REVISED REVISED FUTURE OF JOURNALISM – J 419 Special Tops/MCMA 555 004 Topical Seminars – Nov. 3- end of class

Tuesdays/Thursday – 12:35p.m.- 1:50 p.m. – Rm. 1250

Fidler/Freivogel

Truth is, no one is sure what the future hold for journalism. Journalism’s face today bears little resemblance to that of a decade ago. Ten years ago, people didn’t have cell phones with cameras ready to record almost everything – political candidates making ill-considered but candid comments to donors, police shooting black suspects, police behavior at protest demonstrations. Citizen journalism was coming alive along with this new technology. Facebook and Twitter began to take over as the main source of news and information. Newsrooms of metropolitan newspapers lost a third or more of their reporters and photographers. Buzzfeed, Huffington Post, Reddit were born.

Fidler and Freivogel don’t have crystal balls, but will try to get you as prepared as possible for this new future. Every Tuesday, we’ll talk about the impact of new media on news events – like the shooting of Michael Brown and the coverage of the presidential campaign. We’ll also talk about the changes in the ethics and law of new journalism. Then, on Thursdays, we’ll work on computer assisted reporting techniques. Fidler will lead that part of the course. The goal of this CAR portion of the class is to teach you to be adept enough that you can remember how to use CAR techniques after the class ends. And we want to create publishable stories – most aimed for publication in the DE.

The only text for the course is the NICAR booklet, which you can order at the website below for $20.

http://store.ire.org/products/nicar-courses-bill-freivogels-future-of-journalism-class

Everyone needs to use the same version of Excel for the court. This means you will need to use the lab Macs, not your personal laptops.

Below are the readings, most of which are online. (Some of the readings and videos are also used in my media literacy class, so don’t be confused by references to that class.) I’ve only listed the readings for the Tuesday classes because Thursday classes will be devoted to the CAR stories. (There is a week when these days are switched. The lecture/discussion class will be Sept. 17 instead of 15.)

Grades will be 50 percent from the lecture/discussion class on Tuesdays and 50 percent from the quality of the CAR reporting project. The lecture/discussion half of the grade will be based on two essays due during the semester and your daily contribution to the class. Each of these parts of the lecture/discussion grade will be of equal weight. You can earn extra credit by bringing to class a story involving cutting edge journalism issues and presenting it to the class for discussion.

Freivogel office hours:

Office Location: Communications Building, 1210E

Office Telephone: 314-322-0396

Office Hours: -2-3 p.m. Tuesdays

Email Address: wfreivogel@gmail.com

**Nov. 3-5 - Authorship Online, Attribution Decay and Robot Journalism**

**Vigilantes, trolls and paid content**

Behind The Alarming Rise Of The Online Vigilante Detective

http://www.buzzfeed.com/charliewarzel/behind-the-alarming-rise-of-the-online-vigilante-detective#.maNNoXX3V

Schwartz, M. (2008). The Trolls among us. The New York Times. http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/03/magazine/03trolls-t.html?pagewanted=all&\_r=0

Sponsored content

John Oliver video on sponsored content

 https://moz.com/blog/everything-you-need-to-know-about-sponsored-content

Robot journalism

 1. Brave New World? Robot reporters take over beats – By Ben Lyons

http://gatewayjr.org/2014/11/13/brave-new-world-robot-reporters-take-over-beats/

 • Revisiting the comments section: Can it be fixed? By Ben Lyons

http://gatewayjr.org/2014/11/14/revisiting-the-comments-section-can-it-be-fixed/

 • Can an Algorithm Write a Better News Story than a Human Reporter? http://www.wired.com/2012/04/can-an-algorithm-write-a-better-news-story-than-a-human-reporter/

 An NPR reporter raced a machine to write a story: Who won? http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2015/05/20/406484294/an-npr-reporter-raced-a-machine-to-write-a-news-story-who-won/

 • Douglas Rushkoff, “Purpose: Program or Be Programmed” (D2L)

https://online.siu.edu/d2l/le/content/216656/viewContent/1292181/View

Wikipedia

 • 90% of Wikipedia's Editors Are Male—Here's What They're Doing About It (2013) http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/10/90-of-wikipedias-editors-are-male-heres-what-theyre-doing-about-it/280882/

 • Editors Are Trying To Fix Wikipedia's Gender And Racial Bias Problem (2015) http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/15/wikipedia-gender-racial-bias\_n\_7054550.html

 • The "average Wikipedian" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ASystemic\_bias#The\_.22average\_Wikipedian.22

Attribution decay:

**Readings**:

 • Bump’s “BuzzFeed’s “Happiest Facts of All Time” Were Mostly Plagiarized from Reddit” and “Fact into Fiction”

  http://www.thewire.com/business/2013/03/buzzfeeds-happiest-facts-all-time-were-mostly-plagiarized-reddit/62918/

 • Fact into Fiction – Why Context Matters with Animal Images. (2014, Feb. 27) *Speaking of Research*. Retrieved from http://speakingofresearch.com/2014/02/27/fact-into-fiction-why-context-matters-with-animal-images/

**Nov. 10 – Slow Journalism – The Out of Eden project –** In this time of frantic journalism driven by the speed of social media, one of the best journalists of our times is spending about nine years walking around the world – 21,000 miles. He calls it slow journalism.

Read Nieman story on slow journalism:

http://niemanreports.org/articles/the-value-of-slow-journalism-in-the-age-of-instant-information/

Read Paul’s introductory story:

http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/12/out-of-eden/salopek-text

Look through Out of Eden website

http://www.outofedenwalk.com/

Read the 29 milestones

http://www.outofedenwalk.com/milestones/

Looks at map room

http://www.outofedenwalk.com/map-room/

Check out police stops:

http://www.outofedenwalk.com/blog/lab-talk/2015/01/updated-police-stops/

**Nov. 12 and 17 –** I’m out of town. If you’re having trouble with your CAR projects, check in with Eric. Meanwhile I’d like you to spend the class time listening to the Serial Podcast and reading the criticism. You don’t have to listen to the entire podcast, but you might get hooked. We’ll talk about it when I get back on Nov. 19. Serial is an example of a new technology used in slow journalism

http://serialpodcast.org/

http://thinkprogress.org/culture/2014/11/20/3595208/the-ethics-of-serial/

**Nov. 19 – Discuss Serial Podcast**

**Nov. 24 – The future**

Listen to Amy Webb’s presentation at ONA this year on future developments. Be ready to explain two of the interesting ideas presented in this hour-long presentation

http://ona15.journalists.org/sessions/10techtrends/#.VjZ83KLaEnI

**HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**Dec. 1 - The future**

**Come to class ready to explain at least one of the interesting ideas presented Amy Webb's futurist presentation**

http://ona15.journalists.org/sessions/10techtrends/#.VjZ83KLaEnI

**Dec. 1 – Draft of CAR projects due**

**Dec. 3 - in class -**  **- Undercover Journalism and Activism**

You all know about controversial undercover projects of the past, the Mirage and Food Lion.  Review those and then watch the undercover Planned Parenthood videos.  How are they different?  Are they credible?

**Readings**: Notable undercover projects of the past:

 • Mirage Tavern sting: Bill Recktenwald, now a journalism professor at SIU, helped set up a fake tavern in Chicago 35 years ago, uncovering widespread corruption among city inspectors. Read his account:

http://dlib.nyu.edu/undercover/sites/dlib.nyu.edu.undercover/files/documents/uploads/editors/impactmirage-recktenwald.pdf

 • ABC’s undercover expose of Food Lion: Can a reporter lie on a job application to get a job at a food store to film undercover footage of unsanitary food preparation techniques? Does Mill’s greater good justify the action?

http://www.rcfp.org/browse-media-law-resources/news-media-law/news-media-and-law-spring-2012/landmark-food-lion-case

**Today’s undercover journalism/activism**

Case study: The Planned Parenthood videos

Vox overview of the controversy

Controversy over the ethics and law of Planned Parenthood videos

http://www.vox.com/2015/7/14/8964513/planned-parenthood-aborted-fetuses

Watch the 5 sting videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=127&v=jjxwVuozMnU

The ethics of fetal tissue transplantation

http://www.equip.org/article/the-ethics-of-fetal-tissue-transplantation/

**Dec. 8 - Present 1-5 of Amy Webb trends.  In making this presentation, show us the apps or websites that Webb is talking about and let us know if you think these sites would be of use to journalists or other media makers.  Tell us what needs to be done to get onto the apps that are useful.**

**Dec. 10 - Present 6-10 of Webb trends - see above**

**Assignment 2 due – 500-750 word essay on one of the following topics.**

-       **The Webb trend you presented**

-       **The Serial podcast – was it journalistically sound?**

**Dec. 15 - Final CAR projects due**

**Final – Submit final CAR project**

**See University syllabus addendum**

 http://pvcaa.siu.edu/\_common/documents/syllabus%20attachments/Syllabus%20Attachment%20Fall%202015.pdf