

JOU 4930-3G13
Hearst Writing
Thursdays period 6 (12:50 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.), 3219 Weimer Hall

Professor: Moni Basu

Office: 3327 Weimer Hall

Email: Mbasu@ufl.edu

Phone: 352.273.3529 (Please email me first and set up a time to talk)

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon. or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

We'll work together to produce terrific work worthy of a submission for the Hearst Intercollegiate Competition.

This class meets only once a week but requires time and effort from you to report and write stories worthy of accolades. There are no textbooks in this class but you will be assigned online readings from time to time.

By the end of the semester, I hope you will be able to produce stories worthy of publishing.

GRADING

There are no shortcuts in this class. You will be judged on:

- The quality of the story you produce
- Class discussions

Grading scale:

A	925-1000
A-	900-924
B+	875-899
B	825-874
B-	800-824
C+	775-799
C	725-774
C-	700-724
D+	675-699
D	625-674
D-	600-624
F	623 and below

More information on grades and grading policies is here:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

COMMUNICATION

Journalists are in the business of communication and you **MUST** communicate with me in this class. **You must check your UF email every day. You must check Canvas and PackBack** regularly for discussions and announcements. If you are having problems with your assignments, you must email me immediately and not wait until class to discuss them.

ACCURACY, FAIRNESS AND STYLE

This is a class in journalism -- not fiction. While you are encouraged to take creative liberties with your writing, your stories must be factually correct and void of any errors. **You must review your stories and double check every fact.** That includes the names of people, places and organizations. You are expected to have a strong command of spelling and grammar and will lose points (at my discretion) for mistakes. Your copy should be clean and polished when you turn it in. All your assignments must adhere to AP style. You will lose points for every style, spelling and grammar error in your writing assignments.

You are also expected to engage in storytelling that is fair, complete and based on information gathered from diverse sources. A greater understanding of societal differences will help you become reporters who are sensitive, culturally aware and better equipped to write across differences. Please pay attention not just to race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation but also to class, age, education, geography, occupation and religion.

It's always best to conduct interviews in person. You may also speak with people by phone but avoid email interviews.

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

The media plays a vital role in our democracy. The public depends on journalists for news and a deeper understanding of the world around them. As such, there is nothing more important than our honesty, fairness and credibility.

I cannot stress this enough: Plagiarism, fabrication and conflicts of interest will not be tolerated and you will fail not just the assignment but the entire class.

Plagiarism is stealing someone else's ideas or work, including chunks of copy from the Internet. Fabrication is the use of invented information or the falsification of material. Conflicts of interest include writing about your roommate, boyfriend, parents, business partners or others with whom you have close relationships or financial ties. If you are unsure about whether you are facing a conflict of interest, please discuss with me.

You are expected to abide by the **UF Honor Code**, which you can read here:
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

DEADLINES

In the world of professional journalism, deadlines are critical, as they will be in this class. You must meet the deadline (time and date) set for each assignment. You will lose points for failing to meet deadlines.

UF STUDENT RESOURCES

If you need a little extra help with writing, organizing and editing your stories, the **UF Writing Studio**, located at 302 Tigert Hall, may be able to help. You can also get online tutoring. For more information, go to: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Mental health is extremely important. The **UF Counseling and Wellness Center** is free for all students. Please use this fantastic resource if you are having trouble coping. You can reach a support staff member between 8am-5pm Monday through Friday at [352-392-1575](tel:352-392-1575). The center's address is 3190 Radio Road. You can see all the services the center provides at: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the **Disability Resource Center** by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Call 352-392-8565 or go to: www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

ABOUT ME

I began my career as a journalist in Tallahassee (home of that “other” university) and have been reporting and editing now for 37 years. I have been covering the Iraq War since its inception in 2003. On several trips, I was embedded with the U.S. Army and earned the moniker, Evil Reporter Chick -- affectionately, of course. My e-book, *Chaplain Turner's War* (2012, Agate Publishing) grew from a series of stories on an Army chaplain at war. I'm not a super hero but I was featured in Marvel Comics' “Civil War” series. Most recently, I was a senior writer at CNN. This is my second year teaching in Gatorland.

You can find me on:

www.monibasus.com

Twitter: @TheMoniBasu

Instagram: @evilreporterchick

And my journalist **Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/2KCXScJ>**

