

Journalism Ethics – JOU 4700
Fall 2014
Section 5060
T 4, Th 4-5

Instructor: Krystin Anderson

Email: akrystin@ufl.edu

Office: G034 Weimer Hall

Office Hours: Wednesday 12-3 p.m. or by appointment

Required Texts:

- *How Good People Make Tough Choices* by Rushworth M. Kidder (any edition)
- *The Elements of Journalism* by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel (any edition)

Course Description:

Welcome to JOU4700 – Journalism Ethics. In this course you will learn about the various theories of ethics, its importance, and a pattern for making ethical decisions in everyday life. You will also learn about the history of journalism ethics and understand how journalist values play a role in current thought about journalism ethics. The goal of this course is to give you the opportunity to consider your ideas about ethics and, through analysis and practice, develop the skills needed to face ethical issues in your future career.

Student Learning Objectives:

- Students will be familiar with a variety of ethical philosophers and understand the points on which they differ.
- Students will distinguish right vs. right decisions from right vs. wrong decisions.
- Students will apply Kidder’s four types of ethical dilemmas and three types of resolution principles to real-world cases.
- Students will understand the changes in journalism ethics and the reasons for these.
- Students will be able to assess journalism’s core values including truth, independence, transparency, etc.
- Students will be familiar with social theories and use them to develop an understanding of audiences and journalists.
- Students will make predictions about future changes in journalism ethics.
- Students will develop their own codes of journalism ethics.

Grading:

Students will be graded according to the following elements:

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| • Class participation and attendance | 20% |
| • Homework & Quizzes | 20% |
| • Case Analysis | 20% |
| • Code of Journalism Ethics | 20% |

- Final exam

20%

Your final grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

A+=97-100%	A=93-96%	A-=90-92%
B+=87-89%	B=83-86%	B-=80-82%
C+=77-79%	C=73-76%	C-=70-72%
D+=67-69%	D=63-66%	D-=60-62%
F<60%		

There may be occasional extra credit opportunities for students according to the instructor's discretion. However, students should not rely on this to supplement their grade at the end of the course.

Assignments:

Class Participation and Attendance (20%): Students will be expected to attend class, to be on time, to participate in activities, to speak up during class discussions and to behave appropriately and respectfully. This category is, for the most part, at the discretion of the instructor. I give full credit if you do all of the above, but deduct 2% for an unexcused absence or 1% for a flagrant tardy. If I notice that you fail to engage in class or group discussion, if I see you working on work for other classes, if you use your laptop or other electronic device for purposes other than work for this class, or if you otherwise detract from your own or another's participation in the class, I will deduct points according to the regularity of this occurrence.

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>.

Homework & Quizzes (20%): Because this class deals heavily in discussion of complex ideas, students will be expected to prepare for class in advance by completing readings and doing assignments based on them, when required. Readings for the week should be finished before the beginning of the Tuesday class. Quizzes will be based on the assigned readings and may or may not be announced in advance. Homework will typically be due at the beginning of the Thursday class, but this may be changed according to the instructor's discretion. Homework should be word-processed, printed and brought to class unless students are specifically instructed otherwise.

Case Analysis (20%): Students will write a 5-page, double-spaced paper analyzing a real-world right vs. right ethical case. This paper should use the principles and techniques outlined by Kidder and should indicate clearly which type of ethical dilemma(s) exist in the case. Although students may use multiple principles in their analysis, students are encouraged to choose just one resolution principle for their final analysis. (This choice should also be justified.) Students should also clearly

indicate what they think the best decision for the case would be and whether or not this was what actually happened (unless the case is ongoing).

DUE Thursday, October 2

Code of Journalism Ethics (20%): Students will compose their own code of journalism ethics based on the discussions in class and their own research. This may be a code designed for the student as an individual journalist or for a news organization. This should be 5 double-spaced pages and should cover topics such as transparency, independence, source use, verification, etc. The code should also include a mission statement that highlights news values.

DUE Thursday, November 20

Final Exam: (20%): The final exam will be administered online via ProctorU and will be available throughout final exam week. The exam will be composed of two sections: The first section will be a series of close-ended questions about and applying material learned in the course, and the second section will be open-ended essay questions. Notes and other materials will not be permitted during the exam, but scratch paper is allowed. Students are advised to schedule their exam at least five days in advance in order to avoid a \$5 late fee charged by ProctorU. More information will be provided later, and study help will be given during the exam review day on December 9.

Schedule

Unit I: Ethics (Weeks 1 – 6)

- *Unit paper due Oct. 2*

Unit II: Journalism Values (Weeks 6-12)

- *Unit paper due Nov. 20*

Week 1 (August 26, 28)

Introduction to Ethical Theory

Week 2 (September 2, 4)

The Importance of Ethics

Kidder Chapters 1 & 2

Week 3 (September 9, 11)

Ethical Fitness & Core Values

Kidder Chapters 3 & 4

Week 4 (September 16, 18)

Dilemma Paradigms

Kidder Chapters 5 & 6

Week 5 (September 23, 25)

Resolution Principles & A Pattern for Ethical Decision-Making
Kidder Chapters 7, 8 & 9

Week 6 (September 30, October 2)

History of Journalism Ethics

CASE ANALYSIS PAPER DUE OCTOBER 2

Week 7 (October 7, 9)

The Purpose of Journalism

Kovach & Rosenstiel Introduction & Chapter 1

Week 8 (October 14, 16)

Deciphering Truth

Kovach & Rosenstiel Chapters 2 & 4

Week 9 (October 21, 23)

Independence & Transparency

Homework Due: Read Kovach & Rosenstiel Chapters 3 & 5

Week 10 (October 28, 30)

Journalism's Responsibility to the Public

Homework Due: Read Kovach & Rosenstiel Chapters 6 & 7

Week 11 (November 4, 6)

Presenting the News

Homework Due: Read Kovach & Rosenstiel Chapters 8 & 9

Week 12 (November 13)

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 11 - VETERANS DAY

The Journalist's Conscience

Homework Due: Read Kovach & Rosenstiel Chapter 10

Week 13 (November 18, 20)

Social Theories - How Readers and Journalists Think

JOURNALISM CODE OF ETHICS DUE NOVEMBER 20

Week 14 (November 25)

New & Future Journalism Ethics

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 27 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15 (December 2, 4)

New and Future Journalism Ethics

Week 16 (December 9)

In-Class Exam Review Day

Final Exam

Online

UF Grading Policies

Information about the University of Florida's grading policies can be found by visiting the following link:

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

UF Honesty Policy

University of Florida students live by an honor code that prohibits academic dishonesty (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>). Students have an affirmative obligation to know what those policies prohibit. If you are unsure, ask the instructor in advance. When cheating is discovered, the policy is to fail all students involved for the course and refer the details to the Dean of Students Office. In this course, students are expected to neither plagiarize nor fabricate materials for their papers.

Counseling & Wellness Center

The UF Counseling and Wellness Center is a terrific, free resource for any student who could use help managing stress or coping with life. The center, at 3190 Radio Road on campus, is open for appointments and emergency walk-ins from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To make an appointment or receive after-hours assistance, call 352-392-1575.

Disability Accommodations

If you would benefit from disability-related accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. The center will provide documentation so appropriate accommodations can be made. The center is in Reid Hall, 392-8565. <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. You will be given specific times when evaluations are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students and to the public.