

Syllabus CRN 20883

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE: MULTIMEDIA NEWSWRITING & REPORTING (JRN 101)

Spring 2013 Three (3) credits

Mondays & Wednesdays 10:15 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Instructor: Gina Germani

Phone: 954.608.3872 Email: [gina.germani@imperial.edu](mailto:gina.germani@imperial.edu)

Course Website: [IVCJournalism.com/JRN101](http://IVCJournalism.com/JRN101)

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will help develop the student as a Digital Age reporter with the fundamental skills for gathering and reporting news journalistically and interactively. The student will learn, among other things:

- Basic understanding of online news media
- The purposes and practices of interactive/multimedia storytelling
- How to determine appropriate interactive and multimedia elements for a news story, and how to produce them
- Best practices use of multimedia journalism tools in text, photography, videography, sound

The culmination of the student's learning will be a final semester project that the students collectively produce as a journalistically based, interactive multimedia news report that may be proposed for online publishing. There is no promise that projects will be published, but final grades for this course are NOT contingent on the students' works being published.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Compose and produce a multimedia news story that is logically structured, grammatically correct. (ILO1, ILO2)
2. Compose and produce a multimedia news story that contains pertinent interactive elements that assist in illustrating the story. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)
3. Compose a news story that is completed by deadline for publication (ILO3)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Prerequisite:** JRN100 with a letter grade of "C" or better

### **Helpful Textbooks and Reference (not required)**

1. Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism, Second Edition, by Tim Harrower  
ISBN: 0073378916
2. The Associated Press Stylebook, edited by Norm Goldstein

3. Journalism 2.0: How to Survive and Thrive...A digital literacy guide for the information age  
You may obtain this book either in the bookstore or by going online and downloading the entire PDF at [http://www.kcnn.org/images/uploads/Journalism\\_20.pdf](http://www.kcnn.org/images/uploads/Journalism_20.pdf) free of charge

You will also be required to read *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, and/or *The Christian Science Monitor* ONLINE, as well as other selected news and information websites and tutorials throughout the semester.

### **Assignment Deadlines and Course Work Outside of Classes**

You will be required to meet the deadline for submitting all class assignments. If you miss the deadline, then you will score a zero (0) on the assignment, although I will still edit your assignments and give you the necessary feedback for improvement.

Many of your assignments will require you to attend public meetings and other community events outside of the classroom, on and off campus—including evenings and weekends. If you cannot attend assigned events—for whatever reason— or, you do not make other acceptable arrangements with me prior to the deadline to fulfill the assignment, then you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

### **Computer/USB Drive/Digital Camera/Editing and Design Software**

JRN 101 is being taught as a digital journalism and newswriting course. In order to fulfill assignments in JRN101 you are required to own or have ready access to a computer that supports Microsoft documents and has thumb drive/USB port capabilities.

You are required to own a thumb or USB drive of at least two (2) gigabytes for storage of all projects you produce for this course. **YOU ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO BRING THAT DRIVE TO EACH CLASS IN THE SESSION. If you fail to do so, you will not be able to complete exercises and assignments.**

It is also strongly recommended that you secure your own still and/or video camera for use in this course.

**NOTE:** JRN101 has a limited number of laptop computers as well as still and video cameras dedicated solely for use in producing JRN101 assignments. This equipment is available for check-out through me for your assignments. Equipment check-out will be connected to student financial accounts, meaning if you check out a piece of equipment and fail to return it or return it in disrepair, you will be financially liable for the equipment. Further:

- **IF YOU FAIL TO RETURN A CHECKED-OUT ITEM ON TIME WITHOUT DISCUSSING AN EXTENSION WITH ME PRIOR TO THE RETURN DATE OF THE EQUIPMENT, I MAY FAIL YOU IN THE COURSE.**

- **IF YOU FAIL TO RETURN A CHECKED-OUT ITEM DUE TO THEFT, THEN YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT ME WITH AN OFFICIALLY RECORDED POLICE REPORT ON THE THEFT OF THE ITEM. IF YOU DO NOT PRODUCE A POLICE REPORT, THEN YOU WILL BE FAILED IN THE COURSE AND/OR YOUR FINANCIAL ACCOUNT WILL BE ATTACHED.**

### **Writing Materials**

Always bring a pen/pencil and a note book with you to class.

### **Email Account and Internet Access**

You are required to have an email account. That also means you must have Internet access either at home or by the use of IVC campus computers, or by other means.

All of your course work will rely on you having Internet access in order to FTP assignments to your own class website. Additionally, you will need Internet access to frequently check the course website noted at the top of this syllabus for weekly writing and reading assignments as well as other class notices. **Having no access to the Internet will not be an acceptable excuse for failing to submit your assignments by their deadlines.**

### **In-Class Use of Computers and Internet**

The nature of the course is to have full instant access to news and information that will help you learn. The use of computers during class is restricted to that purpose. If I find you repeatedly emailing, on Facebook, or doing anything else on the computers during class that does not relate to the coursework, then you will be marked as an unexcused absence for that day. (Please see "Attendance" requirements below.)

### **Cell Phones in Class**

I do not require students to turn off their cell phones in class. However, I do require that you leave the room during class periods if you need to make or receive a phone call. I also expect you to promptly return to class within two minutes of making or receiving a phone call.

### **Personal Entertainment Devices & Text-Messaging**

You are not allowed to wear earphones in class unless the use of those devices relates to learning in the class and is approved by me. You will not play games on a portable gaming device in this class, or listen to your iPod. If you choose to do so, you will be asked to leave the class and you will be marked as absent for that day.

### **Attendance**

I expect you to attend all 30 class sessions in this semester. However, I do understand that illness, personal emergencies and other unforeseen problems may prevent your attendance. In those events, I require you to call me *before* your absence in a class at the provided phone number listed at the top of this syllabus. Please, do not assume that emailing me before or after a scheduled class that you intend to miss or you have missed will be sufficient.

**If you are absent for any three (3) class sessions of the semester—excused or not—then you will be dropped from the course.**

### **Being Late**

Each class starts promptly at 10:15 a.m. If you arrive after the classroom door has been closed, then you are late. Two late marks equals one absence. **Example: if you are late six (6) times during the semester, you will be dropped from the course.**

### **Plagiarism and Fabrication**

If a student is found to have committed plagiarism, or unauthorized use of copyrighted photos, audio or video, or if a student fabricates facts in any of his or her assignments for this course, then several things could happen: you will receive an “F” for the assignment; it will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs; and, you may face possible expulsion.

### **Grading**

A perfect semester score in JRN 101 is 1,000 points. You will have seven (7) assignments, one midterm project, and one final semester project. Your attendance and your *meaningfully active* participation in classes will also count in your score.

The following lists the weight of each portion of your grade:

Six (6) Assignments	300 points
Midterm Project	200 points
Final Project	400 points
Attendance & Participation	100 points

### **Disability Information**

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible: Room 2117 Health Sciences Building, 760-355-6312.

### **Office Hours**

I do not hold office hours, although I warmly welcome meetings with my students—in person or by phone. I am easily reached by email or at the phone number listed in the heading of this syllabus. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns about your coursework at any time.

## **SPRING 2013 JRN 101 COURSE SCHEDULE**

The following schedule may or may not change as the course progresses. If and when there are changes, students will be notified via email, via in-class instruction, and/or via the course website. The following schedule is a very general summary of each week’s lessons. Detailed written, reading and other assignments will be announced in class and will also be found on the course website at [IVCJournalism.com/JRN101/](http://IVCJournalism.com/JRN101/)

**Week 1:** Introduction to new media values; student websites assigned, toured; software and hardware tools  
Content Management System: WordPress

**Week 2:** Audio, Audacity download, purpose and uses of audio; audio exercises, integrate audio into website posts

**Week 3:** Audio editing; nat sound

**Week 4:** Audio cont.  
Photography Basics

**Week 5:** Photography basics cont.  
Soundslides slideshow software introduction

**Week 6:** Soundslides exercises and assignments

**Week 7:** Audio slideshows

**Week 8:** Slideshows cont.; midterm work begins

**Week 9:** Video storytelling introduction  
MIDTERMS DUE

**Week 10:** Video basics; videography good/bad; storytelling  
Scripting, editing video

**Week 11:** Video shooting/scripting/editing cont. for basic stories

**Week 12:** Video shooting/scripting/editing/voicing/packaging

**Week 13:** Final projects: developing the story

**Week 14:** Final projects/independent work/study  
Individual work with teacher on final project assignments

**Week 15:** Final projects/independent work/study  
Individual work with teacher on final project assignments

**Week 16:** Final projects class review

11

○

○

○