

JOUR 4502 – Section 172G

Journalism Issues - Critical Perspectives on News

Wednesday 11:45-2:45

Instructor: Terry Anderson

Email:

Phone: 954-218-8083

Office:

Office hours: Monday 1-3 p.m., Wednesday 9:30-11:30. Other times by appointment.

Prerequisites: Jour 3101 Reporting, Jour 4201 Editing. This is a capstone course, which requires senior standing.

Required text: The Elements of Journalism (2d edition) by Bill Kovach. Recommended Reading (you may receive extra credit for these books, by arrangement): Paper Soldiers by Clarence Wyatt; When the Press Fails by Bennett, Lawrence and Livingston; Covering Violence by Simpson and Cote; Operation Hollywood by David Robb; Covering the Community by Leigh Aldrich; Silent Racism by Barbara Trepagnier; News and Sexuality by Castaneda and Campbell; Covering Islam by Edward Said. You may suggest other books.

You are required to read the NY Times every day, the Economist weekly and to monitor Al Jazeera English regularly.

This course is intended to help you develop a deeper understanding of news media and the forces that affect how news is reported, and not reported. Whatever your political perspectives, you will be expected to keep an open mind, and work in a spirit of open inquiry and constructive criticism. To be a good journalist, you must inform yourself on the way news organizations operate, and develop the critical thinking skills to recognize good journalism from bad.

We will study and discuss how decisions are made at every level of news production; what influences those decisions for good or ill, differences among news organizations and platforms and how different countries and cultures approach these decisions. We will look at major recent news events, including 9/11 and other terrorist acts; Hurricane Katrina; the Haiti earthquake, the Afghan and Iraq wars, the demonstrations in Ferguson and similar events, domestic and foreign.

Two central themes in the course will be ethics and diversity. You will be given separate readings on both subjects, in addition to the required textbooks. You are additionally required to read The New York Times daily, The Economist weekly and stay current with the Al Jazeera English website. Unscheduled quizzes will be given, and will count toward your overall grade.

Class attendance is important. If you feel you will miss more than two classes during the semester, please talk to me before enrolling. More than two unexcused absences will lower your grade. More than three may result in a grade of incomplete. Of course, illness or other legitimate reasons will not count, though work missed must be made up. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Any student may submit a draft or an outline in advance for comments, and is encouraged to do so. While this is not an English or writing course, at this level of your studies you will be expected to show a high level of competence. Substance, structure, grammar and writing style will all contribute to your grade.

Please be on time to class. Arriving late is disruptive and rude to both the class and the professor.

Cell phones and laptops must be turned off during class.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in academic sanctions. Please see the relevant UF policy, which can be found at: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

Please note that it is not permissible for any student to submit the same material, with substantially the same style, structure, or wording, to instructors in two or more courses.

Persons With Disabilities.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, 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 with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Religious Observances

UF Religious Holiday Policy is available at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/curent/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Students, on prior notification of their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith, and shall be given a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

The professor will use academic work that you complete this semester for educational purposes in this course during this semester. Your registration and continued enrollment constitute your permission.

Diversity Statement

We will conduct this class with respect for each individual and with an appreciation of diverse points of view. People of all ages, ethnicities, religions, gender orientations, socio-economic circumstances, abilities, political persuasions and beliefs have much to share with us, as we have much to share with them. We believe that our lives are fuller, our society stronger and more just, from such diverse and mutually beneficial encounters. Protecting our diversity is at the very core of our country's ideals as expressed in our Constitution, starting with the five freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition guaranteed in the First Amendment.

We believe that understanding and appreciating the rich tapestry of our society, which is woven with threads of many colors, is essential for students of journalism because the media play a pivotal role in informing and education our society.

Grades

Grades will be compiled according to the points given each assignment. Lack of participation or absence may affect your final grade. University policy on grades can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Feedback

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, 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/>.

Contact numbers

For the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

About the Professor

Terry Anderson, 66, is a former journalist, writer, professor, columnist and lecturer. He has worked in television and radio news, as a newspaper editor, wire service reporter and foreign correspondent. As Chief Middle East Correspondent for the Associated Press, he was taken hostage by Shiite militants in Lebanon and held for seven years. He subsequently wrote a book about his experiences, *Den of Lions*, and produced and narrated a prize-winning documentary (CNN and PBS) about his return to Lebanon five years after his release, and that country's recovery from its 16-year civil war. He has taught at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Ohio University's Scripps School of Journalism, the University of Kentucky's School of Communications and Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communication. He is honorary chair of the Committee to Protect Journalists, which monitors press freedom around the world. A former Marine and Vietnam veteran, he is founder and co-chair of the Vietnam Children's Fund, which has built 48 elementary schools in that country. He holds a BA in journalism and political science from Iowa State University and has received numerous awards for journalism and civic and charitable service.