

Journalism (JRN)

Course information contained within the Bulletin is accurate at the time of publication in June 2025 but is subject to change. For the most up-to-date course information, please refer to the Course Catalog.

JRN 5005. Communication Law. 3 Credit Hours.

Legal and philosophical study of government regulation of information transmission from 15th century to the present. Emphasis on legal descriptive research methods.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of B- in 20 credits in courses numbered 5000 to 9999.

JRN 5121. Magazine Writing. 3 Credit Hours.

Intended for graduate students who want to write non-fiction for a variety of publications and outlets. It will examine the styles of various writers and publications; development of ideas into saleable magazine articles for major periodical publications.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of B- in JRN 5002.

JRN 5201. The American Magazine. 4 Credit Hours.

Analysis of content, editorial policy and trends in American magazine journalism; discussion of publishing procedures; marketing, circulation, and advertising problems; reader research. Class project: create prototype issue of magazine, with prospectus, advertising, and promotional materials.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of B- in JRN 5001.

JRN 5212. The Entrepreneurial Journalist. 3 Credit Hours.

With traditional news organizations in crisis, there have never been more opportunities for journalists to become entrepreneurs. This course will explore the future of news, from individual bloggers to digital startups, and how journalists can help shape this future.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5213. Solutions Journalism. 3 Credit Hours.

This course introduces students to the practice of solutions-oriented reporting, an outcome-focused form of journalism, and assesses its impact on communities and issues. Students will develop reporting projects on specific solutions-based themes.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5221. Journalism and Mass Communication History. 3 Credit Hours.

Study of the technological and social development of communication systems from ancient to present times with emphasis on historical/descriptive research methods.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of B- in JRN 5001.

JRN 5252. Models of Journalism Around the World. 3 Credit Hours.

This course introduces students to current issues, debates, and practices relating to the dissemination of news in a global context. We will first examine and discuss the key theoretical concepts associated with the creation, distribution, and reception of news in an increasingly global environment, as well as the broader debates surrounding issues of transnational influence. In the second half of the semester, we will take a closer look at the current nature and organization of media systems in various parts of the world through a number of case studies. By the end of the semester students will be familiar with the global context in which news is produced and distributed, and demonstrate a critical understanding of the challenges and concerns facing both American journalists covering international issues and foreign journalists operating in different media environments.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of B- in JRN 5001.

JRN 5301. Introduction to Journalism. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is a bootcamp designed to ensure all incoming students have the skills necessary to dive into the Reporting Lab in the fall semester. It covers news literacy, reporting techniques, production and writing techniques, and Philadelphia history and newsmakers.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5302. Reporting Lab 1. 3 Credit Hours.

This is a coached, multimedia news production class in which graduate students cover urban issues, publishing their work on the lab's news site and developing areas of individual expertise. This work is continued in JRN 5305, Reporting Lab 2.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5303. Journalism Concepts I. 3 Credit Hours.

This weekly seminar gives students an overview of the norms and philosophies that guide journalistic practice, with a particular emphasis on journalism's role in the social, cultural, political and historical fabric of the city. Students will learn about the professional concepts that will guide their work as journalists while also understanding how those concepts have developed over time and contribute to journalism's role in society.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5304. Editing the News. 3 Credit Hours.

Accelerated, in-depth instruction in AP style, copy editing, legal problems of the editor, editorial judgment, accuracy, fairness, clarity, balance in copy, headline writing, fundamentals of page makeup and design, use of photography, tables, graphs, charts and maps.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5305. Reporting Lab 2. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is a continuation of Reporting Lab 1. Students work together to tackle a single, public problem, issue, or topic that the class chooses together, producing a regular stream of news to be published on a collectively owned, multimedia, data-centric class website. Students may hone a chosen specialization through this course by having a particular role in the class project.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of B- in JRN 5302.

JRN 5306. Journalism Concepts II. 3 Credit Hours.

This course prepares students to work in an ethical way as responsible members of their profession and their communities. It covers the ethical aspects of technological and economic change, the main legal issues that journalists face, the challenges of reporting on powerful institutions, and journalists' obligations to their subjects and audiences.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5307. Capstone Reporting Experience. 3 Credit Hours.

In this class, students do their own independent reporting projects, within an area of specialization if appropriate. The goal is to produce a journalistic masterwork (analogous to a thesis) that will lead to professional publication.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5308. Multiplatform Journalism. 3 Credit Hours.

This course focuses on the technical skills needed to produce news reports in multiple media. These skills include photography and photo editing; videography and video editing; and audio recording and editing. Students will become proficient with the necessary equipment and the Adobe Creative Cloud software. This course is a companion to JRN 5302 Urban Reporting Lab 1, which provides foundational reporting and writing skills that students will be expected to employ in this course. The technical skills taught in this course enable students to pursue multimedia journalism across the MJ curriculum.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5602. Documentary Journalism. 3 Credit Hours.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of B- in (JRN 5012 and JRN 5013)

JRN 5730. Seminars in Communication. 3 Credit Hours.

Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5770. Seminars in Communication. 3 Credit Hours.

Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5790. Seminars in Communication. 3 Credit Hours.

Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5800. Seminars in Communication. 3 Credit Hours.

Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5890. Seminars in Communication Abroad. 6 Credit Hours.

Subject matter and location vary each semester. Please consult the Course Schedule for further information.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5982. Directed Projects. 1 to 8 Credit Hour.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5983. Directed Readings Comm. 1 to 4 Credit Hour.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5986. Internship. 1 to 4 Credit Hour.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 9995. Master's Research Project. 3 Credit Hours.

Students complete independent reporting projects within an area of specialization if appropriate. A faculty advisor will oversee weekly meetings among all students to discuss common issues and progress. The goal is to produce a journalistic masterwork (analogous to a thesis) that will be pitched to a professional news organization, creating the foundation for a portfolio of published work. The course is meant as a center for advising and feedback from instructor and peers. While students work independently on a master's project, this course serves as a home base for addressing common questions, concerns and challenges. Students will regularly report progress updates and receive feedback and guidance from the class. The instructor ensures that all students complete the projects in a timely fashion. The master's research project may take many forms. Students should choose a project in consultation with the program director, the instructor of this course, and other advisors as appropriate. Projects must be approved by the program director before beginning work. The master's project may be accomplished using one of the following venues: a longform or otherwise in-depth reporting project; an internship; a study away; an assistantship with Philadelphia Neighborhoods; or a collaboration on a substantial project with third parties, including but not limited to Open Data Philly, Solutions Journalism Network, Philadelphia Media Network, etc. In any case, the goal of the master's research project is to produce a publishable journalistic masterwork. The instructor of this course will work with students choosing study or other work that keeps them away from in-person class meetings to ensure that these students may still participate in giving project updates and providing feedback to peers.

Course Attributes: SI

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.