Website (http://camd.northeastern.edu/journalism)

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The School of Journalism seeks to prepare students for careers in news and related communication fields. The program prepares future journalists and professional communicators in writing, editing, digital and social media, photography, video and audio production, design, and public relations. These skills have broad applications. Graduates of the program also go on to work in government, business, law, and teaching.

Students may enroll in a four- or five-year cooperative education program or a four-year program without co-op. The school strongly advises students to obtain cooperative education experience. The program offers some of the best co-ops and internships anywhere.

Graduates work for some of the world’s best newspapers and magazines, radio and television stations, online publications, wire services, public relations departments, and advertising agencies.

Academic Progression Standards

Journalism majors and minors must be in good standing in accordance with university-wide requirements to remain in the major or minor.

Preapproved Template Program in Journalism

The School of Journalism offers a preapproved template program that may be paired with another preapproved template program to create a combined major; to see a list of current preapproved template programs, visit the combined majors webpage (http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/major-2.html).

Students may request admission to such a combined major via the Combined Major Approval form (http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/form-maj-comb.pdf), which requires approval by both disciplines/colleges together with an approved curriculum. For additional information on preapproved template programs, see “Student-Requested Combined Major (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degrees-majors-minors/#stu-req).” For template program requirements, visit the myNEU web portal (http://www.myneu.neu.edu), click on the “Self-Service” tab, then on “My Degree Audit.”

Programs

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

- Journalism (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/arts-media-design/journalism/journalism-ba)
- Journalism and English (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/arts-media-design/journalism/journalism-english-ba)
- Media and Screen Studies and Journalism (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/arts-media-design/media-screen-studies/media-screen-studies-journalism-ba)

Bachelor of Science (BS)

- Computer Science and Journalism (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/computer-information-science/computer-information-science-combined-majors/computer-science-journalism-bs)
- Information Science and Journalism (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/computer-information-science/computer-information-science-combined-majors/information-science-journalism-bs)
- Journalism and Interaction Design (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/arts-media-design/journalism/journalism-interaction-design-bs)

Minors

- Journalism Practice (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/arts-media-design/journalism/journalism-practice-minor)
- Journalism Studies (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/arts-media-design/journalism/journalism-studies-minor)
- Photojournalism (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/arts-media-design/journalism/photojournalism-minor)

Courses

Journalism Courses

JRNL 1000. Journalism at Northeastern. 1 Hour.
Intended for first-year students in the College of Arts, Media and Design. Introduces students to liberal arts; familiarizes them with their major; develops the academic skills necessary to succeed (analytical ability and critical thinking); provides grounding in the culture and values of the University community; and helps to develop interpersonal skills—in short, familiarizes students with all skills needed to become a successful university student.

JRNL 1101. Journalism 1: Fundamentals of Reporting. 4 Hours.
Covers foundations of news writing for print media, including leads, story structure, objective tone, and attribution. Introduces fundamental reporting skills such as interviewing, researching, and observation. It then asks students, in their reporting, to step back and analyze the institutions they are writing about and the media itself in order to understand how societies and its institutions function and the validity of theories that explain these processes.

JRNL 1102. Journalist’s Toolbox. 1 Hour.
Offers a hands-on introduction to the tools journalists use to tell stories that will be utilized in JRNL 1101 and beyond. Offers students an opportunity to learn introductory photo, audio, video, and data visualization skills and also be exposed to other journalistic tools, including social media and blogging. Familiarizes students with composition of photos, recording and editing audio and video on nonlinear software, and how data visualizations can enhance journalistic storytelling.
JRNL 2990. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

JRNL 2201. Journalism 2: Intermediate Reporting. 4 Hours.
Continues JRNL 1101. This is the second writing course for undergraduate journalism students with an emphasis on learning how to report news stories. Offers students the opportunity to find sources and interview them, do background research, and use public records. Developing story ideas using computer-assisted reporting will be covered. Examines how to develop a story idea and then focus and organize it. Covers basic principles of online journalism including writing, design, and integration of visuals and text for the Web. Introduces elements of design and layout.

JRNL 2285. America and the Holocaust. 4 Hours.
Examines the American response to the Holocaust, in terms of both contemporaneous knowledge and actions and the lasting impact on policy and culture. Starts with early twentieth-century events, such as the Armenian genocide, that shaped later attitudes. Explores the prewar period, particularly U.S. immigration and isolationist policies. Assesses Americans’ knowledge of European events as the extermination campaign unfolded and fights ensued over rescue possibilities. Examines changing depictions of the Holocaust that emerged in the postwar period as a result of critical events such as the Eichmann trial and popular television and film portrayals. Finally, considers how perceptions of the Holocaust have shaped subsequent U.S. responses to genocide. HIST 2285, JRNL 2285, and JWSS 2285 are cross-listed.

JRNL 2301. Visual Storytelling in Journalism. 4 Hours.
Continues JRNL 2201. Covers basic principles of journalistic storytelling with video, sound, and still images. Introduces students to the foundations of writing with audio and video, and explores the concept of “convergence,” preparing stories for presentation in different formats. Fulfills the Advanced Writing in the Disciplines requirement for journalism majors.

JRNL 2350. History of Journalism. 4 Hours.
Traces the development of American journalism from its European and English beginnings. Topics include the colonial press, the great personal journalists of the nineteenth century, and the impact of major technological changes in mass communications media in the twentieth century.

JRNL 2410. Radio News Gathering and Reporting. 4 Hours.
Covers writing and editing news for radio, with practice in interviewing, organizing news scripts, and integrating audio materials into broadcast.

JRNL 3030. Covering Conflicts: Peace, War, and the Media. 4 Hours.
Examines the media’s portrayal of conflicts and the peace process in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Rwanda, and elsewhere. Evaluates the limits of fairness, balance, and accuracy in the coverage. Looks at the U.S. and international media—print, broadcast, and online—and some of the major stories in recent years and attempts to put these stories in historical, political, and social context. Examines the wide-ranging criticism of coverage from a variety of perspectives. INTL 3300 and JRNL 3300 are cross-listed.

JRNL 3300. Special Topics. 4 Hours.
Offers specialized topics in journalism for the twenty-first century. Topic matter changes each semester. May be repeated up to four times.

JRNL 3305. Public Relations Principles. 4 Hours.
Examines how to develop a story idea and then focus and organize it. Covers basic principles of online journalism including writing, design, and integration of visuals and text for the Web. Introduces elements of design and layout.

JRNL 3435. Techniques of Journalism. 4 Hours.
Provides practice in writing in-depth and multiple-source stories requiring significant research. Provides an introduction to investigative reporting, practice in feature writing, and a review of legal issues.

JRNL 3440. Local Reporting. 4 Hours.
Examines how to develop a story idea and then focus and organize it. Covers basic principles of online journalism including writing, design, and integration of visuals and text for the Web. Introduces elements of design and layout.

JRNL 3455. Sports Writing. 4 Hours.
Provides practice in journalistic coverage of amateur and professional athletics. Focuses on the role of sports writing in the news media and examines such topics as game coverage, feature profiles, and opinion columns.

JRNL 3550. Law of the Press. 4 Hours.
Examines legal problems of libel, invasion of privacy, and access to government information; discusses the balance between private rights and the public’s “need to know.”

JRNL 3610. Digital Storytelling and Social Media. 4 Hours.
Covers writing and editing news for radio, with practice in interviewing, organizing news scripts, and integrating audio materials into broadcast.

JRNL 3615. Advanced Digital Storytelling. 4 Hours.
Continues JRNL 3610. Journalists now have access to more storytelling tools—blogs, smartphones, high-quality DSLRs, Facebook—than at any other time in our industry’s history. Offers students an opportunity to learn advanced techniques in using video and audio production, social media, and crowdsourcing to create compelling, professional-grade multimedia stories. Students who do not meet course prerequisites may seek permission of instructor.
JRNL 3625. Public Relations Practice. 4 Hours.
Demonstrates practices and techniques employed in the field including organization of events and functions. Studies campaign planning, research, and media relationships. COMM 3625 and JRNL 3625 are cross-listed.

JRNL 3627. Critical Thinking about Public Relations Strategies. 4 Hours.
Designed to bring together upper-level students from multiple disciplines who are interested in taking a microscopic view of how issues are purposefully driven by professionals interested in promoting causes, political candidates, public policy, and corporate image. Examines how corporations and others make decisions and which theories of institutional behavior best explain those choices. Are companies motivated solely by economics as Marx would argue, or do they approach their image in a more functional way? Are the messages of politicians determined by race and class, or do they respond to a different framework? Requires students to follow current issues and dissect significant past campaigns. Knowledge of public relations tactics is helpful but not necessary. COMM 3627 and JRNL 3627 are cross-listed.

JRNL 3630. Magazine Writing. 4 Hours.
Covers writing and freelancing magazine articles; analyzing magazines as markets; and selecting the best feature format—how-to-do-it, profile, personal experience, human interest, interpretive pieces, and others. Requires a firm grasp of journalistic concepts, including advanced reporting and writing skills; a prior journalistic co-op or internship or experience writing for a school, online, or professional publication is preferred.

JRNL 3680. Advanced Reporting. 4 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to learn and apply advanced reporting techniques of the kind that editors and producers expect of their best reporters, especially those who cover demanding beats such as politics, government, healthcare, education, science, and business. Studies how to see and apply data and data visualization techniques, to develop and interview sources, to locate and decipher public records, to identify and conceptualize important stories, and to discuss and apply ethical theories to reporting to justify choices that may inflame or antagonize sources or readers. An assignment to do substantial enterprise stories for publication in major media outlets is part of the course.

JRNL 3945. Internship. 1-4 Hours.
Comprises academic credit for internship work in journalism. May be repeated without limit.

JRNL 3990. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

JRNL 4650. Journalism Ethics and Issues. 4 Hours.
Discusses the responsibilities of news media and ethical problems confronting decision makers in various journalistic fields and the principles found in codes of various professional societies. Requires students to write a paper on an ethical problem they faced while working in the media and place it in a framework of at least two ethical theories, for example, utilitarianism and deontology.

JRNL 4970. Junior/Senior Honors Project 1. 4 Hours.
Focuses on in-depth project in which a student conducts research or produces a product related to the student’s major field. Combined with Junior/Senior Project 2 or college-defined equivalent for 8-credit honors project. May be repeated without limit.

JRNL 4971. Junior/Senior Honors Project 2. 4 Hours.
Focuses on second semester of in-depth project in which a student conducts research or produces a product related to the student’s major field. May be repeated without limit.
JRNL 5314. Video News Production 1. 4 Hours.
Offers students hands-on opportunities to produce news stories for dissemination across video and several multimedia platforms. Seeks to engage students in the ethical challenges facing journalists historically and in the new media age. Students experiment with techniques used by TV and electronic news producers, including reporting, writing, videotaping, and editing on nonlinear digital editing equipment. Offers students an opportunity to create news stories and upload them to their websites with a variety of software programs, in line with journalistic and ethical standards.

JRNL 5315. Video News Production 2. 4 Hours.
Continues JRNL 5314. Offers advanced study of video news gathering including shooting, interviewing, writing, editing, and field producing.

JRNL 5360. Global Reporting. 4 Hours.
Discusses coverage of global issues and international public affairs and the function of the media in a global context. Topics include how news is gathered, processed, and disseminated by the various media abroad and how the media reflect culture, religion, and politics around the world. Focuses on practical, in-the-field experience with global governmental, business, and societal leaders. This course is part of the Dialogue of Civilizations program abroad. Graduate awards do not apply toward this program. International students wishing to register need to speak to the International Student and Scholar Institute prior to registration. May be repeated without limit.