

JO 150
**History & Principles
of
Journalism**

Prof. Chris Daly
Boston University // Fall 2020

Contacts

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Required Readings

1. *Covering America*, 2d ed., by Chris Daly.
ISBN-13: 978-1558499119
2. *The Elements of Journalism*. By Bill Kovach and Tom Rosensteil.
ISBN-13: 978-0307346704
3. *Muckraking!* By Judith and William Serrin.
ISBN-13: 978-1565846814
4. **Blackboard** site. This site contains key documents as well as study guides, announcements, links, and other materials. Use it.

Recommended reading:

CNN Money/ **Media**

Columbia Journalism Review (daily newsletter)

Taking their Place, (2nd Ed.), by Maurine Beasley and Sheila Gibbons

ISBN-13: 978-1879383104

Getting it Wrong, by W. Joseph Campbell.

ISBN-13: 978-0520262096

Website: <http://journalismprofessor.com>

Objectives

We will explore the major issues and themes in the history of journalism in America. The course will trace substantial changes in the practice of journalism and the key instances in which the practice of journalism brought change to America. You will learn the most important eras in journalism history and the prevailing business model in each. You will also

learn the most important definitions of news across eras and across various media. The course will also investigate the major legal and ethical doctrines of journalism. It's a great story!

HUB Learning Outcomes

This course will enable you to develop a set of skills and habits of mind that derive from serious study of history and journalism, including:

- appreciation for how a historical perspective can enrich understanding of contemporary problems;
- the ability to analyze the value and limitations of various sources as evidence, including “primary” and “secondary” sources;
- a capacity to weigh multiple perspectives and evaluate the merits of competing interpretations,
- proficiency in constructing persuasive and evidence-based arguments in a written format.

This course will meet [BU Hub Learning Outcomes](#) for Historical Consciousness.

In particular, you will:

-- complete a series of essay tests that will ask you to **make historical arguments about change over time**. Lectures and readings will model these skills, and class discussions will also ask students to think in these ways.

-- **encounter historical documents** (laws, patent applications, maps, artwork), place them in historical context, and explain their significance.

Other Outcomes

For students majoring in Journalism, this course fulfills a requirement and advances you toward your degree. It also prepares students for JO350 Media Law & Ethics, which is also required of majors.

Educational strategy

In this course, you will be expected to do the readings according to the weekly schedule provided below. That way, we can use class time for exploring concepts like censorship or “technological determinism,” hold discussions, and answer your questions.

How to succeed in this course

- Come to class.
- Keep current on the readings
- Attend review sessions
- Participate in class
- Come to office hours

Tests and Assignments

You will be assigned to a Teaching Assistant by alphabet. If you have routine questions, please e-mail your TA. If your TA cannot help, then you should contact the professor.

There will be four tests. Tests cover readings, lectures, guest lectures, and videos. Each test will also include a section that will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of current affairs. A missed test scores zero. It is almost impossible to pass this course if you miss a

test. So, you should plan to be present for each one, **especially the final**. In case of illness or other emergency, you must contact your TA beforehand to arrange a make-up. You may take only one make-up over the course of the semester.

25% Test 1
25% Test 2
25% Test 3
<u>25% Final exam</u>
100%

Students are encouraged to write a paper, which will be counted as a fifth grade; it is NOT “extra credit.” The paper is a 6- to 8-page analysis of a topic in journalism history, based on additional research into primary sources. This is not a “thumb-sucker.” All topics must be approved in advance and developed in consultation with the professor. The deadline for papers is one week before the last class. Students may not submit a paper that is substantially the same as work submitted in another class. For details, consult the Blackboard site.

If you write a paper, it will count 20%, and other scores will be adjusted accordingly. Test scores are not “curved.” Tests are graded by the TAs. Papers are graded by the professor. If you have questions, contact Prof. Daly.

Boston University’s Percentage-based Grade Scale (%)

A: 93 - 100
A-: 90 - 92.99
B+: 87 - 89.99
B: 83 - 86.99
B-: 80 - 82.99
C+: 77 - 79.99
C: 73 - 76.99
C-: 70 - 72.99
D: 60 - 69.99
F: 0 - 59.99

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. (It is also educational!) If you are unable to attend a lecture, there is no need to e-mail the TA or the professor. Return to class as soon as you are able, and ask another student for notes on the class you missed.

Classroom issues

During class, **no laptops or other electronic devices will be allowed**. Close the lid, and put it away. Instead, take notes by hand. Experience shows that taking notes by hand improves your ability to concentrate. It also forces you to synthesize material and make judgments about what is really important. Most matters of fact are contained in the readings, or they can

be readily found online. What makes class time special is the opportunity to think, question, and synthesize. Take advantage.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of another's work as your own, even by mistake. It is an abomination and will not be tolerated. In journalism, truth and candor are the bedrock of our work. Plagiarism will result in failing this course and possible further penalties. Never do it, and never tolerate it in others.

If you are in doubt, consult the professor.

BE SURE TO READ AND COMPLY WITH B.U.'s UNIVERSAL ACADEMIC CONDUCT CODE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS. It is here:

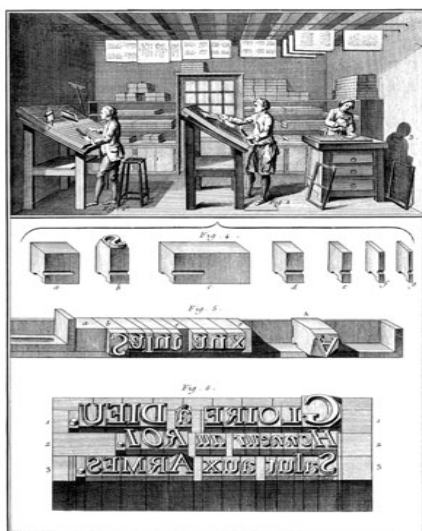
<http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

Recordings

“Please note that classroom proceedings for this course may be recorded for purposes including, but not limited to, student illness, religious holidays, disability accommodations, or student course review. Note also that you may not use a recording device in the classroom except with the instructor's permission.”

Your instructor:

Chris Daly is a veteran journalist with experience in wire services, newspapers, magazines, books and on-line. A Harvard graduate, he spent 10 years at The Associated Press. From 1989 to 1997, he covered New England for *The Washington Post*. He is the author of a narrative history of the U.S. news business titled *Covering America*. He holds a master's degree in history from the University of North Carolina, where he was a co-author of *Like a Family*, a social history of the South's industrialization. His writing has appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Parents*, *New England Monthly*, *Boston*, *American Prospect* and other magazines and websites. He contributes free-lance articles and essays to newspapers and magazines, and he blogs at www.journalismprofessor.com.



Imprimerie en Lettres, l'opération de la casse.

COURSE SCHEDULE:**Part one: 1704-1865**

Readings: (do these before the start of week 2)

Covering America, chaps 1, 2, 3.
***Muckraking!*: (Check Blackboard Learn website)**

Week 1

Sept. 3

--Introduction/ Colonial period
 --Ben Franklin, printer

Week 2

Sept. 8, 10

--Independence/First Amendment
 --The partisan press (1790-1830)

Readings: (do these before the start of week 3)

Covering America, chap 4.
***Muckraking!*: (Check Blackboard Learn website)**

Week 3

Sept. 15, 17

--1830s (the “Penny Press”)
 --1840s (the telegraph, the AP, Margaret Fuller)
 --Antebellum journalism: polarization and politics.

Week 4

Sept. 22

--Civil War journalism
 VIDEO: Excerpt from “The Civil War”

TEST #1 Sept. 24

Part two: 1866-1918

Readings: do these by the start of Week 5

Covering America. Chaps. 4, 5
Muckraking! (details at Blackboard)
 Schudson, "The Objectivity Norm," Blackboard site.

Week 5

Sept. 29, Oct. 1

--**Pulitzer and Yellow Journalism**
 VIDEO: Excerpt, "Nellie Bly"
 --**William Randolph Hearst**
 VIDEO: Excerpt, "Citizen Kane"

Readings: do these by the start of Week 6

Covering America: chap 6
Muckraking! (details at Blackboard site)

Week 6

Oct. 6, 8

--**Muckraking / The Great Gray Lady** (The *NYTimes*)
 --**Origins of photojournalism**

Week 7

Oct. 15

[No class on Tues, Oct. 13/ Monday classes meet]

--**The Great War (and censorship)**

Week 8

TEST #2 Oct. 20

Part three: 1920-1963

Readings: (do these by the start of week 9)

Covering America. Chaps. 7, 8
Muckraking! (details at Blackboard site)

Week 8

Oct. 22

--The origins of radio

VIDEO: "Empire of the Air"

--The development and regulation of broadcasting.

Week 9

Oct 27, 29

--Magazine journalism: Henry Luce and Harold Ross

The great columnists: Winchell, Lippmann, Thompson

Readings: (do these by the start of week 10)

Covering America, chaps 9, 10
Muckraking! (details at Blackboard site)

Week 10

Nov. 3, 5

--World War II (censorship again)

--Covering civil rights

--VIDEO: "Dateline Freedom"

Week 11

--The birth of television news

Nov. 10

TEST #3 Nov. 12



Part four: 1963-2017

Readings: (do these by the start of week 13)

Covering America, chaps. 11, 12,
Elements of Journalism (all)
Muckraking! (details at Blackboard site)

Week 12

Nov. 17, 19

--Vietnam and the “credibility gap”

--VIDEO: Excerpt, “Reporting America at War”

--The Pentagon Papers

--VIDEO: Excerpt, “The Post”

Week 13

Nov. 24

--Watergate and the 1980s (CNN, *USA Today*)

--VIDEO: Excerpt, “All the President’s Men”

Thanksgiving break

No class on Nov. 26

Readings: (do these by the start of week 14)

Covering America, chaps. 13, 14
Elements of Journalism (all)
Muckraking! (details at Blackboard site)

Week 14

Dec. 1, 3

- Media conglomeration/ Law and ethics/ 1980s and '90s
- News goes digital – from legacy to natives.
- Journalism as a “discipline of verification.”
 - VIDEO: Excerpt, “The Paper.”

Week 15

Dec. 8, 10

- The Platform Revolution in news.
- Media Wars: The weaponization of information

**FINAL EXAM
TBD**