

JOUR 310: Advanced Reporting

SPRING 2022

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Sect. 1: 8:30-9:45am, GUA 1125

Sect. 2: 11:30am-12:45pm, GUA 1126

Course Overview

Advanced Reporting (JOUR 310) provides training and practice in gathering and writing news, focusing on feature writing. You must meet admission requirements to enroll in this course. (Please see an advisor if you have questions.) For specific outcomes expected in this class, you should review the individual assignments developed for this particular semester. Along with multi-media, Web-based material you will produce to accompany your feature stories, we will pay special attention to developing your skills in interviewing, reporting, developing content, and following style conventions.

- You will interview several sources to provide depth and a range of perspectives in your stories.
- You will quote appropriate sources, weaving direct quotes and paraphrases throughout your stories with correct attribution.
- You will adhere to journalistic style and write clearly and accurately.
- Your stories will have publishable merit, and your topics will be appropriate for the assigned length.

While you will work with your instructor and fellow students on editing your stories, you must have a command of basic newswriting skills before entering this class to succeed. If at the beginning of the semester you cannot demonstrate familiarity with correct sentence construction and rules of grammar, you will be encouraged to seek success elsewhere.

Recommended Textbook

Mark Hanebutt, [*The Journalist's Primer: A No-Nonsense Guide to Getting and Reporting the News*](#), 2nd edition, Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt, 2019.

See the Schedule for chapters that correspond with materials discussed each week.

*You will find chapters **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 14** particularly useful this semester.*

Course Structure

This course spans 15 weeks. Spring 2022 is scheduled to meet in the classroom; however, depending on the course of the semester, we may need to adjust modes of delivery. Lectures will reference materials posted on Canvas, along with readings from your textbook. Please refer to the schedule at the end of this document for further information and specificity.

Assessments

Your final grade will be composed of the following items, which are all tied directly to the development of two self-published stories due at the end of the semester—see, also, the Schedule for the corresponding due dates on each of these items.

- Summaries (nut graphs): **10 points** (Canvas discussion)
- Background research: **10 points** (Canvas discussion)
- Interview Sources and Questions: **10 points** (Canvas discussion)
- Interview notes: **15 points** (Canvas upload)
- Stories: **25 points** (Canvas upload)
- Social Media: **5 points** (tweets)
- Final projects: **25 points** (emailed links)

We will discuss the components of each item listed above before they are due, and you will receive instructions both in writing and in virtual lecture presentations.

Combined Scores

Grade	Percentage
A	93 to 100
A-	90 to 92.4
B+	87 to 89.4
B	83 to 86.4
B-	80 to 82.4
C+	77 to 79.4
C	73 to 76.4
C-	70 to 72.4
D+	67 to 69.4
D	63 to 66.4
D-	60 to 62.4
F	below 59.4

About grades: To earn an “A” in this semester, you need to produce exceptional work; **plus, you should make a positive contribution to class.** Although I cannot assign a score for your attitude, participation indirectly affects your success and ultimately your grade.

Policies

Public Health Directives

Face coverings are currently mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements), <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Student Conduct Code](#),

https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf, including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves

with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student or employee violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright) is available at <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their instructors.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars), <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Identity Verification in Online Courses

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy>, which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy), <https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy>, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian) website, <https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also [ask the library staff](https://ask.library.unlv.edu/) questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

Missed Classwork

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Classwork policy, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=) webpage, <https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=>.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student submits official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director,

College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), <https://www.unlv.edu/asc>, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/), <https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(subject to revision at instructor's discretion)

WEEK 1

Tuesday, Jan. 18: First day of class, W/W/W/W/W/H, "so what?"

Thursday, Jan. 20: Class intros; Syllabus; Questions? Walk through online materials.

Read: *The Journalist's Primer*, read Chs. 3, 4, and 5.

WEEK 2

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Leads (lecture/exercises).

Thursday, Jan. 27: Structure (lecture/exercises).

Homework: Review the assignment materials for the semester.

Read: Ch. 7, “Writing the News for Print,” and Ch. 11, “Feature Writing.”

WEEK 3

Tuesday, Feb. 1: Interviews, pt. 1.

Thursday, Feb. 3: Interviews, pt. 2.

Read: Ch. 6, “Interviewing.”

WEEK 4

Tuesday, Feb. 8: **Summaries** (Nut Graphs) due in Canvas discussion (**10 points**).

Thursday, Feb. 10: Discuss story ideas.

Homework: Have an active blog site for posting your stories. Choose your own blog site to host your stories, and please just pick one with which you are most comfortable (WordPress, Blogger, Medium, Weebly, Wix, etc.).

WEEK 5

Tuesday, Feb. 15: Blog checks.

Thursday, Feb. 17: Visit from editor(s). Develop background research; see instructions for the notes on background research you will post next week.

WEEK 6

Tuesday, Feb. 22: **Background Research** due in Canvas discussion (**10 points**).

Thursday, Feb. 24: Review background sources, address questions.

Monday, Feb. 21, 2022: Presidents’ Day recess

WEEK 7

Tuesday, March 1: **Interview Sources and Questions** due in Canvas discussion (**10 points**). Make sure all of your interviews—at least four—have been completed.

Thursday, March 3: Discuss Interviews.

Read: Ch. 10, “Photographing the News.”

Note: Take pictures during interviews.

WEEK 8

Tuesday, March 8: Guest Speaker?

Thursday, March 10: Work on your stories. Conduct follow up interviews and prepare final drafts for submission.

SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 14, 2022: Spring break recess begins. Classes will not be held this week.

WEEK 9

Tuesday, March 22: Sample stories; recap (again) instructions for self-publishing.

Thursday, March 24: Blog checks.

WEEK 10

Tuesday, March 29: Check notes

Thursday, March 31: **Interview Notes** due as Canvas uploads **(15 points)**.

WEEK 11

Tuesday, April 5: Assign editing partners.

Thursday, April 7: In-class editing; edit with a classmate.

Read: Ch. 14, "Editing."

WEEK 12

Tuesday, April 12: Your two **Stories** are due **(25 points)**. Please make sure you follow the instructions for formatting and presentation.

Thursday, April 14: Initial edits.

WEEK 13

Tuesday, April 19: Debriefing on stories.

Thursday, April 21: Re-assign editing partners; Recap instructions for self-publishing.

Read: Ch. 9, "Writing the News for the Web."

WEEK 14

Tuesday, April 26: Social Media; Tweet about your stories **(5 points)**.

Thursday, April 28: Retweet your classmates.

STUDY WEEK

Tuesday, May 3: TBA

Thursday, May 5: TBA

FINALS WEEK

Monday, May 9: Final Projects due. You will email <gregory.borchard@unlv.edu> two individual links to your final, published blog materials **(25 points)**. **Note:** You are welcome to submit these links any time before deadline. I will evaluate your stories using the criteria spelled out in the instructions and post your score and final grade on Canvas.