## Science Communication 201D. Policy and Investigative Reporting

This class focuses on in-depth and investigative reporting, where science and technology meets public policy and society. We will cover essential skills of investigative reporting, including obtaining documents through Public Records Act requests, using online reporting resources, computer-assisted reporting, and ethical and legal issues. After 10 weeks, students will complete an article of ~2000 words, concentrating on an issue of societal/political importance.

**Instructors:**
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**Peter's WEEK 1a: INTRODUCTION: USING DATA IN JOURNALISM**
**Tuesday, March 29, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** An introduction to data-driven journalism, with examples;
Basic online resources for science reporters: Getting the most out of databases of scientific literature, patents, grants, clinical trials etc.
**Assignment:** Select example of a published investigative report on a science, environment, medicine or technology-related topic. These will be shared for discussion in Week 2.
**Due: Saturday April 2, 2016 at 8pm**

**Peter's WEEK 1b: INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS**
**Thursday, March 31, 2016 – starting 7.30am**
Five students assigned to Peter meet to discuss project idea and how to go about executing.

**Martha's assignment:** Read/watch **http://www.ap.org/explore/seafood-from-slaves/**
**Due: Tuesday April 5, 2016 at 8 am**

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**Martha's WEEK 2a: INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS**
**Mon-Weds, April 4-6, 2016 Time flexible**

**Discussion:** Five students assigned to Martha meet to discuss project idea and how to go about executing. These need to be arranged outside of class time via email with Martha.

**Martha's WEEK 2b: HOW THE SAUSAGE IS MADE**
**Tuesday, April 5, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** How to write a reporting plan and turn it into action: This lesson uses real life examples to demo how to write a plan and execute it, revising as you go.
**Assignment:** Write a Reporting Plan: Identify topics for investigative report, including key questions to address, potential sources of information, and initial "to do" reporting agenda including any travel.
**Due: Friday April 8 at 8pm (to Peter AND Martha).** *Note: By this point, either Peter or Martha will have become your primary editor for your class project.*

**Peter's WEEK 2: INVESTIGATIVE APPROACHES**
**Thursday, April 7, 2016 – 8am**
**Discussion:** Discuss examples of investigative reports selected by students, studying methods employed.

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**Martha's WEEK 3: SOURCES, SOURCES AND SOURCES**
**Tuesday, April 12, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Click, click, click our way from home pages to data and resources to find revealing data, statistics and trends that will add important context and stories about **Food & Ag, Environment, Energy, Oil, Gas & Transportation**, for class projects and beyond.
**Assignment:** Finish in-class worksheet
**Due: Wednesday, April 13 at 8 pm.**

**Peter's WEEK 3: ACQUIRING AND CLEANING DATA**
**Thursday, April 14, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Tips, tricks and tools for pulling unruly data down from the web: extracting data from web tables, automating bulk downloads of multiple files, and web scraping – without having to write any code. We'll then use Open Refine to clean and process data – and learn how to save the steps so in future it can be done with one click!
**Assignment:** Reporting on class project, file progress report
**Due: Saturday, April 16 at 8pm (to Peter and Martha)**

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**Martha's WEEK 4: SOURCES, SOURCES AND SOURCES (PART 2)**
**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Click, click, click our way from home pages to data and resources to find revealing data, statistics and trends that will add important context and stories about **Health & Medicine, Law Enforcement & Courts** for class projects and beyond.
**Assignment:** Finish in-class worksheet

**Due: Wednesday, April 20 8 p.m.**

**Peter's WEEK 4: INTERVIEWING DATA: DATABASES AND SQL**
**Thursday, April 21, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Beyond the spreadsheet: Using databases and structured query language (SQL) to interrogate data and find the story.
**Assignment:** Reporting on class project, file progress report
**Due: Saturday, April 23 at 8pm (to Peter and Martha)**

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**Martha's WEEK 5: GOVERNMENT CENTER SCAVENGER HUNT**
**Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** At the Santa Cruz Government Center, learn to look at property records, criminal records, environmental health records, board of supervisor dockets and courts.
**Assignment:** Public records vetting worksheet.
**Due**: **By end of today's class**.

**Peter's WEEK 5: FINDING AND TELLING THE STORY BY VISUALIZING DATA**
**Thursday, April 28, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Data visualization in reporting and storytelling. After a discussion of basic principles, we will put them into practice using Tableau Public.
**Assignment:** Prepare initial draft of investigative report
**Due: Saturday, May 1 at 8pm (file to Peter and Martha)**

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**Martha's WEEK 6: FOLLOWING THE MONEY AND GOODS**
**Tuesday, May 3, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Financial disclosures, conflict of interest disclosures, campaign contributions, import/export data and other online reporting resources.
**Assignment:** Finish in-class worksheet
**Due: Wednesday, May 4 at 8 p.m.**

**Peter's WEEK 6: BACKGROUNDING NON-PROFITS, COMPANIES, PEOPLE**
**Thursday, May 5, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Guidestar and CitizenAudit.org for researching non-profits; SEC filings and other tools for researching companies, and more.
**Assignment:** File revised draft of investigative report for discussion with Ben Welsh
**Due: Saturday, May 8 at 8pm (file to Peter and Martha)**

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**Peter's WEEK 7: GUEST LECTURER BEN WELSH, LOS ANGELES TIMES**
**DATA DESK EDITOR**
**Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – 8 am**

**8-10am:** Ben will talk about how the LA Times integrates data journalism into the newsroom
**12 noon–1 pm:** lunch with Ben and Peter
**IMPORTANT: Ben will also meet with each student individually, to discuss their projects, Monday and Tuesday pm**

**Martha's WEEK 7: WRITING WORKSHOP**
**Thursday, May 12, 2016 – 8am**
**Discussion:** As we improve our class projects, we will have a workshop on writing. Sturdy walking shoes a must.
**Assignment:** Reporting on class project, file progress report and plan incorporating feedback from Ben Welsh
**Due: Saturday, May 14 at 8pm (to Peter and Martha)**

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**Martha's WEEK 8: INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS**
**Tuesday, May 17, 2016 – starting 7.30am**

**Peter's WEEK 8: INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS**
**Thursday, May 19, 2016 – starting 7.30am**

**Discussion:** After initial edits and Ben's feedback, a catch-up to make sure everything is on track to deliver the best article possible!
**Assignment:** Reporting and writing on class project. While we will not assign a required deadline for an additional draft, we strongly suggest filing a revision for additional edits before the final deadline!

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**Martha's WEEK 9: KEEPING IT LEGAL**
**Tuesday, May 24, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Guest lecturer provides a lesson on defamation, libel and other pitfalls to avoid in journalism.

**Peter's WEEK 9: PRIVACY, SECURITY, AND E-SLEUTHING**
**Thursday, May 26, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Who sent that email? Who runs this website? Also: The tracks you leave, and how to cover them, if necessary. Setting up encryption, to protect yourself, and your sources, from prying eyes.

**Assignment:** Finalize investigative report.
**Due: June 2 at 8pm (file to Peter and Martha)**

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**Martha's WEEK 10: NEXT STEPS**

**Tuesday, May 31, 2016 – 8am**

**Lesson:** Take practice journalism job tests, look at good job hunting websites and have a highly competitive AP style competition complete with prizes.

**Peter's WEEK 10: MISCONDUCT AND ETHICS IN SCIENCE AND JOURNALISM**
**Thursday, June 2, 2016 – 8am**
**Lesson:** Reporting on scientific misconduct and research ethics.
**Class exercise:** Case studies in journalistic ethics. What would you have done?


**Assignment: Go forth and communicate science!**