Intro

* Sections of news
  + local
  + national
  + world
  + weather
  + technology
  + entertainment
  + sports
  + politics
  + business
  + editorials
  + culture
  + finance
  + Education
* Beat: the subject that a journalist is specializing in
* Masthead: list of 3rd person intro to the journalists in the organization, organized by beat
* Freedom of the press is intended by the Constitution to allow the public to check government corruption
* The Free Press is like the 4th branch of government
* Integrity
  + Objective facts
    - Journalism is never 100% objective
  + Authenticate information
    - Creditable organization are good on this
  + separation of ethics from morals
    - Ethics: External rules/guiding principles. Like removing opinions
    - Morals: personal guiding principles. Can be biased
  + Facts: indisputable reality
  + Truth: interpretation of facts, can be biased
  + “Real” and “fake” news is a fake dichotomy. It’s about the degree of bias present. A certain amount of bias is acceptable because it’s inevitable. Too much bias makes it unreliable
  + Organizational bias: Comes from the organization the journalist is a part of (ownership, funding, business demands, etc)
    - Story selection: selecting which stories to publish
    - Placement: selecting where to place certain stories
  + Individual bias: comes from the journalist. individual bias often aligns with organizational bias and is often attempted to be suppressed
    - Spin: the angle the journalist reports from
    - Wording: word choice that demonstrates biases
    - Selection of sources: sources contain biases too
    - Labeling: bias in how a subject is introduced
    - Omission: to remove certain details

Media Studies

* Implicit bias
  + A person’s unconscious mental associations
  + Can be the opposite of the person’s conscious ideologies
  + Cannot be escaped by any humans; it’s part of normal brain function since association patterns are important for survival
  + Learned through life experiences
    - Media, education, environment of upbringing
  + Unaware of how it shapes our choices
  + Needs to repeatedly actively relearn throughout life to mitigate its influence
  + A person is not a bigot unless problematic mental associations are done on an intentional, conscious level
  + Discriminatory bias: negative association
  + Affinity bias: positive association
  + In order for society to improve on not letting implicit bias cause harm, everyone needs to first acknowledge that it’s human nature to have a bias. This can be made easier to do if we remove the stigma surrounding biases. Removing stigma could be made easier if prominent members of society start non-discriminatory discussions about bias
* Media
  + A medium that delivers information
  + News media: based on current events
  + Social media: based on personal circles
  + Entertainment media: based on a narrative
    - movies/tv/videos
    - Magazines
    - Music
    - podcast/radio
  + Single story: media tends to portray conventional stereotypes, leading to harmful misassociations of things
  + Historically, during the European Age of Exploration, much of the travelers exaggerated in the stories of their travels, leading to unfair stereotypes
    - Not many people got to travel, so everyone just took their words as fact
    - Stories of Africa were portrayed very negatively, which was the spark of anti-African racism as we know it
    - Post-Colonial Era, people started pushing against such narratives, but such narratives are still hidden in modern literature

News Types

* Hard news: strictly facts
  + Pro: less bias
  + Con: lacking analysis and interpretation. (think: what do I do with this info)
* Editorial news: an interpreted version of hard news
  + Pro: analysis and interpretation
  + Con: contains bias
  + Vet to ensure info is fact-based
  + Clear about who’s writing and who’s interests are represented.
  + The discourse of opinions is essential to democracy
  + Entertainment editorial: punditry, talk radio, comedy: problematic, as it creates a culture of which opinion gets screamed the loudest
  + Editorial: Typically shows the interests of the newspaper
  + Op-Ed columns: Positions are of the individual and can disagree with newspaper’s positions.
  + Op-ed contributions: can be written by anyone
* Travel journalism
  + Travel writing: through the lens of tourism. First-person narrative to convey experiences through sensory details, encourage others to travel, support others’ planning. For tourists: those seeking enjoyment
  + Travel journalism: tourist experiences within a larger social, cultural, historical context. Advice on what to see, and contextualize them. For travelers: those seeking immersion to societies