



## **COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION COURSE PLAN**

### **I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

Title and Module Number: Fundamentals of Journalism (JoCo-M2020)

Title and Course Number: Introduction to Journalism (JoCo2021)

Credit Hours: 3 Cr. Hrs. / 5 ECTS

Minimum Number of Semester Hours: 48

### **II. INSTRUCTOR**

Engdawork Tadesse

Telephone: 0913248406

Office Hours: 3-5 a.m. T, TH or by appt.

E-mail: [engdatf@gmail.com](mailto:engdatf@gmail.com)

### **III. ABOUT THE COURSE**

This course introduces to the would-be professional journalists and journalism educators, the field of journalism and its basic essence. It addresses the basic historical development of journalism from its early stage of the penny press, Yellow Journalism to the present. It also acquaints students with definition, type, ethics and theories regarding journalism.

### **IV. STUDENTS LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize the historical events of journalism
- Define journalism, identify its type and explain its theories
- Outline the significance of journalism
- Recognize the ethical aspects of journalism
- Realize the socio-economic and political significance of journalism

## V. REQUIRED TEXTS

- Birihanu Olana Dirbaba. (2009). Journalism in the context of Ethiopian mass media: essays, researches and reflections. Addis Ababa: n. p.
- Brooks, Brian S. (2007). Telling the story: the convergence of print , broadcast and online media. Boston: Bedford /St Martins.
- Cappon , Rene J.(2000).The associated press guide to news writing: the resource for professional journalists(3rd ed.). Lawrenceville: Peterson's.
- Clyton, J. (1992). Journalism for beginners. London: Judy Piatkus Publishers
- Dominick, Joseph R. (2005).The dynamics of mass communication: media in the digital age (8th ed.). Boston: Phillip .Butcher.
- Ibbotson, T. & Rudin, R. (2002). An introduction to journalism: essential techniques and background knowledge. London: Focal Press. Call No- 070.4.RUD.2002
- Kovach. 2001. Elements of journalism: what newspaper should know & the public should expect. Three Rivers
- McQuail, D. (2000). Mass communication theory. 4th ed. London: Sage Publications.
- Peterson, T. et al. Four theories of the press. University of Illinois

## VI. ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION AND ASSIGNMENT

You are expected to attend all classes. 1 point will be deducted from your final average for each unexcused absence. Verifiable and legitimate absences in which I am notified ahead of time will not result in lost points. You are responsible for all worked missed as well as handing in any assignments due. You are expected to participate in class discussions and activities. A portion of your final grade reflects participation. You will be expected to have read assigned material prior to class. All assignments are due at the beginning of class assigned. No assignments are accepted late.

## VII. ACADEMIC HONESTY

As the University Legislation states, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Examples are given in the department. Any instance will result in a zero grade for that assignment. A second occurrence will result in a failing grade for the course and possible expulsion from the University.

## VIII. MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Lecture; Discussion; Small Group Work; Case Studies

## IX. GRADING

No.	Assessments	Topics to be Assessed	Values
1	Tests-2	Chapter 1, 2 and 3	25%
2	Final Exam	Chapter 4 and 5	50%
3	Participation and Attendance		5%
4	Assignments-1 and 2		20%
Total			100%

Final grades will be based on your composite average.

No.	Grade	Range	No.	Grade	Range
1	A+	[90,100)	7	C+	[60,65)
2	A	[85,90)	8	C	[50,60)
3	A-	[80,85)	9	C-	[45,50)
4	B+	[75,80)	10	D	[40,45)
5	B	[70,75)	11	Fx	[30,40)
6	B-	[65,70)	12	F	[<30)

## X. COURSE CONTENTS

### Chapter One: Historical overview of Journalism

The emergence of writing; the printing press; history of newspaper; the Penny press; history of magazine journalism; Radio; Television and the Web

### Chapter Two: Basics of Journalism and Mass communication

What is Journalism? Qualities of Good Journalism; Principles of Journalism; Influences of Journalism; Functions of Journalism; Principles or Elements of Journalism; Types of Journalism; what is news?; News elements and principles; ways of gathering news information;

### **Chapter Three: Historical overview of Journalism**

History of Communication; History of the Print Media-newspaper; The History of Magazine; Radio; Television; New Media;

### **Chapter Four: Theories of the Press**

The Characteristics of the Media; The Functions of the Media; The Sources of Political Power of the Media; The Nature of Political Power of the Media- Theories of the press- authoritarian, libertarian, social responsibility, communist, development theory, democratic-participant

### **Chapter Five: Ethical and Legal Issues of Journalism**

Ethics: Meaning and concept; Need for Ethics and Accountability; Some Legal issues in Journalism- Defamation, Contempt, Privacy

XI. REFERENCES- Any journalism and communication reference books in the library