



Syllabus (2021–Spring)

Course Title	News Reporting and Writing	Course No.	35104
Department/ Major	Division of Communication & Media	Credit/Hours	3
Class Time/ Classroom	Wednesday 12:30 – 15:15 (Posco Hall 161)		
Instructor	Name: Jean Yoon 윤화진	Department: Division of Communication & Media	
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Office Hours/ Office Location	By appointment		

I . Course Overview

1. Course Description

The world of journalism is changing fast, fueled by an explosion of digital platforms and social media channels and a shift in people's preference for how they consume news. This course teaches students the core skills required to report and write news stories, including understanding what makes news, developing story ideas, gathering information, and writing clearly and accurately. It will also offer an inside look at how global news media work — how they hire journalists, pick stories they write, practice journalistic standards and values, and change to meet the appetite of their audience. Classes, taught by a veteran journalist who had worked 24 years for global news provider Reuters in Seoul, London, Singapore, and New York, will equip students with storytelling techniques to succeed as a future journalist or a media professional.

2. Prerequisites

None

3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Experiment/Practicum	Group Activity	Other
30%	30%	20%	15%	5%

4. Course Objectives

- . Build core skills as journalists
- . Understand news threshold and ethics for global news media
- . Learn how to generate and present high-quality story ideas and execute
- . Deeper knowledge of global media industry and the changing journalistic landscape

5. Evaluation System

☐ Relative evaluation ☐ Absolute evaluation ☐ Others : Absolute

– Explanation of evaluation system: There are no exams for this course.

First Story	Breaking News Exercise	Story Pitch	Final Story	Attendance & Participation
20%	20%	10%	30%	20%

* Evaluation of group projects may include peer evaluations.

II . Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

This course will not use a textbook, but a powerpoint presentation will be provided ahead of the class, and the students are expected to come to the class having read the material.

2. Supplementary Materials

Recommended reading and weblinks

Weblinks of major media companies including NYT, Reuters, BBC, AP, WSJ etc

“The 21st century Journalism Handbook” by Holmes, Hadwin and Mottershead

“The Elements of Journalism” by Kovach and Rosenstiel

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Policies

- . Academic integrity is required at all times for all assignments.
- . All work submitted must be your own. Any type of violation including plagiarized assignments will be severely penalized.
- . Students are responsible for attending all classes and doing so on time. Missing a class without an excused absence, or entering classes late, will result in a reduction in your final grade.
- . All news stories written for class should be in Word, 12-point Times New Roman type and double spaced with 1-inch margins.
- . We will follow the school guidelines and discuss at the start of the semester whether to hold classes on- or offline during the Covid-19 pandemic. Making this type of a class that relies heavily on discussion and participation into a mix of on- and offline has proven ineffective and to hurt the quality of learning. If the majority of the students feel it is unsafe to have the lecture at school due to the Covid situation, we will hold the classes online. Once the situation improves and the majority feels it's safe to return, we will hold the class in person. I believe this to be the most effective way to teach and learn under the current circumstances.
- . While the class is held online, video participation is mandatory.

IV. Course Schedule (15 credit hours must be completed.)

Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Week 1	3/3	Introduction . The course aim and what's expected . Introducing the News of the Day . Qualities of a good reporter . Guiding principles . Working as a journalist for global news media
Week 2	3/10	What makes news? . News judgment . Where do we get news . How to come up with a story idea
Week 3	3/17	Reporting and Writing I. Presenting news . Differentiate between opinion and factual reportage . Article styles



Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Hard v. Soft news II. Story structure . The shape of a news story . Lead . Nut graphs . Quotes . Good writing tips . Write lead and story exercise
Week 4	3/24	Continued
Week 5	3/31	Continued ** Writing lead and story exercise – 20% of overall evaluation
Week 6	4/7	Global Media Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Accuracy . Freedom from bias . Independence . Integrity . Minimize harm . How news organizations deal with complaints
Week 7	4/14	Sources and Interviewing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. News Sources . How to build your source network . Who would make good sources . What are the tricks II. Interviewing . What are core interview skills . What makes good questions . Discuss real-life examples



Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Week 8	4/21	Breaking News . What is breaking news . How to handle fast, breaking news with what you've got . Try reporting and writing a breaking news story ** Breaking News exercise in teams – 20% How to make a story pitch . Why can't journalists just write what they want?
	4/28	. Key ingredients . Pitching – group exercise . Making a pitch for your final story
Week 10	5/5	Public holiday: 1–1 meetings on pitches
Week 11	5/12	Pitching a story . Making a pitch for your final story (cont.) . Take feedback, revise
	5/26	** Story pitch – 10% Multimedia skills . Taking news pictures and video on your smartphone
Week 13	6/2	Continued
Week 14	6/9	Final presentation . Presenting your final story . Feedback, discuss
		** Final story – 30%
Week 15	6/16	Continued
Makeup Class	5/5	Replaced by 1–1 meetings during that week



Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Makeup Class	5/19	Replaced by final presentation on 6/16

V. Special Accommodations

* According to the University regulation section #57-3, students with disabilities can request for special accommodations related to attendance, lectures, assignments, or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of semester. Based on the nature of the students' request, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Please refer to the below examples of the types of support available in the lectures, assignments, and evaluations.

Lecture	Assignments	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Visual impairment : braille, enlarged reading materials . Hearing impairment : note-taking assistant . Physical impairment : access to classroom, note-taking assistant 	Extra days for submission, alternative assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Visual impairment : braille examination paper, examination with voice support, longer examination hours, note-taking assistant . Hearing impairment : written examination instead of oral . Physical impairment : longer examination hours, note-taking assistant

– Actual support may vary depending on the course.

* The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.