

**JOUR 210x Basics of Newsroom Production for Non-Journalism Majors**

**2 Units**

**Spring 2019 – Time/Day TBD**

**Section:** 21072D

**Location:** Media Center, Wallis Annenberg Hall

**Instructor: Christina Bellantoni**

**Office:** ANN 205B

**Office Hours:** W-F, by appointment

**Contact Info:** christina.bellantoni@usc.edu cell 202-725-6820

**I. Course Description**

This course introduces non-journalism majors to broadcast, radio, and digital news. It is taught in conjunction with the USC’s Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism’s student-run news outlets. Students work for **six hours a week** in the Media Center to fulfill this course. The class is credit/no credit.

**II. Overall Learning Objectives and Assessment**

* + - Developing news judgment
		- Working under deadline in a collaborative news environment
		- Understanding the basics of daily news production across different platforms
		- Understanding the importance of diversity in sources and story selection
		- Researching and developing news stories for various daily news outlets
		- Editing and assembling audio for a radio broadcast OR
		- Editing and assembling text and video for broadcast and web outlets OR
		- Developing leadership skills by managing other journalists under deadline and coming up with beat coverage plans
		- Students in this course have the opportunity to experience and observe the structure and functions of editorial and production teams for television, radio, or digital journalism, elements of the news production cycle
		- Understanding newsroom ethics and standards

**III. Description of Assignments**

Students in this course participate in the production of a daily TV news broadcast, daily radio broadcast, frequently updated news website or social platforms. Class work will consist of on-the-job training and experience that mirrors the real world.

**Student duties include:**

* Generating and researching story ideas for radio, broadcast and web outlets
* Fulfilling different jobs during the production of live radio and television newscasts and frequently updated social and digital platforms
* Participating in the production of news content for digital, broadcast and audio platforms

You must make a commitment to work **SIX HOURS** each week in the Media Center. You must sign up for the same weekly shift(s) throughout the semester.

You are required to keep up on the news by reading a variety of news outlets, listening to local and national radio or podcasts, and watching local and national news.

You will also need to take specific workshops for the position you are assigned. Note the **Jan. 10 Media Center Open House** and **Saturday, Jan. 26 team building boot camp** on the schedule below.

You may need to drop this course if you cannot satisfy the six-hour-a-week requirement or if you cannot attend the required workshops.

More information can be found [here](http://resources.uscannenbergmedia.com/).

**IV. Grading**

1. Breakdown of Grade

Your credit/no credit will be determined as follows

·Daily news production and attendance 90 percent

Since attendance is the major factor in whether you pass or fail the course, it is imperative that you complete all of your shifts and that you arrive ON TIME. Tardiness and unexcused absences will jeopardize your grade.

·Performance 10 percent

You will be judged on the skills you have acquired throughout the semester and the improvement you have shown by the end of the semester.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 95% to 100%: A | 80% to 83%: B- | 67% to 69%: D+ |
| 90% to 94%: A- | 77% to 79%: C+ | 64% to 66%: D |
| 87% to 89%: B+ | 74% to 76%: C | 60% to 63%: D- |
| 84% to 86%: B | 70% to 73%: C- | 0% to 59%: F |

**\*If you become a journalism major, you will lose the credit you have received for this course.**

**VII. Laptop Policy**

You will have access to Adobe programs for work in the Media Center, along with a free digital subscription to the Los Angeles Times. More information about Media Center policies can be found [here](https://uscannenberg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1zSCe3wj5w9aocd). Please refer to the [**Annenberg Digital Lounge**](http://www.annenbergdl.org/) for more information. To connect to USC’s Secure Wireless network, please visit USC’s [Information Technology Services](http://itservices.usc.edu/wireless/support/) website.

**VIII. Add/Drop Dates for Session 001 (15 weeks: 1/7/19 – 4/26/19)**

**Friday, January 25:** Last day to register and add classes for Session 001

**Friday, January 25:** Last day to drop a class without a mark of “W,” except for Monday-only classes, and receive a refund for Session 001

**Tuesday, January 29**: last day to drop a Monday-only class without a mark of “W” and receive a refund for Session 001

**Friday, February 22:** Last day to drop a course without a mark of “W” on the transcript. [Please drop any course by the end of week three (or the week three equivalent for short sessions) to avoid tuition charges.]

**Friday, April 5:** Last day to drop a class with a mark of “W” for Session 001

**VIII. Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Topics/Daily Activities | Readings and Homework | Deliverable/Due Dates |
| Week 1 Dates: 1/7-1/11 | Mandatory attendance at Open House 1/10 at noon in Media Center  |  |  |
| Week 2Dates: 1/14-1/18 | Workshops as advised  |  | [**Martin Luther King Day:** Monday, January 21] |
| Week 3Dates: 1/21-1/26 | Workshops as advised, team building boot camp on **Saturday**, Jan. 26. |  |  |
| Week 4 Dates: 1/28-2/1 | Workshops as advised |  |   |
| Week 5 Dates: 2/4-2/8 | Six-hour shift as advised  |  |  |
| Week 6Dates: 2/11-2/15 | Six-hour shift as advised |  |  |
| Week 7Dates: 2/18-2/22 | Six-hour shift as advised |  | [**Presidents Day:** Monday, February 18] |
| Week 8Dates: 2/25-3/1 | Six-hour shift as advised |  |  |
| Week 9Dates: 3/4-3/8 | Six-hour shift as advised |  |  |
| 3/11-3/15 | No classes: Spring Break |  |  |
| Week 10Dates: 3/18-3/22 | Six-hour shift as advised |  |  |
| Week 11Dates: 3/25-3/29 | Six-hour shift as advised |  |  |
| Week 12Dates: 4/1-4/5 | Six-hour shift as advised |  |  |
| Week 13Dates: 4/8-4/12 | Six-hour shift as advised |  |  |
| Week 14Dates: 4/15-4/19 | Six-hour shift as advised |  |  |
| Week 15Dates: 4/22-4/26 | Six-hour shift as advised |  |   |

**IX. Policies and Procedures**

**Internships**

The value of professional internships as part of the overall educational experience of our students has long been recognized by the School of Journalism. Accordingly, while internships are not required for successful completion of this course, any student enrolled in this course that undertakes and completes an approved, non-paid internship during this semester shall earn academic extra credit herein of an amount equal to 1 percent of the total available semester points for this course. To receive instructor approval, a student must request an internship letter from the Annenberg Career Development Office and bring it to the instructor to sign by the end of the third week of classes. The student must submit the signed letter to the media organization, along with the evaluation form provided by the Career Development Office. The form should be filled out by the intern supervisor and returned to the instructor at the end of the semester. No credit will be given if an evaluation form is not turned into the instructor by the last day of class. Note: The internship must by unpaid and can only be applied to one journalism class.

**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**a. Academic Conduct**

*Plagiarism*

Presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words - is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/b/11-00-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

*USC School of Journalism Policy on Academic Integrity*

The following is the USC Annenberg School of Journalism’s policy on academic integrity and repeated in the syllabus for every course in the school:

“Since its founding, the USC School of Journalism has maintained a commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct and academic excellence. Any student found plagiarizing, fabricating, cheating on examinations, and/or purchasing papers or other assignments faces sanctions ranging from an ‘F’ on the assignment to dismissal from the School of Journalism. All academic integrity violations will be reported to the office of Student Judicial Affairs & Community Standards (SJACS), as per university policy, as well as journalism school administrators.”

In addition, it is assumed that the work you submit for this course is work you have produced entirely by yourself, and has not been previously produced by you for submission in another course or Learning Lab, without approval of the instructor.

**b. Support Systems**

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255*

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086*

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs*

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

*Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

*Diversity at USC*

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

*USC Emergency Information*

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

*USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.* Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu

**X. About Your Instructor**

Christina Bellantoni is a professor of professional practice and the director of the Annenberg Media Center. She joined Annenberg in August 2018 after serving as a member of the masthead at the Los Angeles Times for three years. Over her 20 years in journalism, Bellantoni worked as a reporter and editor, behind the camera as a producer and in front of it as an analyst on national television. She has covered local, state and federal government, along with four presidential campaigns and the White House.

She spent 12 years as a journalist in Washington, D.C. She served as editor-in-chief of the Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call until moving to Los Angeles in 2015. Before taking over Roll Call, Bellantoni was the political editor at the PBS NewsHour. She also covered politics at Talking Points Memo and the Washington Times. Before moving to D.C., she worked at three newspapers in the Bay Area.