 **JOUR 205 Journalism Practicum**

**1 unit**

**Fall 2022**

No formal meetings. Each student will have two 1-on-1 meetings with instructor on Zoom during the semester, with the option to meet in person on campus instead.

**Section:** 21041 D (166)

**Location:** Online

**Instructor: Gary Cohn**

**Office:** Online

**Office Hours:** By appointment (available to meet by Zoom or phone. Also available to meet in person on campus on Thursdays, by appointment.

**Contact Info:** garycohn@usc.edu

**Phone:** 310-699-5594

**I. 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 five short blog posts on your internship experience. You will also have a pair of one-on-one 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 email.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the semester, you will be able to describe an industry workplace and how it is changing, and 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.

**III. Course Notes**

This course is credit / no credit.

**IV. Description and Assessment of Assignments**

Five short blog posts: The weekly post should be 200-250 words, filed by email as a word attachment or google doc to your professor.  
  
One one-on-one check-in with your instructor will take place toward the beginning of our session via Zoom. A second will be held toward the end of the semester.

**Final paper: The final paper should be about 1000 words, filed by email as a word attachment or google doc under “J205 Final YOURLASTNAME.”** *The paper should describe what you learned about the organization you interned with and what you learned about yourself through this experience.* More information about the 1-to-1 check-ins will communicated by your instructor.

**V. Grading**

**a. Breakdown of Grade**

| Assignment | % of Grade |
| --- | --- |
| **Weekly posts (5) & 1:1 check-in (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 a week of when it is submitted (barring exceptional circumstances).

**VI. 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.

**VII. Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

Any reading for this course will be distributed throughout the semester via email. The readings are intended to ground you in broader questions about internships and the workplace.

**VIII. 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.

**IX. Session Dates** (session code **166**)

**First day of classes:**

Monday, Oct. 10, 2022

**Last day to add:**

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022

**Last day to drop without a mark of "W" and receive a refund:**

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022

**Last day to withdraw without a “W” on transcript or change pass/no pass to letter grade:**

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022

**Last day to drop with a mark of "W":**

Monday, Nov. 21, 2022

**Last day of classes:**

Friday, Dec. 2, 2022

**End of session:**

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022

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

***Important note to students:*** *Be advised that this syllabus is subject to change based on health and other circumstances.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Topics/Daily Activities | Readings and Homework | Deliverable/Due Dates |
| Week 1  Dates: 10/10-10/14 |  | Write instructor by email to schedule intro 1:1 meeting over zoom. | Research your company and how it fits into the broader industry.  Fall Recess: Thursday Oct. 13 and Friday Oct. 14 |
| Week 2  Dates: 10/17 - 10/21 |  | Continue setting up your internship and researching the company and industry. | Your first 1:1 meeting with your instructor *must be scheduled & completed by Friday, October 21*. |
| Week 3  Dates: 10/24- 10/28 |  | Write Post #1 and email it to your instructor as a word attachment or goggle doc. *This post should describe your company and its place in the industry, your duties, your supervisor and other team members, and your internship schedule.* | **Post #1 is due on Friday, Oct. 28 at 5 p.m.** |
| Week 4  Dates: 10/31 - 11/4 |  | Write Post #2 on what you hope to get out of this internship? | **Post #2 is due on Friday, Nov 4 at 5 p.m.** |
| Week 5  Dates: 11/7 -11/11 |  | Write Post #3. What does your workplace need from you and what can you and how can you contribute? | **Post #3 is due on Friday Nov. 11 at 5 p.m.**  **You must set up your second 1:1 meeting with instructor. These meetings must take place by Friday Nov. 18** |
| Week 6  Dates: 11/14-11/18 |  | Write Post #4 on a particular challenge you face in your internship and how you have or potentially could overcome it. | **Post #4 is due on Friday, Nov 18 at 5 p.m.** |
| Week 7  Dates: 4/21 - 11/25 |  | Write Post #5. Detail an ethical issue that has come up in your work, and how it might be best resolved. | **Post #5 is due on Tuesday Nov. 22 at 5 p.m. Note the early due date.**  **Thanksgiving Recess: Wednesday Nov. 23 to Sunday Nov. 27** |
| Week 8  Dates: 11/28 - 12/2 |  | Work on your final paper, which should be about 1,000 words. The paper should describe what you learned about the organization you interned with and what you learned about yourself through the experience. | **Course evaluations must be completed by Dec. 2** |
| FINAL EXAM PERIOD  Dates: 12/7-12/14 |  | Submit final paper by email to instructor as a word attachment or google doc **File name “J205 Final YOURLASTNAME”**) | **Final paper is due by Friday, Dec. 14 at 11:59 p.m.** |

**XI. Policies and Procedures**

**Communication**If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to set up a meeting, please write Eric at [**ericpape@usc.edu**](mailto:ericpape@usc.edu) and he will reply as soon as he is able.

**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*

<https://eeotix.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

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/note takers/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.

*Annenberg Student Emergency Aid Fund*

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

Awards are distributed to students experiencing unforeseen circumstances and emergencies impacting their ability to pay tuition or cover everyday living expenses. These awards are not intended to cover full-tuition expenses, but rather serve as bridge funding to guarantee students’ continued enrollment at USC until other resources, such as scholarships or loans, become available. Students are encouraged to provide as much information in their application, as well as contact their academic advisor directly with questions about additional resources available to them.

**XII. About Your Instructor**

Pulitzer Prize winner **Gary Cohn** is a longtime investigative reporter. Many of his stories have exposed wrongdoing and resulted in significant reforms. A reporter for more than three decades, Gary has been teaching at USC Annenberg for more than 15 years. In summer 2019, he was one of the editors who helped lead Annenberg’s groundbreaking Beacon Project, aimed at training the next generation of investigative journalists. Gary has worked for the Los Angeles Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Baltimore Sun, the Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader and the Wall Street Journal. Gary and his colleague Will Englund won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for “The Shipbreakers,” a series of stories in the Baltimore Sun that documented the dangers to workers and the environment when old warships are dismantled. He has also won two Selden Ring awards, an Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE) Medal, a George Polk award for environmental journalism and two Overseas Press Club Awards, and was a Pulitzer finalist on two other occasions. Gary is currently working on a journalism project titled “Should College Athletes Get Paid: The Changing Economics of College Sports in a Post-Pandemic World,” under fellowship grants from NYU’s Carter Journalism Institute and the Fund for Investigative Journalism.