**JOUR 205: Journalism Practicum**

**1-2 units**

**Spring 2022 –** No formal meetings. Each student will have two 1-on-1 meetings with instructor during the semester.

**Section:** 21030D (001)

**Location:** Online

**Instructor: Eric Pape**

**Office:** Online

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Contact Info:** [ericpape@usc.edu](mailto:ericpape@usc.edu)

**Phone:** 424-443-8555

Pronouns: He/him/his

**Course Description**

Internships are an integral part of your undergraduate experience because they provide on-the-ground training for what you learn in class. In this online course – there are no formal class meetings – students secure internships in a variety of professions from text and broadcast journalism to public relations, advertising and a host of other industries.

In your internships, you will learn about the workflow of your respective professions. Professional practices across these industries are constantly changing. Your position in your organization will give you good insight for the ebb and flow of all these changes.

This course – graded credit/no credit – is intended to give you time pursuing your internship, so the classroom work is limited. Across the course of the semester, you will produce six short blog posts on your internship experience. You will also have two 1:1 check-ins with your instructor. The final is an 800 - 1000 word paper on your internship experience. More information about these assignments & check-ins will be shared via Blackboard.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the semester, you will be able to describe an industry workplace and how it is changing, including in relation to diversity. You should also be able to identify a variety of related jobs, skills, and work styles. You will also learn about yourself and how you work, and what's needed to succeed in future internships and jobs.

**Course Notes**

This course is credit / no credit.

**Description and Assessment of Assignments**

Six short blog posts: The weekly bi-weekly post should be 200-250 words, filed by email to your professor. Information about these blog posts is available in the calendar below. Posts *must* be titled: “**J205 Post # 1 (or 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6) YOURNAME**”. If you have questions, ask your instructor by email.  
  
Two 1:1 check-ins with instructor: One will take place at the beginning of the semester and one will take place around the middle of the semester. Please arrange these check-ins by email or text message. Feel free to contact your instructor if you have questions.

**Final paper: The final paper should be 800 - 1000 words, filed by email to your professor and uploaded to Blackboard under “Final.”** *The paper should describe what you learned about the organization you interned with and what you learned about yourself through this experience*. If you have previously taken this course, you can agree on a different prompt with your professor. Please file **by email under the file name “J205 Final YOURLASTNAME.”**

**V. Grading**

**a. Breakdown of Grade**

| Assignment | % of Grade |
| --- | --- |
| **Posts (6) & 1:1 check-ins (2)** | 50% |
| **Final paper** | 50% |
| **TOTAL** | **100%** |

**b. Grading Scale**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 |

**c. Grading Standards**

Your posts and final paper will receive letter grades based on the criteria below.

***Journalism***

All assignments will be edited on a professional basis and you will be judged first on the accuracy, fairness and completeness of your stories. You will then be evaluated for broadcast style, editing, production value, originality and the ability to meet deadlines.

**“A” stories** are accurate, clear, comprehensive stories that are well written and require only minor copyediting (i.e., they would be aired or published). Video work must also be shot and edited creatively, be well paced and include good sound bites and natural sound that add flavor, color or emotion to the story.

**“B” stories** require more than minor editing and have a few style or spelling errors or one significant error of omission. For video, there may be minor flaws in the composition of some shots or in the editing. Good use of available sound bites is required.

**“C” stories** need considerable editing or rewriting and/or have many spelling, style or omission errors. Camera work and editing techniques in video stories are mediocre or unimaginative, but passable. Sound bites add little or no color - only information that could be better told in the reporter’s narration.

**“D” stories** require excessive rewriting, have numerous errors and should not have been submitted. Camera work is unsatisfactory or fails to show important elements.

**“F” stories** have failed to meet the major criteria of the assignment, are late, have numerous errors or both. Your copy should not contain any errors in spelling, style, grammar and facts. Any misspelled or mispronounced proper noun will result in an automatic “F” on that assignment. Any factual error will also result in an automatic “F” on the assignment. Accuracy is the first law of journalism. The following are some other circumstances that would warrant a grade of “F” and potential USC/Annenberg disciplinary action:

• Fabricating a story or making up quotes or information.

• Plagiarizing a script/article, part of a script/article or information from any source.

• Staging video or telling interview subjects what to say.

• Using video shot by someone else and presenting it as original work.

• Shooting video in one location and presenting it as another location.

• Using the camcorder to intentionally intimidate, provoke or incite a person or a group of people to elicit more “dramatic” video.

• Promising, paying or giving someone something in exchange for doing an interview either on or off camera.

• Missing a deadline.

**d. Grading Timeline**Your work will be graded within seven days of when it is submitted (barring exceptional circumstances).

**Assignment Submission Policy**

Late work will be accepted but will drop a full letter grade for each day it is late. Missing work and work submitted after one week of the due date will receive an F.

**Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

There will be a handful of readings distributed throughout the semester via Blackboard. The readings are intended to ground you in broader questions about internships and the workplace.

**Laptop Policy**

All undergraduate and graduate Annenberg majors and minors are required to have a PC or Apple laptop that can be used in Annenberg classes. 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.

**Add/Drop Dates for Session 001 (15 weeks: 1/10/2022 – 4/29/2022 (15 weeks); Final Exam Period: 5/4-11/2022)**

**Link: https://classes.usc.edu/term-20221/calendar/**

**Last day to add:** Friday, January 28, 2022

**Last day to drop without a mark of "W" and receive a refund:** Friday, January 28, 2022

**Last day to change enrollment option to Pass/No Pass or Audit:** Friday, January 28, 2022 [All major and minor courses must be taken for a letter grade.]

**Last day to add/drop a Monday-only class without a mark of “W” and receive a refund or change to Audit:** Tuesday, February 1

**Last day to withdraw without a “W” on transcript or change pass/no pass to letter grade:** Friday, February 25, 2022 [Mark of “W” will still appear on student record and STARS report and tuition charges still apply.

\*Please drop any course by the end of week three for session 001 (or the 20 percent mark of the session in which the course is offered) to avoid tuition charges.]

**Last day to drop with a mark of "W":** Friday, April 1, 2022

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

***Important note to students:*** *Be advised that this syllabus is subject to change.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Topics/Daily Activities | Readings and Homework | Deliverable/Due Dates |
| Week 1  Dates: 1/10-1/14 |  | Schedule 1:1 meeting with your instructor via email or text. | Research your company and how it fits into the broader industry. |
| Week 2  Dates: 1/17-1/21 |  | Continue setting up your internship and researching the company and industry. Readings TBA. | First 1:1 meeting with your instructor must be **completed by Jan 21 at 5 p.m.**  **[Martin Luther King Holiday Jan. 17]** |
| Week 3  Dates: 1/24-1/28 |  | Finish researching your company. *Write Post #1. It should describe your company, its place in the industry, your duties, who your supervisor and team members are, and your internship schedule.* | **Post #1 is due Jan. 28, at 2 p.m.** |
| Week 4  Dates: 1/31-2/4 |  | None. | No assignment this week. |
| Week 5  Dates: 2/7-2/11 |  | Write Post #2. Write a post on what your company wants from you and what your supervisor/boss needs from you, and how you might define success there. | **Post #2 is due on Fri., Feb. 11, at 2 p.m.** |
| Week 6  Dates: 2/14-2/18 |  | None | No assignment this week. |
| Week 7  Dates: 2/21-2/25 |  | Schedule 1:1 meeting with your instructor. Write Post #3. Write about a challenge that you overcame or failed to, on your internship. | **Post #3 is due on Fri., Feb. 25, at noon.**  [**President’s Day:** Monday, February 21] |
| Week 8  Dates: 2/28-3/4 |  | No writing due this week. |  |
| Week 9  Dates: 3/7-3/11 |  | Write Post #4. Write about your company’s place in its industry, and how this relates to your own interests and ambitions. Do you see opportunities to improve the company? | **Post #4 is due on Fri., March. 11, at 2 p.m.** |
| Spring Break  Dates: 3/14-3/18 | **No Class** |  |  |
| Week 10  Dates: 3/21-3/25 |  | None | No assignment is due |
| Week 11  Dates: 3/28-4/1 |  | Write Post #5. Write about an ethical quandary you have faced or noticed within your company. | **Post #5 is due** on Fri., April 1, at 2 p.m. |
| Week 12  Dates: 4/4-4/8 |  | No writing due this week. Meet with your instructor and decide on subject of final paper | *Your second 1:1 meeting with your instructor must be completed before April 15.* |
| Week 13  Dates: 4/11-4/15 |  | Write Post #6. How does or doesn’t this internship fit into your future. If it doesn’t, what did you learn? | **Post #6 is due** on Fri., April 15, at 2 p.m. |
| Week 14  Dates: 4/18-4/22 |  | Work on final paper. Write about how this internship does or does not fit into your future. If it doesn’t, what did you learn here? | No assignment is due BUT please work on final paper. |
| Week 15  Dates: 4/25-4/29 |  | Work on final paper. Submit course evaluation. | **SUBMIT course evaluation by May 2.** |
| FINAL EXAM PERIOD  Dates: 5/4-5/11 |  | Submit final paper *based on lessons learned from this internship. What did you discover that is helpful for your future? Or if you would like to craft a different prompt, discuss it with your professor.* | SUBMIT final paper by May 7 at 11:59pm. |

**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 or public relations class.

**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**a. Academic Conduct**

*Plagiarism*

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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, [policy.usc.edu/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**

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call*

[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/)

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

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call*

[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](https://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault/)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298*

[equity.usc.edu](https://equity.usc.edu/), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following *protected characteristics*: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*

[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\_report](https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Student Accessibility Services - (213) 740-0776*

[osas.usc.edu/](https://osas.usc.edu/)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710*

[uscsa.usc.edu](https://uscsa.usc.edu/)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu/)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu/), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu/)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu/)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

*Annenberg Student Success Fund*

<https://annenberg.usc.edu/current-students/resources/annenberg-scholarships-and-awards>

The Annenberg Student Success Fund is a donor-funded financial aid account available to USC Annenberg undergraduate and graduate students for non-tuition expenses related to extra- and co-curricular programs and opportunities.

**About Your Instructor**

**ERIC PAPE** has worked as a journalist on five continents. As a Paris-based correspondent for Newsweek International, he worked across Europe, while also engaging in crisis reporting in Africa and the Middle East. He has also reported extensively in Southeast Asia on politics, human rights, corruption, and various forms of strife, and in South America on the U.S. drug war. Pape has contributed to the LA Times Arts & Entertainment section and its Sunday magazine, The New York Times, The Guardian, Spin magazine, Foreign Policy, Fast Company, Vibe, Spin and dozens of other magazines, newspapers, and sites. He has frequently appeared on television and radio. As Deputy Editor of Pierre Omidyar’s media Civil Beat in Hawaii, he focused on maximizing the real-world impact of watchdog and investigative reporting. He was also a story advisor on the Peabody Award-winning documentary, “Who Killed Chea Vichea?” Pape is an alum of the John S. Knight Fellowship at Stanford University where he co-authored a comic book inspired by one of his long-form articles. He recently completed another journalistic graphic novel, and works as an editorial, partnership and management consultant for the journalism nonprofit Capital & Main. Twitter: @EricPape.