

Journalism

UC Berkeley's School of Journalism is looking for leaders to become the next generation of journalists—strongly motivated individuals with reverence for truth, a hunger to discover and to inform, a deep regard for thorough analysis, and an ardent embrace of civic engagement.

The digital explosion has created an unparalleled appetite for news as more and more people hunger to witness, experience, and learn about what's happening around them. That's why, more than ever, our world needs professionals who are committed to reporting on current events with precision and eloquence. You'll be prepared not just to make a living, but to make a difference.

Our Master of Journalism degree (MJ) demands a rigorous two-year immersion. That commitment is what's needed for you to achieve the full range of proficiencies to be a twenty-first-century journalist: narrative writing, audio, photography, video production, multimedia storytelling, data, and investigative-based journalism.

By the end of your second year you will have created a portfolio of ambitious, high-quality work, much of it published—with the help of our exceptional faculty of seasoned journalists. What's more, a vibrant worldwide network of media professionals, many of them alumni, will be open to you; professionals who fully appreciate what having a Berkeley Master of Journalism degree means. Concurrent degree programs in Asian Studies and Public Health are available.

Admission to the Program

The Journalism Program requires two statements (Statement of Purpose and Personal History Statement), one PDF of your transcript (official transcript requested if admitted), letters of recommendation, journalism work samples, and a resume. All admissions are subject to Graduate Division approval. For full details, see the admissions page on the school's website (<http://journalism.berkeley.edu/admissions/>).

Admission to the University

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. The Graduate Division hosts a complete list (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/choosing-your-program/list/>) of graduate academic programs, departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website.

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application and steps to take to apply can be found on the Graduate Division website (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and

3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/>).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Unit Requirements

The Master of Journalism (MJ) degree at Berkeley requires the completion of at least 36 semester units of coursework and the submission of a satisfactory master's project. A minimum of 24 units must be earned from coursework in the Graduate School of Journalism. All students are expected to graduate in four consecutive semesters.

Total number of units needed to graduate is 36.

Curriculum

JOURN 200	Reporting the News (first semester)	6
JOURN 207	Research Methods	1.5
JOURN 255	Media Ethics	1.5
JOURN 256	Journalism Law	1.5
JOURN 294	Master's Project Seminar (1 unit in 3rd semester; 1 unit in 4th semester)	2
JOURN 297	Field Study in Journalism (300 supervised hours)	2

Additional Requirements

1. One advanced reporting course is required for each semester after the first semester.
2. Two units from the JOURN 297 can count toward the 36 units requirement. Therefore, 34 of 36 units required for the MJ degree must be from coursework.
3. Submission of an approved master's project with all valid approvals is required by the announced deadline.
4. Twelve units per semester are required for all Berkeley graduate students. A maximum of 14.5 units per semester is allowed. The student's adviser, Head Graduate Advisor, or the Dean can approve unit loads beyond 14.5.
5. All courses must be taken at Berkeley; credit from other institutions is not transferable.
6. Students may take up to 4 units of JOURN 601 each semester without approval. Approval is required for more than 4 units JOURN 601 in a semester. JOURN 601 units cannot be counted towards the 36 total units requirement.
7. Submission of all required Graduate Division paperwork is required by the announced deadline.
8. All required classes must be taken for a letter grade except for the JOURN 297. Only one-third of total UC master's credits can be S grades.
9. Up to 12 of the required 36 units for the MJ degree can be from other departments at Berkeley. Graduate-level courses (numbered

200-299) and upper division undergraduate courses (numbered 100-199) are acceptable.

10. Concurrent degree students may have additional or modified requirements and should confirm requirements with a student affairs officer.

Internship/Field Work/Practicum

The Master of Journalism degree requires two (S/U) units of JOURN 297 Credit. The internship requirement is met once a student completes 300 hours of journalistic work under the tutelage of a mentor/supervisor who can vouch for the student's professional progress. A 2-3 paragraph report is due from both the student and the mentor/supervisor at the end of the internship period. You may combine the hours of two different internships. You may also get additional credits during the academic year as needed if an employer requires this.

Capstone/Master's Project (Plan II)

The master's project represents the culmination of two years of study. It can take many forms: a polished piece of in-depth writing, a long-form video story or series of stories, a series of shorter print stories on a single connected theme, a documentary, a radio, photography, multimedia or editing project incorporating original journalistic content.

The program's career services offer a full complement of career planning workshops and opportunities for professional development including resume building, interviewing skills, and branding. Students learn about internship and job opportunities throughout the year and are coached to make their best decisions.

Professional Experience

To work in journalism, students need professional experience. One of the solid benefits of Berkeley's two-year program is our students' unmatched opportunities to get hands-on experience both inside and outside the classroom—covering news and developing enterprise projects for their courses and for individual and group projects, and producing freelance work as reporters or interns for scores of media outlets in the Bay Area and nationally.

Students first build skills and confidence through the J#School's own publications and broadcasts. In the fall of their first year, students learn the basics of reporting while contributing to Richmond Confidential and Oakland North, the School's local news websites, and creating specialized content for the topical reporting classes. Later, they write long-form articles intended for publication; they produce broadcasts for Berkeley's student radio station, and they develop magazine-style and theme-based video shows that are showcased throughout each semester and welcomed by web-based sites and broadcasters with whom the school has collaborative relations.

Opportunities abound at local news operations, startups, network affiliates, and national news organizations—among them: The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Reuters, Al Jazeera America, Bloomberg News, and the Associated Press.

Career Services

Our students are well supported when the time comes to plan their moves to internships or jobs in the field. The J#School maintains an extensive database of the best and newest internship and job opportunities drawn from industry newsletters, internet job listings, and contact lists in print, video, audio, and new media. We curate the most interesting prospects

and distribute them to students in frequent email bulletins and a weekly internal newsletter.

Most importantly, we work one-on-one with students. Students fill out questionnaires and meet regularly with our career services director to discuss their aspirations and changing interests, and to develop a strategy to achieve those objectives through freelancing, part-time school year internships, full-time summer internships between the first and second years of the program and finally, a rewarding job in the media workforce.

We offer workshops to prepare students for interviewing, writing CVs and cover letters, clip selection, job-hunting strategies and making the most of their first internships or jobs. Each year, print, video, and new media organizations send representatives to Berkeley to recruit and interview our students.

Our commitment to students doesn't end at graduation. We have a comprehensive career resources program for students and alumni so that we can provide long-term alumni career services. At the same time, we value and cultivate relationships with graduates who can serve as mentors and contacts for our students.

More information can be found on our website (<http://journalism.berkeley.edu/career/>).

Journalism

Note: Not all courses are offered every semester. Some titles are subject to change.

JOURN 200 Reporting the News 3 - 7 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is an intensive 15-week research and workshop experience. It provides the foundation for the rest of the curriculum offered at the J-School. 200 Stresses hard news reporting, writing, and editing. In small classes faculty members with extensive experience in newspaper reporting work to develop the scope and quality of the reporting and writing ability of their students. The researching, reporting, rewriting, and editing schedule is extensive and students work on a range of stories covering a broad spectrum of subjects. The aim is to produce professional level work--publishable newspaper stories--in an environment and timeline similar to a professional environment.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-7 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 201 Advanced News Reporting 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Advanced study of reporting in more complex subject areas and more sophisticated writing styles.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200 or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 8 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Platoni

JOURN 207 Research Methods 1.5 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This is a course for first-year students that will cover research techniques that can be applied in your JOURN 200 Intro to Reporting class. Topics we will cover include how work with data in the context of journalism; using spreadsheets to sort, clean, interrogate and summarize data; how to request documents from local, state and federal government agencies; understand the respective laws that govern such public records requests; how to use third-party informational services like LexisNexus to find people, information about companies, or perform clips searches on topics related to your story.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 8 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Rue

JOURN 209 Multimedia Reporting Bootcamp 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This is a required one-week intensive multimedia training workshop at the beginning of the fall semester to equip all first-year graduate journalism students with basic knowledge of digital storytelling techniques as well as the use of multimedia equipment and editing software to produce multimedia content. The objective is to train all students—regardless of their planned area of specialty—with some foundational digital skills to be applied during their reporting for the school's local online news sites in the J200 Intro To Reporting class. The concepts and skills taught during the workshop also will be reaffirmed and expanded over the semester in the Multimedia Skills class.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 1 weeks - 15 hours of seminar and 15 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Hernandez, Rue

JOURN 210 News Photography 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Fundamentals of photography and taking news photography.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Priority to journalism graduate students

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 4 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Instructor: Light

JOURN 211 News Reporting Laboratory 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2021, Fall 2020

This course is an intensive laboratory course taken in conjunction with our core reporting class, 200. It is designed to simulate as closely as possible the deadline and production pressures of a modern, multi-media news organization. Students report to the newsroom during the week to receive their reporting assignments. Print, audio, and video elements are gathered, produced, edited, rewritten as necessary and then made available to pre-selected media outlets for publication. Each section will produce a themed final project.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 212 Advanced Radio 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Radio students may continue to develop their news and production skills in several formats: (1) the reporting and production of the weekly "Inside Oakland" program (broadcast on KALX-FM). Each episode explores a specific theme with focus on the geographic, cultural, and political entity known as Oakland; (2) the collaborative production of a documentary program focusing on a particular topic; (3) the development and production of independent long-form pieces for broadcast on different outlets.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Journalism 275 or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Manilla

JOURN 213 Documentary Photography 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

An exploration of magazine photography as applied to photo essay, day assignments and book projects, as well as content based lectures (location lighting, environmental portraiture, etc.) and critiques. Students work on in-depth assignments that include research, reporting, and photographing. Legal/ethical and business issues are explored, including fund-raising and grant writing to support extended projects.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Light

JOURN 215 Multimedia Skills 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2022

This class teaches the fundamentals of using digital video, audio, and photo equipment, as well as editing digital files. The class is designed to expose students to what it is like to report in a multimedia environment. While primarily for students taking new media publishing courses, the class will be valuable to any student who wants to better prepare for the emerging convergence of broadcast, print, and web media.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Rue, Hernandez

JOURN 216 Multimedia Reporting 2 or 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

For journalists, the World Wide Web opens a powerful way to tell stories by combining text, video, audio, still photos, graphics, and interactivity. Students learn multimedia-reporting basics, how the web is changing journalism, and its relationship to democracy and community. Students use storyboarding techniques to construct nonlinear stories; they research, report, edit, and assemble two story projects.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Journalism 215 (can be taken concurrently); Dreamweaver, Photoshop, and iMovie or Final Cut Pro

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Rue, Hernandez

JOURN 219 Mini-Special Topics 1 - 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

A mini course is a four to ten-week intensive workshop designed to accompany and enhance other courses in the program. Workshop topics vary from semester to semester, but have included: Associate Producer, Sports Reporting, FOIA Reporting, Foreign Reporting, Bias and Journalism, Social Media, Sound Design and the Journalist as Freelancer.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 1-3 hours of seminar per week

7 weeks - 1-3 hours of seminar per week

10 weeks - 1-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 220 Coding For Journalists 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is an introduction to programming concepts as they relate to the journalism industry. The goal of this course is to equip students with a foundational technical literacy to construct interactive online stories such as data visualizations, infographics, maps, multimedia packages, games or innumerable other types of projects students may conceive.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Students must have completed the Digital News Packages class in the fall. Students who have not taken this course should contact the instructor for exceptions to the prerequisite. Basic knowledge of jQuery is highly encouraged

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Rue

JOURN 221 Introduction to Data Visualization 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This weekly three-hour course will explore the skills needed to find, clean, analyze and visualize data. The class consists of two hours of instruction and one hour of supervised lab time working on directed projects. Students will create a final project suitable for publication. The focus will be on free and open source tools that can immediately be applied to other projects and professional work.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: De Groot

JOURN 222 Interactive Narratives 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This class teaches students how to develop interactive online news packages using best practices in design and web development. The course focuses on story structure and production of content and will cover the following topics:

Best practices in developing interactive multimedia stories online;
Design fundamentals and typography for online content;
HTML and CSS for designing and constructing web projects;
jQuery coding for adding interactivity to online content.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Hernandez, Rue

JOURN 223 New Media Visuals 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Fall 2013

"Visual journalism" explores narratives as they are designed, produced, and consumed in various digital forms. Students will have the opportunity to explore various digital technologies, create and produce narratives, and analyze stories in digital forms. DSLR video narrative, animated visual explainers, data visualization design will all be explored and will serve as the primary areas of inquiry for this project-driven course.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Hernandez

JOURN 225 Datify Your Capstone Project 1.5 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2024

This is a seven-week graduate-level seminar course designed for journalism graduate students to learn how to find, acquire, clean, sort, parse, and visualize data for their master's capstone projects. The course will include some foundational lessons that apply to all stories, and then delve into specific projects students are working on in order to teach them how to communicate their stories in a compelling and convincing way. The group environment of this course allows students to gain insight on how certain techniques used by others might also apply to their work. While this is primarily a seminar course, this course may also include a blend of lectures and hands-on workshops to deliver instruction as applicable to their projects.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 7 weeks - 7 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 226 Science Reporting 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Advanced study of methods of reporting developments in such fields as science, education, health, or the environment.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: For journalism students, Journalism 200 or equivalent; for others, consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 8 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Conis

JOURN 228 Political Reporting 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2012, Fall 2010, Fall 2009

Study and discussion of politics and practice in reporting political events and campaigns.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: For journalism students, 200 or equivalent; for others, consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 8 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Risky

JOURN 230 Business Reporting 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

Reporting and writing of business, financial, and consumer affairs.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: For journalism students, 200

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 8 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 231 Advanced Business Reporting 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2008, Spring 2007

Advanced reporting and writing of business, financial, and consumer affairs.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200, 230, or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 232 Business Journalism Capstone 3 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

J232 Business Journalism Capstone is a graduate-level, workshop-based course designed to provide students with the opportunity to produce a single, in-depth business journalism story of exceptional quality. Whether it's a feature-length article, an investigative report, or a magazine-style piece, students will be guided through the process of crafting a high-caliber capstone project with accompanying media.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 233 Advanced Coding Interactive Stories 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This course teaches students code literacy. Beyond the specific skills they learn, students will have a more well-rounded understanding of crucial technologies that influence the news industry in innumerable ways. They become better decision makers when working with technologists, and will help to forge the future of the journalism industry. This class covers prototypical object-oriented programming, an important component in many web coding languages. Topics covered include variables, typecasting, arrays, for-loops, conditional statements, comparison operators, functions, enclosures and cross-domain data requesting. This course will also cover popular data libraries like D3 and Pandas.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Rue

JOURN 234 International Reporting 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is designed for students who are interested in foreign reporting. Course will include a broad overview of the issues that need to be researched when reporting on the politics, economics, and social issues of a foreign country. Past classes have traveled to Mexico, China, Cuba, Hungary, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Chavez

JOURN 242 Profiles 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

In this workshop students use the profile form to develop a variety of skills that may be helpful whenever undertaking an ambitious story: figuring out what the story is and why you are writing it; interviewing; observation; background reporting; structuring material; finding your voice; describing people without resorting to cliché; crafting a lead from what seems an infinite number of possibilities. Readings will be from great magazine and newspaper profile writers.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Journalism 200 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Kahn

JOURN 243 Long-Form Writing 3 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2020

This class will trace the process of writing long-form pieces: how writers choose their sources, gather information, organize their material, and decide whether or not to believe what people tell them. Students will act as an editorial board for each other. Readings include profiles, books and book excerpts, Pulitzer-winning newspaper features, and magazine pieces from a variety of outlets. All assignments are intended for publication.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Journalism 200 or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: English

JOURN 254 Opinion Writing 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2012, Spring 2011, Fall 2009

The reporting, writing, and editing of newspaper editorials and op-ed essays.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Rasky

JOURN 255 Media Ethics 1.5 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Media Ethics will concentrate on ethical dilemmas faced by reporters and editors. Using case studies, readings and guest lecturers, the course examines the murkier conflicts that don't necessarily make it to court but nevertheless force difficult newsroom decision-making. What should journalists do? How should they justify their decisions? This course examines key ethical questions facing journalists, many of which took root in a pre-digital era. The central premise of this course is that journalism has the capacity to challenge social injustice, which is one reason to participate in and protect the profession. At the same time, dominant journalism has regularly dehumanized marginalized communities.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 7 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Ed Wasserman

JOURN 256 Journalism Law 1.5 Unit

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course will familiarize you with the basic principles of American law under which you operate as a professional journalist. Coincidentally you will also become familiar with some basic legal concepts, and how courts operate. While this is a course about law it is not a law school course; it is intended to give you enough law to recognize when you face possible legal issues and when to seek legal counsel or other help before you (or your publisher/broadcaster/platform) get into trouble.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for JOURN 256 after completing JOURN 256. A deficient grade in JOURN 256 may be removed by taking JOURN 256.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 8 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: James Wheaton

JOURN 260 Investigative Reporting for TV and Print 2 or 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Students will be required to investigate leads that are received by the faculty, and prepare briefing papers for the class to introduce guest speakers. They will work on researching and reporting assignments related to documentary productions and print stories for different outlets. "Sources," people with information critical to developing a story, need to be developed. The responsibilities of a reporter engaged in developing sources will be a constant theme of the seminar.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Bergman

JOURN 262 Narrative Fundamentals 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024

This course is for students pursuing the writing track and planning to complete short-form or long-form master's projects, which includes those who hope to specialize in short-form, feature, and/or enterprise writing in their careers after graduation. The tools taught in this class will enable you to produce reported stories employing narrative techniques that will capture and hold the attention of readers. You will learn how the structure of a narrative differs from the structure of a hard news story. You will learn how to use color, detail, characters, scenes, suspense and narrative arcs. You will also study and discuss examples of narrative ranging from the simple to the complex.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Conis

JOURN 264A Open Source Investigations I 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024

In this foundational investigations course, students will use legal, reporting and digital research methods to investigate a series of human rights issues for real-world partners. The outputs will be journalistic, including a series of audio, written and/or visual stories. Students will learn the following skills: beginning and intermediary digital research and investigation methods; verification techniques for digital materials; introductory geospatial and network analysis; traditional investigative methods; relevant ethical considerations; holistic security; cross-disciplinary communication and collaboration; the collection and analysis of large datasets; how to work effectively in multidisciplinary teams; and relevant legal frameworks.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar and 2 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 264B Open Source Investigations II 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024

In this advanced investigations course, students will use legal, reporting and digital research methods to investigate a series of human rights issues for real-world partners. The outputs will be journalistic, including a series of audio, written and/or visual stories. Students will learn the following skills: beginning and intermediary digital research and investigation methods; verification techniques for digital materials; introductory geospatial and network analysis; traditional investigative methods; relevant ethical considerations; holistic security; cross-disciplinary communication and collaboration; the collection and analysis of large datasets; how to work effectively in multidisciplinary teams; and relevant legal frameworks.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar and 2 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 267 Race, Resistance, and Incarceration 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Mass incarceration has affected all of our lives. It costs \$55,000 per year to incarcerate a man in a California prison. In the 1960s, tuition was free. There were fewer than 25,000 inmates and eight prisons. Now, there are more than 33 prisons and 115,000 inmates. Tuition for California residents is more than \$15,000 at UC. This course will bring UC Berkeley students into a classroom setting inside a prison where their classmates will be graduates of Mt. Tamalpais College, an accredited and award-winning community college for San Quentin prisoners. The Cal students and the SQ students will read, discuss and write about fundamental aspects of incarceration, among them race, resistance, and criminal justice.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 269 Narrative Capstone 1.5 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

This course is for students pursuing the narrative track and completing narrative master's projects, or who hope to specialize in narrative writing after graduation. Every master's project completed by students on the narrative track must meet the minimum requirement of containing 3500 words that cohere into an edited, publishable story or series of stories. In this course students will:

- Participate in discussions of best practices in narrative storytelling and topics in narrative publishing, including best practices for reporting and writing complex stories
- Troubleshoot reporting and writing challenges
- Workshop pitches
- Obtain career guidance including feedback on resumes, cover letters and portfolios of work.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 1 time.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1.5-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Instructor: Conis

JOURN 275 Radio News Reporting 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Study of techniques, practices, and methods of gathering and writing radio news. Students will produce weekly live radio news programs.

Enrollment is limited to 15.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Manilla

JOURN 276 Audio on Assignment 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Assigned stories are part of life as a professional journalist. This course teaches students how to be creative, resourceful and rigorous in pursuing a wide range of stories, of the sort students could be expected to do as public radio journalists. Students in this class will report early and often, building on their existing audio journalism skills and honing their ability tell mid-length (5-12 minute) audio journalism stories well. Guest-speakers will include award-winning audio journalists and editors, who will share tips for making audio stories memorable and impactful.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Journalism 275 Intro to Radio, or previous experience in audio journalism

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Magistad

JOURN 282 Introduction to Visual Journalism 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Study of the history and institutions of broadcast journalism (nine weeks), practice, techniques of reporting news for radio and television.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 283 Reporting for Television 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Producing, directing, writing, and videotaping of live weekly television news program.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 282 and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 284 Documentary Production 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Production of television documentary news programs.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 282, 283, and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 12 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Nakasako

JOURN 285 Longform Video Reporting and Storytelling 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023

Reporting and production of television news magazine stories and programs.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Journalism 282, 283 and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 8 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Cediell

JOURN 286 History of Documentary 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course covers the evolution of American documentary film from 1920 to the present, with special attention to independent productions and documentaries for network television. In the works of Fred Wiseman, Henry Hampton, Lourdes Portillo, Errol Morris, Marlon Riggs, Barbara Kopple, Orlando Bagwell, the Maysles, and the network staff producers, we look at the practical problems of making documentaries for a mass audience. (Required for J-School students who are considering specializing in documentary.)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Lozano

JOURN 290 Editing Workshop 2 or 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2011, Fall 2009

It can take a lifetime of writing to learn how to critique and revise your work. Hard as writing can be, rewriting -- breaking back into your own framework, rethinking, re-imagining, and revising -- can be harder yet. Sometimes only an editor can help you gain the distance needed to view your work. No matter how good a journalist you may be, an editor can help you reach another stage in your writing process.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Journalism students only; priority to second-year students completing master's project

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 294 Master's Project Seminar 1 - 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2023

Group meetings plus individual tutorials. Methods of research, organization, and preparation of professional thesis projects. Required of M.J. candidates working on thesis projects during both Fall and Spring semesters.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 200 and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-2 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

8 weeks - 2-4 hours of seminar per week

10 weeks - 1.5-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 296 Topical Reporting in Journalism 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This seminar course will explore a topic related to current events in the media. The topic will vary from year to year. Topics may include climate change, elections and politics, public health crises, war reporting, the economy of journalistic media, international conflicts, and many similar areas. It will include readings and critical discussions on media coverage of the topic; analysis on the reporting efforts to cover stories within this topic; and discussion on the ethical dilemmas encountered both by individual reporters and the media organizations they work for, and the role they play in shaping the public's understanding of an issue.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. Students may enroll in multiple sections of this course within the same semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 297 Field Study in Journalism 1 - 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Supervised experience in the practice of journalism in off-campus organizations. Individual meeting with faculty sponsor and written reports required. See Additional Information, "Field Study and Internships."

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of fieldwork per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-2 hours of fieldwork per week

8 weeks - 1-2 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

JOURN 298 Group Study - Special Topics 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Specialized seminar topics in reporting and writing.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 5-7.5 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 1-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 299 Individual Study 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2025

Supervised individual study and research.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2-5 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-3 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JOURN 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2021

Individual preparation or study in consultation with faculty adviser. Study ultimately leads to the completion of the Master's Project/Examination.

Units may not be used to meet either unit or residence requirements for a master's degree.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Course is restricted to journalism students

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-20 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-15 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Journalism/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.