

HISTORY OF AMERICAN JOURNALISM: ZENGER TO ZUCKERBERG, SPRING 2021

Tuesday, Thursday 9:15-10:30 a.m.

Online only

Robert Hodiern, instructor

Office: 424 Weinstein Hall

Office hours: By Zoom appointment only. No in-person office hours.

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TEXTBOOK

“The Media in America: A History” by William David Sloan (Tenth edition paperback). This is available in the bookstore and from various online sellers.

There will be a series of video lectures that you will be expected to watch before dates to be determined. We will then discuss those lectures in class. I am reluctant to fix dates to those because who knows what will happen to our schedule? On the due date of watching a video lecture there will be a quiz.

HISTORICAL TOPICS

Here are the main topics we will study during the course of this semester and the approximate time devoted to each. **There will be quizzes.**

Colonial era: How did the concept of a free press develop in the colonies and what impact did newspapers have on the drive for independence? Two weeks.

Election of 1800: You think things are rough in today’s politics, wait until you read newspaper accounts of the presidential campaign of 1800. One week

The Penny Press: Our first mass market media. One week.

Civil War: The press goes to war, with mixed reviews. One week.

Muckrakers: Our first investigative reporters. Two weeks.

Radio: It changed the world. One week.

Television: It really changed the world. One week.

Internet: OK, that really did change the world. Two weeks.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

The class will be divided into three teams. Each team will tackle one of the topics listed below. As a class we will decide who's on each team and what each team will research. Each team will be expected to write a final paper in the order of magnitude of 3,000-3,500 words. In addition, each team will make a class presentation of 30 minutes.

These topics are broad. Entire libraries are filled with books about them. Early in the semester each team will devise a focused and limited approach to the topics and present that to the class.

America drops the A-bomb on Japan in 1945. John Hersey's account of Hiroshima in the August 1946 New Yorker Magazine is the most distinguished writing about the bombing. But what about other news outlets?

Newspaper Coverage of the Spanish Influenza.

Media Coverage of the 1960s Antiwar Movement

The research papers will be due at the start of class Tuesday, April 20. In-class presentations, in random selected order, will begin that day.

REPORTS ON IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES

Each of you will be assigned to do relatively brief (about 1,000 words) bios of **two** of the names listed below. You will also do a five-minute presentation to the class on each of your two personalities.

James Gordon Bennett
Horace Greeley
Thomas Nast
Joseph Pulitzer
Nellie Bly
William Randolph Hearst
Ida Well-Barnett
Ida Tarbell
Henry Luce
David Sarnoff
Charles Dana
Ambrose Bierce
Edward R. Murrow
Walter Cronkite
Red Smith
I.F. Stone
Rupert Murdoch
George Will
William F. Buckley
Molly Ivins

The research papers on personalities will be due at the start of class Tuesday, April 6. In class presentations, in random selected order, will begin that day.

Grading:

Papers will be graded on whether they demonstrate a command of writing mechanics, articulate a clear focus and purpose, exhibit awareness of audience, demonstrate an understanding of appropriate organization and whether they analyze evidence from sources, experience and empirical research to provide proper support to ideas.

The oral presentations will be graded on whether they clearly and logically organize thoughts to make them easily understood, exhibit awareness of and attention to the audience, demonstrate appropriate word choice and rhetorical strategies. In addition, you will be graded on how creative and engaging the presentation is. The presentation can incorporate any media you wish. You should be prepared to make your presentations via Zoom.

Those grading criteria were taken from the university's Assessment Plan for First Year Seminars.

Workload:

To be successful in this course, you should expect to devote 10-14 hours each week including class time.

Attendance:

Who knows how we're going to handle attendance? That's a developing topic.

Deadlines:

When a paper is due on a particular date it is due at the start of the class period that day.

Cell Phones:

No cell phone use, either voice or text, is allowed during class. If your cell phone goes off, you will be asked to leave the class and not allowed to return during that period. That will count as an unexcused absence.

Reaching me:

I will not be keeping face-to-face office hours. But you can reach me by any number of ways: Zoom, telephone (804-484-4759) or e-mail (rhodiern@richmond.edu).

A special note about e-mails to me: Treat them like the business communication they are. Begin with a conventional salutation (Dear. Prof. Hodierne) and end with a polite closing (Sincerely, Jane Doe). Write in complete sentences with proper capitalization and punctuation. I don't think emoticons are cute. Finally, I don't respond to text messages, Facebook postings or Tweets. Use your university email address so I don't have to guess who pongking@yahoo is.

Plagiarism:

The university honor code defines plagiarism this way: "Plagiarism occurs when a student, with

intent to deceive, presents any information, ideas or phrasing of another as if they were her own.” Don't appropriate the work of others and pretend it's yours. Err on the side of disclosure. Even if you have appropriated an idea or concept from another without actually stealing that person's words verbatim, say where the idea came from. We call that research.

If I catch you plagiarizing, you will fail this course.

Disability Support Service

If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please visit the University of Richmond Disability Services website to begin the accommodations process as soon as possible. (disability.richmond.edu/students/process/index.htm) If you already have a University of Richmond Disability Accommodation Notice (DAN), please make me aware of your accommodations as soon as possible. No student will receive accommodations of any kind without a DAN.

Recordings

One of the hallmarks of a University of Richmond education is small classes where faculty and students engage in robust discussions. The goal is always to encourage students with varied perspectives to be heard respectfully. In the department of journalism classrooms, we frequently discuss and debate the latest events and issues in the news that affect our own lives in the current moment. Recognizing all this, professors in Journalism will not be recording our classroom sessions. Recordings of discussions in this class may not be shared beyond members of the class. The fear is students will not engage fully if they believe their comments will be posted to a public site. To be specific, you may not post audio or visual recordings nor transcripts of class discussions, whether made by the faculty member, another student or you, in any public forum whatsoever. Violations can lead to university sanctions including dismissal from school.