

Journalism 201

Identifying Unicorns, Big Foot

And Fake News

Spring 2020

Professor:

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Office Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday

About This Course

This course will explore how human behavior is portrayed in media, and how those portrayals shape our perceptions of our community, country and the world. Under a critical lens, we will examine media coverage of sports, politics, entertainment, government and society. We will discuss how media shape what we think and how we think. This course will provide tools for students to think critically about information provided by sources to the media, and what the media does with that information.

Student Can Learn...

- To critically analyze information and sources of information
- How to understand information manipulation and the reasons behind it
- To distinguish false media portrayals from partial facts and actual facts
- How to better represent themselves and the information they convey in social media
- How to intelligently and respectfully discuss issues with those who have different perspectives

Course Materials

Students will not be asked to purchase a textbook, an online app or technology for this class. However, technology (computer or smartphone) is required to participate in daily activities. Each class, students will be asked to complete a quiz. That quiz will be administered electronically through Blackboard. Please come prepared to complete the quiz.

If you do not have access to a computer or smartphone, a laptop can be checked out from School of Journalism and Mass Communications Resource Center in 210 Stauffer-Flint Hall.

Course Expectations

- Students are expected to be in class. Because 82% of grades are contingent upon the daily quizzes, missing class will result in a poor overall class performance.
(STUDENTS ARE AFFORDED THREE (3) missed classes before receiving a grade penalty)
- Students are expected to read course materials prior to class. Quizzes will be based on readings and class discussions.
- Students are expected to participate in class.
 - Learning is not a passive exercise.

- Learning is an active exercise.
- Hence, students must be active for learning to occur.
- Students will respectfully engage in discussion.
 - All perspectives are welcome. Therefore, we welcome different perspectives.
 - We will not all agree on any issue. Let's learn from others who have different knowledge and experiences than we do.
 - Let's learn to debate with integrity and respect for others..
 - We will not be silent.
 - We will be brave in light of opposition.
 - We will be graceful in our presentation.
 - We will embrace facts.
 - We will check our emotions.

Grading

In-class quizzes (145 points): 82%

Short essays (10 points): 6%

Ted-like talk (21 points with topic proposal): 12%

Total: 176 points

Late assignments will not be accepted.

There will no makeup of assignments.

There will be no extra credit.

If you come to class and do the work, you will academically succeed in this class.

Standard grading applies:

99-93% A, 92-90% A-: (Excellent)

89%-87 B+, 86-83% B, 82-80% B-: (Good)

79-77% C+, 76-73% C, 72-70% C-: (Adequate)

69-67% D+, 66-63% D, 62-60% D-: (Below Standard)

59% and below F: (Unacceptable)

NEED TO KNOW

Journalism School Policy on Classroom Attendance

No student may add a journalism class after the 20th day of a semester.

Students must attend their classes and laboratory periods. Instructors may take attendance into account in assessing a student's performance and may require a certain level of attendance for passing a course. Instructors may choose to drop students from a course, based on attendance, without consent.

The School of Journalism reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of students who fail to attend the first class or laboratory meeting.

Financial Aid Policy

The KU Office of Student Financial Aid is required by federal law to determine whether students who receive aid are attending each class in which they are enrolled. Instructors are required to report to that office absences of students who have stopped attending and names of those who

have enrolled but never have attended. Students who do not attend classes may be required to repay federal and/or state financial aid.”

Students who receive any form of financial aid should learn all requirements including minimum hours of enrollment and grades to qualify for and retain that aid.

Misconduct

You are bound by the university rules on academic misconduct. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, please ask BEFORE your endeavor.

Policy on Plagiarism and Fabrication/Falsification

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications does not tolerate plagiarism, fabrication of evidence and falsification of evidence. Penalties for plagiarism, fabrication or falsification can include a failing grade for the course and expulsion from the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, please consult the professor of the course. *The following definitions are from Article II, Section 6, of the University Senate Rules and Regulations, revised FY98.*

Plagiarism: Knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the information or ideas are common knowledge.

Fabrication and Falsification: Unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Cheating

Do your own work. In this class, cheating constitutes:

- Taking or accepting quiz answers from another person
- Sharing quiz answers with another person (particularly those not in class)
- Falsely representing another person by doing his/her/their work

Students with Special Needs

The Office of Disability Resources (DR), 22 Strong Hall, 785-864-2620 (V/TTY) , coordinates accommodations and services for KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. Please also contact me privately in regard to this course.

Copying or Recording

Course materials prepared by the instructor, as well as content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the instructor's property. Video and audio recording of lectures without instructor consent is prohibited. On request, the instructor usually will permit students to record lectures, on the condition that these recordings are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless the instructor gives explicit permission, recordings of lectures may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

Gun policy

Individuals who choose to carry concealed handguns are solely responsible to do so in a safe and secure manner in strict conformity with state and federal laws and KU weapons policy. Safety measures outlined in the KU weapons policy specify that a concealed handgun:

- Must be under the constant control of the carrier; *page 11/12*
- Must be out of view, concealed either on the body of the carrier, or backpack, purse, or bag that remains under the carrier's custody and control;
- Must be in a holster that covers the trigger area and secures any external hammer in an uncocked position;
- Must have the safety on, and have no round in the chamber.

Emergencies

The Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success coordinates the University response to campus and individual student emergencies. The Office of the Vice Provost is also the contact when students are involved in a serious incident away from the Lawrence campus. The Office will offer information, counseling, and support to students, their families and others affected by the incident.

To report an extended illness or accident that keeps a student away from class, contact the **Academic Achievement and Access Center** at (785) 864-4064, www.achievement.ku.edu

Content “recycling”

The expectation in this class is that you've come to learn, to be creative, to stretch your imagination and expand your skills. Therefore, all the work you do in this class must be original. That means no “recycling” of your previous interviews, assignments, stories or work from other classes. The Journalism School regards any efforts to recycle material as academic dishonesty.

Some other information to know

Watkins Health Center. KU wants to be healthy while you're here. You can visit Watkins for confidential preventive care or treatment—everything from prescription medicines, to flu shots, to broken bones. Here's the website: <http://studenthealth.ku.edu/> Here's the phone number: 785- 864-9500. Here's the email: health@ku.edu

KU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). CAPS provides confidential counseling services to help you stay mentally health here at school. Here's the website: <https://caps.ku.edu/> Here's the phone number: 785-864-2277.

KU Financial Aid and Scholarships. Here's the website: <http://affordability.ku.edu/> Here's the phone: 785-864-4700. Here's the email: financialaid@ku.edu

Food banks. The Campus Cupboard, operated by the Center for Community Outreach, can help if you need food. You can find the organization on Facebook. Here's the website: <http://www.cco.ku.edu/campus-cupboard-2/> Here's the email: cco@ku.edu. Here's the phone: (785) 864-4073.

Phones, laptops, tablets

There is no objection to electronic study aids, and some students are better typists than hand-writers. But doing puzzles, messing around on Facebook, texting or reading the newspaper in class is unprofessional. So is sleeping, particularly if you snore. Anybody doing any of the above in class will be given one warning and then asked to leave class for the day. If you feel you really cannot get off Instagram or stop texting or shopping for the entire class period, please consider another class.

