The purpose of this course is to give students an overview of the history of journalism in America and to relate that history to contemporary work in the field—both in the print and broadcast fields. Through classroom lectures, discussions, readings, videos and historical research, students will be encouraged to develop a greater appreciation of their media heritage.

This is an upper level course and I will expect more out of you than I would in a 200 or 300 level class. You will be expected to read THOROUGHLY each assignment and be prepared to discuss your opinions about what you read with the class. If you have nothing to add to our discussion then I will assume you didn’t complete the reading. If you did not understand the reading, talk about that. You probably will not be alone and part of the point of the discussion is to work out problems you might be having with the ideas or concepts that are being presented.

Two Tests: there will be a mid-term and a final. The final will not be comprehensive (30% & 40% of your grade)

One Research Paper: You will be required to write one major research paper. Any topic related to the history of journalism is fair game but I would suggest you use issues or persons discussed in class as your jumping off point. (30% of your grade-paper)

Overall Grading Scale: A-90%, B-80%, C-70%, D-60%

Students are expected to attend and come to class prepared to discuss the topics outlined. Reading assignments should be done prior to class coverage of the material. Attendance will be taken every class. For each three unexcused absences you will be penalized one letter grade. Chronic tardiness will also count as an unexcused absence at the discretion of the instructor.
History of Journalism

Week#/First day—Reading assignments

Week 1/Jan.10—Introduction to Course/BEFORE THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Week 2/Jan.17—Chap. 1/ THE COLONIAL YEARS

Week 3/Jan.24—Chap. 2/ THE PRESS AND REVOLUTION

Week 4/Jan.31—Chap. 3/ THE PRESS AND THE FOUNDING OF A NATION

Week 5/Feb.7—Chap. 4/ A PRESS FOR THE MASSES

Week 6/Feb.14—Chap. 5/ A DIVIDED NATION, A DIVIDED MEDIA

Week 7/Feb.21—The Pulitzers & Chap 6/ THE YELLOW PRESS AND THE TIMES

Week 8/Feb.28—Nellie Bly & MIDTERM

SPRING BREAK

Week 9/Mar.14—Chap. 7/ MAGAZINES, MUCKRAKING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS & Take-Home Assignment

FINAL PAPER PROPOSAL DUE ON TUESDAY

Week 10/Mar.21—Ernie Pyle & EASTER

Week 11/Mar.28—Edward R. Murrow & Pulitzer Prize Photos

Week 12/Apr. 4—Nixon—Checkers to Watergate & The Nixon—Kennedy debate

Week 13/Apr.11—The Kennedy Assassination & The Press and the Military

Week 14/Apr.18—Gonzo Journalism & Geraldo Riveria

Week 15/Apr.25—Election 2000 and 9/11 & Review

Finals Week—FINAL & PAPER DUE