

# University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications

## JOU4930/Section #15574 – Special Topics: Hearst Awards



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- Lecturer Moni Basu [mbasu@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:mbasu@jou.ufl.edu) \* Office: 3327 Weimer Hall; 352-273-3529
- Meets Wednesdays, period 6 (12:50 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.) in 3194 McCarthy; 3 UF credits
- Office hours are by appointment. Contact the instructors.

**Course objectives:** For students and faculty to work together with the goal of producing high-quality journalistic work in writing, photography and multimedia that should lead to the College submitting winning entries in the Hearst Intercollegiate Competition.

**Course format:** This is a Special Topics course, without a textbook or firm week-by-week schedule. Material will be presented as needed. Some readings/assignments will be given via email and Canvas. The lecture emphasis will be on studying what makes winning entries as well as the culture of winning. We'll analyze competitions such as Hearst and Pulitzers. The work you do outside of class time is essential. Weekly progress reports are necessary.

**Grading and evaluation:** Your course grade is based on strong participation and your submitted material for Hearst consideration. Do you have ideas and appropriate comments? Pay attention to all deadlines, as the local ones in CJC are about one week earlier. Bookmark this site: <http://www.hearstawards.org/>.

*We hope you have a #winning attitude, unlike Michael in this FOR BETTER OR WORSE comic. Become GREAT!*



(OVER)

## YOUR INSTRUCTORS:

**Moni Basu:** My official title is the Michael and Linda Connelly Lecturer in Narrative Nonfiction at the University of Florida. That's a mouthful. I will be happy if you call me Prof B. I worked as a reporter and editor for 36 years before coming to teach in Gatorland. I still write and publish as a freelancer. I also am a distinguished professor of practice in the narrative nonfiction MFA program at the University of Georgia. I love terrific storytelling. I grew up as a newspaper writer and was a senior writer at CNN for almost 10 years before coming to UF. I have covered presidential elections, natural disasters, political protests, mass shootings, terrorism and war. I also published an e-book, *Chaplain Turner's War* (2012, Agate Publishing), which grew from a series of stories on an Army chaplain at war. I was featured as a war reporter in a Marvel comic once. I was born in India and grew up straddling two cultures, which explains my interest in exploring the complexities of race, ethnicity and identity. I live with my furry son, Gizmo, a Chihuahua-Yorkie mix who weighs only 6.9 pounds but is massive in love. You can find my work and life adventures on my personal and public pages on Facebook and on my website: [monibasus.com](http://monibasus.com). I am on Instagram: [evilreporterchick](https://www.instagram.com/evilreporterchick). And on Twitter: [TheMoniBasu](https://twitter.com/TheMoniBasu).

**JOHN FREEMAN:** I joined the UF faculty in 1991 after working as a *Wichita Eagle* staff photographer for six years, and journalism instructor at Wichita State University for 10 years. I have a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and a master's in communications from Wichita State University. I oversaw the CJC's transition from darkroom to digital, and spent three summers away to learn more about the profession. In summer 2002, I photographed for six weeks at *The Record* in Bergen County, N.J., on a fellowship funded by the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Earlier I was awarded a Faculty Fellowship for eight weeks of study at *National Geographic* magazine in Washington, D.C. In the 1990s, I was a faculty intern at *The Los Angeles Times* in Orange County and published 40 photos. For 15 years I have run the CJC's "UF in Berlin Journalism" study-abroad program partly because Germany is where I started photography as a high-school student. I have a sarcastic sense of humor but want you to benefit greatly from this course. I'm bothered by people gabbing in class and/or walking in late. Call me Mr. Freeman or Professor Freeman, but *not* "Doctor" Freeman (I have *only* a master's). I have won the CJC "Teacher of the Year" award twice. Four of my former photo students are winners of Team Pulitzers at their news organizations. [@freemanUFphoto](https://twitter.com/freemanUFphoto)

## THE FINE PRINT:

- **Special needs:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.
- **Course evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Please do one.
- **Health and Wellness:** U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student. Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.