is create awareness of the mission of journalism to reveal the marginalized “other” in society – see this statistical story: http://bit.ly/2QMWYBS. You will find an “expressive individual” or two and tell their stories. You will draw on what you learn about the elements of literary journalism. Other than that, I offer you no rubric for this paper. Instead, it is meant to reflect your knowledge of the elements – and the issues – of literary journalism acquired during the semester. I will seek status reports on your progress.

Note: Send me an email before Class 3 briefly outlining your story for my vetting to ensure you have enough meat on the bone. Failure to do so will affect your final grade.

Format: 12 pt. Times-Roman, double-spaced, one-inch margins, Word document. (25 Points off if format not followed)

150 points: Due 11 p.m. April 22
Non-Fiction Work of Literary Journalism Presentation
You will present your non-fiction narrative using a PowerPoint presentation – also file to Canvas.

Post PowerPoint to Canvas 11 a.m. April 15. Presentations in class: 50 points

Grading Rubric: Follow This Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methodology: Why this story. How you wrote and reported it. Discuss sources – number &amp; who; documents; other? Up to 10 points.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elements: Summarize story; discuss the elements of literary journalism employed and offer examples from your story. Up to 20 points.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excerpts: Offer representative excerpts from your work on slides and any relevant photos. These excerpts need to manifest your attempt to write in a literary fashion. Up to 10 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting/Writing Issues: Discuss problems encountered in reporting the story; in writing and structuring the story; and any questions that arose. Up to 10 points.</td>
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## Class 1 – January 7
**Journalism Is Narrative Abstracted**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Introduction</th>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Mugs-Introductions / Form Squads / Class Introduction</td>
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### Class 2 – January 14
**Literary Journalism – The Precursors**

#### Read for Class 2:
  - Read down through to the paragraph that discusses the Tatler and Spectator and ends “and be useful to mankind.” Be ready to answer what the Tatler and Spectator were and who were Montaigne and Richard Steele.
  - Be ready to answer who Defoe was and what his relation to journalism is.
  - Be ready to answer who Samuel Johnson and James Boswell were, and what kind of writer was Boswell. In other words, do you know of any journalists working today doing the same kind of work as Boswell?

#### Read On Journalism in General
- ✓ “The most respected Supreme Court reporter of her generation slams media ‘objectivity’” [http://bit.ly/2mJm5aD](http://bit.ly/2mJm5aD)

**In addition to the notes above, within your essay address – at the least – the following thoughts:**
1. Explain Linda Greenhouse’s view of objectivity. Agree or disagree and why or why not?
2. Read Hutchins Hapgood, *A New Form of Literature* and Identify the expressive individuals in the stories above.
3. Discuss how this kind of journalism represented above possibly violates the rules – the norms – you have been taught about the traditional, objective-driven model of journalism.
4. How might this less traditional form be more effective and why. If you don’t think so, then why not.
5. Of course, when I use a term like “effective” – what might I be saying about journalism’s role in society? You must have some ideas by now.
6. As to effective, think here about the what was called at the time the “literature of exposure” – in this case the revealing of the lives of what we call today “the other.”
   - Here is a statement from 1907 about revealing “the other” from Jane Addams, the first woman “public philosopher” in America and renowned for her work with and writings about the social settlement movement a century ago: [http://bit.ly/2K12CKo](http://bit.ly/2K12CKo)
   - Here is another example from W.T. Stead, who coined the term “new journalism” in the 19th century. Stead called for a journalism of discernment in which the editor and reporter strove to get to the bottom of things by expanding the range of their sources to every rung of society. By doing so, Stead argued, the press gave “utterance to the inarticulate moan of the voiceless,” and a newspaper became “a daily apostle of fraternity” and “an engine of social reform.”
Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
## Class 3 – January 28

**All Pain Is Anecdotal: War & Conflict**

### Read for Class 3:

  A short news article in 1898. A key phrase in this is “a **unit in the interesting sum of men slain.**”
- ✓ Read the annotated version of “The Things That Carried Him,” by Chris Jones [http://bit.ly/2qJgoJC](http://bit.ly/2qJgoJC) The author followed a soldier’s body from Baghdad to its final resting place in the soldier’s hometown of Scottsburg, Indiana. This is a procedural in reverse. **Procedural**: a television series, film, story or novel characterized by detailed, realistic treatment of professional procedures, especially police or court procedures.

### Read On Journalism in General

- ✓ “The lost meaning of ‘objectivity’” [https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/journalism-essentials/bias-objectivity/lost-meaning-objectivity/](https://www.americanpressinstitute.org/journalism-essentials/bias-objectivity/lost-meaning-objectivity/)

### Within your essay address – at the least – the following thoughts:

1. What are the elements of literary journalism these writers employ? Refer to the list linked above in Class 1.
2. Notice here the pushing at the borders of the accepted norms of journalism. New methods for a new age.
3. You should approach all the literary works in this class in this way, but this week’s Whitman reading requires an especially close reading. (See also, How to Do a Close Reading.) For example, Whitman, was a poet as well as a journalist. He has a strong grasp of the power of language and employs words and sentences as tools. How so?
4. In what sense are these writers free of received wisdom?
5. Do you see any of our writers this week attempting to address Crane’s notion about the anonymous dead in his disquisition on “a unit in the interesting sum of men slain” about the anonymous participants in war whether combatants or victims? How does this relate to “All pain is anecdotal” vs. the concept of statistics in informational but non-narrative stories?
6. Would a straight-forward inverted-pyramid and objective news story satisfy Crane’s thesis? Why or why not?
7. Do you perceive a violation of your ideas about objectivity in any of these stories? How so if so?
8. How do you define journalistic objectivity?
9. How do you define the notion of bias?
Class 4 – February 4

All Pain Is Anecdotal: Disaster & Trauma

Read for Class 4:

In October 1972, a Uruguayan plane carrying a team of young rugby players crashed into the remote, snow-peaked Andes. There were sixteen survivors. This is an account of their ten-week ordeal which included living through freezing temperatures, facing the terrors of an avalanche and, one by one, resorting to cannibalism.

Within your essay address – at the least – the following thoughts:
1. What are the elements of literary journalism these writers employ?
2. What is the pain Read and Hersey are revealing through narrative about the survivors?
3. In what sense is Hersey free of received wisdom? Think about the times – war and Japanese as mortal enemies fresh in memory.
4. Include in your essay some of the critical response to Hiroshima and incorporate in your essay. How did the American public respond to the revelation of pain among “the other?” One source for critical reviews is our own UF Library website. See Hiroshima Reviews for example. Another review source is Google Books, which often has a link to reviews.
5. What is “cognitive dissonance” and how is it part of the public reaction to Hersey’s story?

Class 5 – February 11

Sports Can Be About More Than Sports

Read for Class 5:
✓ “Shadow of a Nation,” by Gary Smith [https://on.si.com/2qG2F5p]
✓ Going Deep: How Gary Smith became America’s best sportswriter In “Going Deep” — an essay about Gary Smith — Ben Yagoda tells us that, “Journalism that goes inside people’s heads is a tricky proposition that requires prodigious reportorial stamina, capacious insight and damned good literary chops.” Smith doesn’t just tell you things – he drives the point home. Instead of just telling you that the football team was good, he says this: “Bill May and his teammates didn’t just dominate Arkansas football in the ‘50s – their second string could’ve done that.” Then you know. They were that good.

Read one of the next two stories:
✓ “La Matadora Revisa Su Maquillaje” (The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup) by Susan Orlean [http://bit.ly/2qKWKwE]

Read On Journalism in General

Within your essay address – at the least – the following thoughts:
1. What are the elements of literary journalism these writers employ?
2. In these stories, how is the thesis that All Pain Is Anecdotal expressed?
3. How might these stories be about more than sports?
4. What is meant by the shift from “just the facts” to “what does it mean” and do you think this is a better way to commit the act of journalism? Why or why not? Recall the notion of “The imposition of a new form.”
5. What does it mean to go “inside people’s heads” – and what kind of reporting/research is needed to do so?
“And herein lies the tragedy of the age: not that men are poor, — all men know something of poverty; not that men are wicked, — who is good? not that men are ignorant, — what is Truth? Nay, but that men know so little of men.”


**Read for Class 6:**

- From *The People of the Abyss*: Chapter 1: “The Descent,” by Jack London [http://london.sonoma.edu/Writings/PeopleOfTheAbyss/chapter1.html](http://london.sonoma.edu/Writings/PeopleOfTheAbyss/chapter1.html)

**Some thoughts for your essay and discussion in class:**

1. What are the elements of literary journalism these writers employ?
2. What is Du Bois trying to tell us about the state of the world? How might journalism be used to address this?
3. More than one scholar has argued that literary journalism can embrace “an understanding of the social or cultural Other.” Define “the Other” and the concept of “intersubjectivity.” This might take a little research outside of our readings.
4. What are some techniques of literary journalism that might work to connect subjectivities?
5. How do you see this working in the literary journalism readings for this week?
6. In relation to the thesis that All Pain Is Anecdotal: Think about journalism’s role in social change – in awakening the public to the world around them about the social straits of others, about the public’s preconceived notions regarding people and events. For example, read just the last paragraph from the preface of *London Labor and the London Poor: A Cyclopaedia of the Condition and Earnings of Those that Will Work, Those that Cannot Work, and Those that Will Not Work* by Henry Mayhew: [http://bit.ly/2saYm2i](http://bit.ly/2saYm2i)
7. Can journalism do what he proposes?
8. What does the concept of “history from the bottom up” mean and how might it inform the doing of literary journalism?
9. At its most basic, why did Orwell write?
Class 7 – February 25
The Social or Cultural Other

Read for Class 7: Writing About Misery & The Nether & The Other
✓ “I Was Part of the Bronx Slave Market” by Marvel Cooke. Read the background on Cooke and then the stories headlined “Where Men Prowl and Women Prey on Needy Job-Seekers” and “‘Paper Bag Brigade’ Learns to Deal With Gypping Employers” http://bit.ly/2Hhv980
✓ From Among the Thugs, by Bill Buford http://bit.ly/2JY1dUI – a couple of these PDF pages are sideways – you can right click on page and turn them.
  o More about Buford and Among the Thugs http://bit.ly/2K1z4vZ
✓ Excerpt from The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129827444 (Read both the introduction about Wilkerson and her research and then the excerpt at end.)
  o Want to know more about the Great Migration? The Long-Lasting Legacy of the Great Migration https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/long-lasting-legacy-great-migration-180960118/

Some thoughts for your essay and discussion in class:
1. What are the elements of literary journalism these writers employ?
2. All of these readings from this week and last are documentary to some degree and deal with what some call social reporting – or some call it social-justice reporting. How are they connected?
3. What else have you read in class – or outside class – similar to these topics?
4. What is social reporting and how does it manifest itself?
5. Do you see a place for objectivity in this kind of reporting?
6. Identify the “expressive individual (or personality)” in these works.
7. Incorporate these stories into your considerations and explorations of “The Other” and the rejection of the objectification of the news.
8. What was the public’s reaction to Graham’s story about dressing down and living in Harlem?
9. Consider the above readings. Which of these strikes you as the most effective in achieving its goals and why?
10. Also, formulate your thoughts on the ethics of undercover reporting. Here are some notes on undercover reporting & Deception for Journalism’s Sake: A Database | Undercover Reporting http://dlib.nyu.edu/undercover/

Hello Spring Break!
Class 8 – March 11
The Other – Cops, Crooks and Killers

Read for Class 8: Writing About Crime
✓ Listen to Episode 1 “The Alibi” from Serial [https://serialpodcast.org/season-one](https://serialpodcast.org/season-one)

Select and Read one from the following list:

Read On Journalism in General:

Some thoughts for your essay and discussion in class:
1. What are the *elements of literary journalism* these writers employ – including *Serial*?
2. Why do you think readers and viewers and listeners (See the popularity of *Serial*) are so interested in stories about crime?
3. Do you see the problems that arise with memory in Serial?
4. How does the push for storytelling rather than a dry drone of facts create problems with truth?
5. How would you define truth?
6. Recall: The True and Genuine Account of the Life and Actions of the Late Jonathan Wild, by Daniel Defoe. Do you see a link to In Cold Blood?
Reading Tom Wolfe was a revelation. Along with "In Cold Blood" & "Hiroshima," his work showed me that journalism doesn’t have to be a dry recitation of facts. We can tell true stories that weave spells, transport readers, spur emotion & bring our subjects into vivid color. ~ Mónica Rhor

Read for Class 9:
✓ Read the annotated version of “Frank Sinatra Has a Cold,” by Gay Talese
  http://niemanstoryboard.org/stories/annotation-tuesday-gay-talese-and-frank-sinatra-has-a-cold/ This ran in April 1966 and became one of the most celebrated magazine stories ever published, a pioneering example of what came to be called New Journalism — a work of rigorously faithful fact enlivened with the kind of vivid storytelling that had previously been reserved for fiction.
  o Here is original version of “Frank Sinatra Has a Cold,” by Gay Talese http://bit.ly/2K0ecFE
✓ Where did Wolfe’s off-the-wall style come from? The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby: Introduction
  o Tom Wolfe understood that a story set in the present time is open-ended and ongoing—that, in a sense, it is completed by the public, who carry it forward into the future: http://nyer.cm/It9cffU

On Journalism in General:

Some thoughts for your essay and discussion in class:
1. What are the elements of literary journalism these writers employ?
2. Why, do you think, Wolfe writes in this way?
3. What does Hersey think of this genre of journalism. Do you think he practiced what he preached in Hiroshima?
4. How is Hersey’s essay counter-discourse in opposition to the imposition of a new form?
5. What is the legend on the license?
6. Cite some authors you believe violated this legend. Explain how so – and be concrete and specific.
Read for Class 10:
✓ Gonzo (A brief explication) http://bit.ly/2zR02TK
✓ Excerpt from Hell’s Angels: A Strange and Terrible Saga, by Hunter S. Thompson https://n.pr/2HEC6YP
✓ “The Kentucky Derby is Decadent and Depraved: Written under duress by Hunter S. Thompson; Sketched with eyebrow pencil and lipstick by Ralph Steadman” http://brianb.freeshell.org/a/kddd.pdf
  o Hunter S. Thompson, James Salter, and a Drunken Trip to Kentucky https://lithub.com/hunter-s-thompson-james-salter-and-a-drunken-trip-to-kentucky/
✓ Ralph Steadman: With gonzo, you don’t cover the story; you become the story http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/art-and-design/ralph-steadman-with-gonzo-you-don-t-cover-the-story-you-become-the-story-1.2944772

Read On Journalism in General
✓ Hunter S. Thompson on Objectivity https://www.brainpickings.org/2013/07/18/hunter-s-thompson-journalism-politics/
✓ Hunter S. Thompson’s 1958 cover letter for a newspaper job

Optional
✓ Hunter S. Thompson - Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride (Documentary) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIAZV_EsSSE

Some thoughts for your essay and discussion in class:
1. What is Gonzo journalism?
2. What are the elements of literary journalism HST employs?
3. Is Gonzo journalism an acceptable journalistic form? Or does it push beyond the borders of the acceptable?
4. Why or why not?
5. Is Hell’s Angels Gonzo journalism or something else?
6. How is Hell’s Angels different in form from the Kentucky Derby story?
7. Do you get any hint of HST’s critique of media misrepresentations in the Hell’s Angels excerpts?
Read for Class 11: Intellectual Gonzo?
  - The 13 most powerful members of ‘Skull and Bones’ [https://read.bi/2CsgzJe](https://read.bi/2CsgzJe)
  - A short passage on Rosenbaum as an “investigator of investigations”
  - As one writer has noted: “like Hunter S. Thompson, Gonzo journalism's founder and dean, Rosenbaum is the main character in any story he writes. A significant difference is that Rosenbaum concentrates on his thoughts rather than his actions.”

Within your essay address – at the least – the following thoughts:
1. What are the elements of literary journalism these writers employ?
2. Is there anything similar to Skull and Bones in your own experience?
3. Ask a few of your friends if – to be admitted to a university – they would remove their clothing and have their picture taken. Ask why or why not.
4. Do some research and explore the eugenics movement and its relation to the Holocaust. See the Holocaust Museum [https://www.ushmm.org/search/results/?q=eugenics#](https://www.ushmm.org/search/results/?q=eugenics#)
5. I wonder in thinking about eugenics you see a failure at intersubjectivity?
**Class 12 – April 8**  
**Some Classics New and Old**

### Read for Class 12:
- **✓** Jimmy Breslin on JFK’s Assassination: Read the second story here, “It’s An Honor”  
- **✓** “So ... We Meet at Last, Mr. Bond,” by Bob Greene, (columnist) [http://eng307-broadway.wikispaces.umb.edu/file/view/Greene+Meets+Bond.pdf](http://eng307-broadway.wikispaces.umb.edu/file/view/Greene+Meets+Bond.pdf)
- **✓** Annotated version of “Portrait of Hemingway” by Lillian Ross  
- **✓** The Shit-Kickers of Madison Avenue by Lillian Ross  
- **✓** Annotated version of “Upon This Rock,” by John Jeremiah Sullivan  

### Read On Journalism in General
- **✓** A Writer’s Essay: Seeking the Extraordinary in the Ordinary  
  [https://nyti.ms/2Fl9rb4](https://nyti.ms/2Fl9rb4)
- **✓** “The Politics of The Plain” by Hugh Kenner

**FYI:** On October 13, 2010, President Obama signed into law the “United States Plain Writing Act of 2010.” Thirteen years after President Clinton issued his own “Plain Writing in Government” memorandum, the revised set of guidelines states that by July of this year all government agencies must simplify the often perplexing bureaucratic jargon used in documents produced for the American public. Gone are the grammatically longwinded sentences, replaced with simpler English words, grammar and syntax.

### Within your essay address – at the least – the following thoughts:
1. What are the elements of literary journalism these writers employ?
2. What is fly-on-the-wall reporting (also known as eye-as-camera) and how is it used by this week’s writers?
3. Here is the mantra for today: THE PERIOD IS YOUR FRIEND. The following is Jimmy Breslin talking about friend and fellow writer Steve Dunleavy: “In a time of listless reporting, he climbed stairs. And he wrote simple declarative sentences that people could read, as opposed to these 52-word gems that moan, ‘I went to college! I went to graduate school college! Where do I put the period?’”
4. Take this quote – in which, essentially, he is talking about plain style – and think about the writers we read this week – and any of those we have read before.
5. Who among these do you think best exemplifies what Breslin is talking about and why? Give some examples and analyze them.
6. Then, who least follows his description of powerful but plain writing and why. Give some examples and analyze them. And even if these are not examples of plain style but border more on the eloquent, do they still work?
7. This struggle in communicating the world in a plain or grand / eloquent style goes back centuries. Note for example: Essays of Elia (1835) in which Charles Lamb describes the plain style in his critique of a famous actor of his time: “He was totally destitute of trick and artifice. He seemed come upon the stage to do the poet’s message simply, and he did it with as genuine fidelity as the nuncios in Homer deliver the errands of the gods. He let the passion or the sentiment do its own work without prop or bolstering. He would have scorned to mountebank it; and betrayed none of that cleverness which is the bane of serious acting.”
8. How would the ideas expressed by Lamb inform good writing?
### Class 13 – April 15
**PowerPoint Presentation for Non-Fiction Story Due 11 a.m. April 15**

“Read, learn, work it up, go to the literature. Information is control.”  
– Joan Didion, *The Year of Magical Thinking*

#### Read for Class 13: Joan Didion

**About Joan Didion (Read these two first before her stories):**

**These three are from a collection of essays titled *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* by Joan Didion**
  - The Santa Ana winds and the literature of Los Angeles [https://lat.ms/2zR0SQo](https://lat.ms/2zR0SQo)

#### Optional:

**Within your essay address – at the least – the following thoughts:**

1. Didion admired the writer Doris Lessing’s “tendency to confront all ideas *tabula rasa*.”
2. Here is a quote from Lessing herself: “Think wrongly, if you please, but in all cases think for yourself.”
3. Didion wrote: *Georgia O’Keefe* is neither ‘crusty’ nor eccentric. She is simply hard, a straight shooter, a woman clean of received wisdom and open to what she sees.”
4. After a diagnosis of MS, Didion wrote: “Lead a simple life,” the neurologist advised. “Not that it makes any difference we know about.” **In other words it was another story without a narrative.**
5. What are the Santa Ana winds and what do they represent in Didion’s story?
6. Hazlitt on Montaigne: “He was, in the truest sense, a man of original mind, that is, he had the power of looking at things for himself, or as they really were, instead of blindly trusting to, and fondly repeating what others told him that they were.”
7. With the above in mind, do you see the notion of being clean of all received wisdom before attempting a work of literature – or anything else?
8. How would that notion of being clean of all received wisdom make one a better journalist, writer, artist?
9. At its most basic, why does Didion write? Do you see any similarities between her reasons and Orwell’s?
| Class 14 – April 22  
| Writing on Politics  
| Non-Fiction Story Due 11 p.m. April 22 |

“Cynicism is what passes for insight among the mediocre.”  
— Joe Klein, Primary Colors: A Novel of Politics

**Read for Class 14:**

[http://reprints.longform.org/joey-biden-he-could-really-talk](http://reprints.longform.org/joey-biden-he-could-really-talk)  
Here is link to What It Takes  


- Esquire Classic: Mark Zwonitzer on the making of “What It Takes”  

- What he gave: Richard Ben Cramer  

**Read one of the following two:**

✔ “Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail in ’72,” by Hunter S. Thompson  
[https://rol.st/2qL3Y2U](https://rol.st/2qL3Y2U)

✔ “The Scum Also Rises,” by Hunter S. Thompson  

**Optional**

✔ If you want a fuller introduction to one of the greatest political writers ever, watch:  
**What It Takes: The Way to the White House - Richard Ben Cramer ...**  
[▶ 1:23:00](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI5GUkPvY8)

| April 24 |

![The End](image)

| Class Evaluations |

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at  
[https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu)  
Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.  
Summary results of these assessments are available to students at  
[https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results)
A Poem for Journalists?

So here I am, in the middle way, having had twenty years -
Twenty years largely wasted, the years of l'entre deux guerres -
Trying to learn to use words, and every attempt
Is a wholly new start, and a different kind of failure
Because one has only learnt to get the better of words
For the thing one no longer has to say, or the way in which
One is no longer disposed to say it. And so each venture
Is a new beginning, a raid on the inarticulate
With shabby equipment always deteriorating
In the general mess of imprecision of feeling,
Undisciplined squads of emotion. And what there is to conquer
By strength and submission, has already been discovered
Once or twice, or several times, by men whom one cannot hope
To emulate – but there is no competition –
There is only the fight to recover what has been lost
And found and lost again and again: and now, under conditions
That seem unpropitious. But perhaps neither gain nor loss.
For us, there is only the trying. The rest is not our business.

— "East Coker" in T.S. Eliot's "Four Quartets"
# Appendix 1

## Essay Grading Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>30 points</strong>:</td>
<td>Exceptional. The essay is focused and coherently integrates examples with explanations or analysis. The entry reflects in-depth engagement with the topic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20 to 29 points</strong>:</td>
<td>Satisfactory. The essay is reasonably focused, and explanations or analysis are mostly based on examples or other evidence. Fewer connections are made between ideas, and though new insights are offered, they are not fully developed. The entry reflects moderate engagement with the topic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10 to 19 points</strong>:</td>
<td>Underdeveloped. The essay is mostly description or summary, and contains few connections between ideas. The entry reflects passing engagement with the topic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 to 9 points</strong>:</td>
<td>Limited. The essay is unfocused, or simply rehashes previous comments, and displays no evidence of engagement with the topic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>0 points</strong>:</td>
<td>The essay is missing or consists of disconnected sentences.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 1 to 10 Points Off

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Off</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 10 Points Off</td>
<td>Inadequate response to discussion points/questions under the readings most weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing mechanics problems. Edit yourself before posting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inadequate, perfunctory, overly broad, and/or unfocused question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Padding – to include one-sentence paragraphs, wide margins, extra spaces between paragraphs, and long quotes from readings to fill space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unevidenced assertions that begin with “In my opinion ... .” or some variant of this.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Appendix 2

## Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

- It is your responsibility to make certain you understand what constitutes plagiarism and to ensure that you give proper credit any time you draw on someone else’s writing.
- Treat Internet sources like a print source.
- Make certain you always copy down citation information, even if you’re paraphrasing. When in doubt, always cite. If you have questions, ask me. There’s no penalty for asking questions, but the penalties for plagiarism are severe, including dismissal from the program.
- Also, do not turn in to me any work you previously have submitted to another instructor or that you plan to submit for any other class at UF or any other institution. If you want to write on a topic you have worked on before, that might be acceptable if you discuss it with me and get permission in advance.

- **I will work under the assumption that you have read:**
  - UF Academic Honesty: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/student-responsibilities/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/student-responsibilities/)
Appendix 3

Additional Writing & Research Resources

To Feed Your Writing Soul

• The Greatest Nonfiction Books https://thegreatestbooks.org/nonfiction
• Newsletter of the International Association for Literary Journalism Studies. http://ialjs.org/ialjs-newsletter/
• 100 Best Nonfiction Books of All Time: Robert McCrum’s guide to the 100 greatest nonfiction books in English. http://bit.ly/2MhDObN
• The Top 100 Works of Journalism in the United States in the 20th Century http://bit.ly/2Oy0FGK
• More Than 100 Fantastic Works of Journalism From 2016 http://bit.ly/2MJR3rF
• More Than 100 Fantastic Works of Journalism From 2015 http://bit.ly/2OxYT8y
• 4 Observations From The Atlantic’s “100 Fantastic Pieces of Journalism” http://bit.ly/2MF91M0
• Journalism’s Top 100 – The New Yorker http://bit.ly/2MGYnVf
• The 7 Greatest Stories in the History of Esquire https://www.esquire.com/news-politics/g114/greatest-stories/
• Longform https://longform.org/
• Longform Podcast https://longform.org/podcast
• Lamott, A. “Shitty First Drafts” from Bird by Bird.
• Grammarly (grammar checker): http://www.grammarly.com
• Roget’s Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases: http://poets.notredame.ac.jp/Roget/

About Literary Journalism

  This is the introduction to an early edited collection of essays discussing the New Journalism titled The Reporter as Artist: A Look at the New Journalism Controversy. It is a brief but excellent explication of the concept of New Journalism and makes a solid argument for what it is (not just one thing) and how the genre – as with all literary and journalistic genres – addresses a need. Note, too, the use of the word “controversy” in the title.
• Writing in Suspense: A Critique on American Culture Through Objective and Subjective Reportage http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1160&context=criterion
• Norman Sims on Literary Journalism: http://bit.ly/2iHOtps
• How to Tell Stories About Complex Issues: Stories are the most powerful tool we have for increasing understanding and building engagement with complex issues. Telling them well can drive belief and behavior change. [http://bit.ly/2KEAnQV](http://bit.ly/2KEAnQV)

• *Words cannot embody; they can only describe.* Extract from an essay on “Repetition” – James Agee on writing and truth and the inadequacy of Words. Find this passage in full text of *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* at the Internet Archive [https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.85269](https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.85269)


✓ Lillian Ross was a legend of American journalism. Here is a selection of her pieces: [http://nyer.cm/MeFKdRI](http://nyer.cm/MeFKdRI)


**Good Sources for Researching a Topic**

- Our journalism/communications specialist librarian April Hines can be quite helpful email: aprhine@uflib.ufl.edu
- Google Scholar [www.scholar.google.com](http://www.scholar.google.com) A good source for finding research studies
- Project Starters at UF Library [http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/ps_db.html](http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/ps_db.html)
- JSTOR [http://www.jstor.org/](http://www.jstor.org/)
- Advertising Subject Guide [http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/advertising](http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/advertising)
- Broadcasting/Telecom Subject Guide [http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/broadcastingtelecom](http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/broadcastingtelecom)
- Journalism Subject Guide [http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/journalism](http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/journalism)
- Google Scholar (Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites.) [https://scholar.google.com/](https://scholar.google.com/)
- Google Books (Search the world’s most comprehensive index of full-text books. Begin learning how to use this. **Note:** Just about anything before 1923 is out of copyright and full text is available – and it is searchable. Still, many books are limited view to one degree or another but are still searchable. You may find what you need on the view – or at least through search you can learn what pages what you seek are on and then check the book out of the library. Saves a lot of time. Also, many magazines fairly up to date are available full view – and are also searchable.) [https://books.google.com/](https://books.google.com/)
- Internet Archive is another resource that includes all kinds of texts, videos, etc. [https://archive.org/](https://archive.org/)
- Benton Foundation: The Benton Foundation works to ensure that media and telecommunications serve the public interest and enhance our democracy. Great searchable data base both about the latest news in media and journalism with archives going into past [https://www.benton.org/](https://www.benton.org/)

**Some Leading Journalism & Media Publications on The Web**

- Advertising Age (MediaWorks) [http://adage.com/channel/media/1](http://adage.com/channel/media/1)
- American Society of Newspaper Editors [http://www.asne.org/](http://www.asne.org/) Contains reports on journalistic practices, including a compilation of newspaper codes of ethics.
Media and the Public

- BBC College of Journalism [http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/journalism]
- Benton Foundation [https://www.benton.org/]
- Broadcasting & Cable [http://www.broadcastingcable.com/]
- BuzzMachine [http://buzzmachine.com/]
- Center for Digital Democracy [https://www.democraticmedia.org/]
- Center for Media and Democracy’s PRWatch [http://www.prwatch.org/]
- Columbia Journalism Review [http://www.cjr.org/]
- Digital Tampering [http://pth.izitruf.com/]
- Drudge Report [http://drudgereport.com/]
- Editor and Publisher [http://www.editorandpublisher.com]
- FactCheck.org [http://www.factcheck.org/]
- Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR): [http://fair.org/]
- Gawker [http://gawker.com/]
- Guardian (Media) [https://www.theguardian.com/us/media]
- Huffington Post [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/]
- [http://ijpc.uscannenberg.org/journal/index.php/ijpcjournal/index]
- The Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture (IJPC) Database with more than 87,700 items on journalists, public relations practitioners and media in films, television, radio, fiction, commercials and cartoons is now online.
- iMediaEthics [http://www.imediaethics.org/]
- Law & Disorder [http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/]
- Media Channel [http://www.mediaclassroom.org/]
- Media Wire [http://www.poynter.org/tag/mediawire/]
- Mediagazer [http://mediagazer.com/]
- I follow this on my Feedly reader. Mediagazer presents the day’s must-read media news on a single page. It includes a regularly updated media jobs board.
- NewsHour Media Watch (PBS) [http://www.pbs.org/newshour/tag/media/]
- Nieman Journalism Lab [http://www.niemanlab.org/]
- Nieman Reports: [http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/Reports.asp]
- Online News Association [http://journalists.org/]
- People and the Press [http://people-press.org/]
- Project for Excellence in Journalism [http://www.journalism.org/]
- Publisher’s Weekly [http://www.publishersweekly.com/]
- Romenesko [http://jimromenesko.com/]
- The FOIA blog [http://thefoialblog.typepad.com/the_foia_blog/]
- The Newspaper Association of America [http://www.naa.org/]
- Who owns the media [http://www.freenet.net/ownership/chart]

Diversity

- Forum on Media Diversity [http://www.mediodiversityforum.lsu.edu/]
- Asian American Journalists Association [http://www.aaja.org/]
- National Association of Black Journalists [http://www.nabj.org/]
- National Association of Hispanic Journalists [http://nahj.org/]
- National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association [http://www.nlglj.org/]
- Native American Journalists Association [http://www.naja.com/]
“In her debut, Pulitzer Prize-winning New Yorker staff writer Boo creates an intimate, unforgettable portrait of India’s urban poor. Mumbai’s sparkling new airport and surrounding luxury hotels welcome visitors to the globalized, privatized, competitive India. Across the highway, on top of tons of garbage and next to a vast pool of sewage, lies the slum of Annawadi, one of many such places that house the millions of poor of Mumbai. For more than three years, Boo lived among and learned from the residents, observing their struggles and quarrels, listening to their dreams and despair, recording it all. She came away with a detailed portrait of individuals daring to aspire but too often denied a chance— their lives viewed as an embarrassment to the modernized wealthy.” – From a review in Kirkus Review