

## REVISED COURSE PROPOSAL

Prefix, Number and Name of Course:  
**COM 327 Literary Journalism**

**Credit Hours: 3 credits**

In-Class Instructional Hours: 3

Labs: 0

Field Work: 0

**Catalog Description:**

Prerequisite: COM 100 and COM 210

Exploration of literary excellence in journalistic writing; classic journalistic authors and their stories; relationship of journalism and literature, as well as television and radio scripts and on-line, long-form narrative

**Reasons for Revision:**

(Fall 2010) This course was last revised in approximately 2000. This revision will update the course to include changing journalistic writing practice across multiple media formats, and expanding scholarship in the field. The prerequisite is also changing, allowing students to take the course once they have completed COM 100 Media Literacy and 200 level Media Writing course.

<b>Student Learning Outcomes:</b>	<b>Course Content References:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>
On completion of this course, students will be able to:		
1. Identify and meaningfully discuss classic works by writers and reporters of American journalism	I	1. Exams, papers, applied projects, class participation, presentations
2. Critically analyze the elements in works of journalism that constitute designations of “great” and “classic” and thus are worthy of enduring fame	II, III, VI	2. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the characteristics and varieties of approaches to literary journalism	IV, V	3. Exams, papers, applied projects, class, participation, presentations
4. Critically analyze various ways that American journalistic writing in print, broadcast scripts and long-form online narratives has influenced American literary culture and literary writers	III, IV, V, VI	4. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations

## **Course Content:**

- I. Literary Journalism
  - A. Relationship with news writing
  - B. Relationship with literature
  - C. Interviewing
  - D. Research
- II. Characteristics of Literary Journalism
  - A. Strong narrative
  - B. Evocative description
  - C. Realistic character presentation
- III. Literary Journalistic Writing Style
  - A. Quotations and dialogue
  - B. Metaphoric language
  - C. Physical detail
  - D. Sound and sense
  - E. Deconstruction
  - F. Close analysis
- IV. Topics of Literary Journalism
  - A. Reporting of major disasters and news
  - B. Reporting of societal change and social issues
  - C. Reporting of personal and family relationships
  - D. War reporting
  - E. Interviews with heroes and newsmakers
  - F. Reporting of firsts, lasts and onlys
- V. Formats of Literary Journalism
  - A. Journalistic novels
  - B. Docu-dramas
  - C. Serial reporting
  - D. New journalism
  - E. Long-form online narratives
  - F. Broadcast scripts
- VI. Key Figures in Literary Journalism (examples)
  - A. Ernest Hemingway
  - B. Jack London
  - C. H.L. Mencken
  - D. Ida Tarbell
  - E. Hunter Thompson
  - F. Ernie Pyle
  - G. Jimmy Breslin

## Resources:

### Scholarship in the Field.

- Adam, G. Stuart, and Roy Peter. Clark. *Journalism: The Democratic Craft*. New York: Oxford UP, 2006. Print.
- Bloom, Stephen G. *Inside the Writer's Mind: Writing Narrative Journalism*. Ames, IA: Iowa State, 2002. Print.
- Clark, Roy Peter., and Christopher Scanlan. *America's Best Newspaper Writing: A Collection of ASNE Prizewinners*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006. Print.
- Geller, Valerie, and Turi Ryder. *Creating Powerful Radio: Getting, Keeping & Growing Audiences : News, Talk, Information & Personality, Broadcast, HD, Satellite & Internet*. Amsterdam: Focal, 2007. Print.
- Goldstein, Norm. *Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law*. New York: Basic, 2007. Print.
- Hartsock, John C. *A History of American Literary Journalism: The Emergence of a Modern Narrative Form*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts, 2000. Print.
- Hilmes, Michele. *Only Connect: A Cultural History of Broadcasting in the United States*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011. Print.
- Hutchison, Earl R. *The Art of Feature Writing: From Newspaper Features and Magazine Articles to Commentary*. New York: Oxford UP, 2008. Print.
- Irby, John. *Reporting That Matters: Public Affairs Coverage*. Boston: Pearson Allyn and Bacon, 2007. Print.
- Kern, Jonathan. *Sound Reporting: The NPR Guide to Audio Journalism and Production*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2008. Print.
- Kerrane, Kevin, and Ben Yagoda. *The Art of Fact: A Historical Anthology of Literary Journalism*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1998. Print.
- Lopate, Phillip. *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present*. New York: Anchor , Doubleday, 1995. Print.
- "The New New Journalism | By Robert S. Boynton." *The New NEW Journalism*. Web. 12 Nov. 2010. <[http://www.newnewjournalism.com/bio.php?last\\_name=schlosser](http://www.newnewjournalism.com/bio.php?last_name=schlosser)>.
- Sims, Norman, and Mark Kramer, eds. *Literary Journalism*. New York, NY: Ballantine, 1995. Web.
- Wenger, Debora Halpern., and Deborah Potter. *Advancing the Story: Broadcast Journalism in a Multimedia World*. Washington, D.C.: CQ, 2008. Print.

### Periodicals:

*Columbia Journalism Review*  
*Editor & Publisher*  
*Journalism Quarterly*

*Nieman Reports*  
*Washington Journalism Review*

Electronic and/or Audiovisual Resources

AEJMC History Division  
<http://www.utc.edu/~aejhist>

American Journalism Historians Association  
<http://ajhaonline.org>

American Women's History: Journalism  
<http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women/wh-jour.html>

Center for History and New Media  
<http://chnm.gmu.edu>

Nieman Journalism Lab –Harvard University  
[www.niemanlab.org](http://www.niemanlab.org)

Paley Center for Media  
<http://www.mtr.org>

Poynter Online – Journalism  
[www.poynter.org](http://www.poynter.org)