COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM
CODING: INFP 4016
QUANTITY OF CREDITS: THREE (3) HOURS CREDITS A WEEK
PREREQUISITE: NONE

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:
This requisite course studies the history, the theories, the fundamentals and the characteristics of the journalistic field. The evolution of the press as a cultural and social product, and the transformations that it has been subjected to in the context of new communicative practices. In addition, the distinctive features of the journalistic genres, their style and language are examined.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
This course aims to provide the student with theoretical knowledge basic aspects of journalistic history and practice.

At the end of the course, students will:

• Know the history and development of journalism.
• Learn what are the roles that have been assigned to the press in different historical periods.
• Value the transformations of which journalism has been object with the advent of new technologies and the model of media convergence in the Information and Knowledge Society.
• Understand the main theoretical debates on the field of journalism.
• Become familiar with the ethical standards that should govern the journalistic profession.
• Recognize the different genres, languages and journalistic styles.

COURSE SKETCH AND TIME DISTRIBUTION:

I. Introduction to the history of journalism (11 hours)
   A. Historical background on the press in the world
   Before and after Gutemberg
   B. The press in Puerto Rico
      1- Written press
2- Radio and television press
3- Cyberjournalism

C. World evolution of Journalism

II. Social function and criticism of the press (12 hours)

A. Journalistic concepts
   1- What is journalism?: definitions, types and concepts
   2- Social role of the press

B. Development of the profession and journalistic production

C. News values
   1- Modes in which it is decided what is and what is not news.

D. The elements of journalism and its relation to ethical values
   1- Commitment to the truth
   2- Responsibilities and loyalties
   3- Verification and balance of information and sources
   4- Respect the individual conscience of professionals, professional honesty
   5- Freedom of expression and freedom of the press
   6- Basic code of ethics

F. Relevant theories and models

G. The press and public opinion
   1- Dimensions of the concept "public opinion".
   2- Opinion, perception and social reality
      2.1. The theory of "Agenda-Setting"
      2.2 Other theories.

III. The media, digital and multimedia convergence (11 hours)

A. Definition and characteristics

B. Interactivity and new audiences

C. Impact on democracy
   1- Deliberation versus participation

D. The blogosphere

IV. Genres, languages and journalistic styles (11 hours)

A. Informative genres
   1- News
   2- Report
   3- Chronicle: a hybrid genre

B. Opinion genres
   1- Comment
   2- Column
   3- Review
   4- Editorial
C. New gender trends in the digital era
D. Language and style
Drafting models: between the traditional and the emergent.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES:

This is a theoretical course that will be based on lectures by the teacher (s) and guests. The student body will be required to conduct research, oral reports, monographs, essays, and other papers related to the topics being discussed.

LEVELING LEVELS AND MINIMUM INSTALLATIONS AVAILABLE OR REQUIRED:

The student has at his disposal the computerized writing rooms and the graphic design, the Communication Research Center, the specialized library in Communication, as well as the bibliographic resources available in the Campus and the School.

EVALUATION TECHNIQUES:

The grade of each student will be determined as follows:

• Participation, assistance 20%
• Partial tests (tests, investigations) 30%
• Oral reports 10%
• Final work 40%

A differentiated evaluation will be made to students with special needs.

GRADING SYSTEM:
The student will be evaluated with the grading system from "A" to "F".

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND THE COMMUNICATION SCHOOL:

* The student must know and comply with the university regulations and with the Institutional policies of the University of Puerto Rico regarding harassment sexual exploitation, use and abuse of drugs and alcohol, ethical legal use of information, discipline in the classroom, academic honesty, among others. All student who violates the provisions of university regulations or who fails to comply institutional policies will be referred to the Office of Coordination of Affairs Students of the School of Communication for the application of the measures disciplines that correspond according to university regulations.

* Respect for diversity is a factor of paramount importance in the world academic. In this regard, the School of Communication holds:
We approach the concept of diversity from the context of our identity culture, whose historical hybridity facilitates an intrinsic heterogeneity our way of being and thinking. We start from the conviction that differences in human beings can not constitute inequality, but affirmation of individual identity, right acquired by the very nature of what we are. It guides us, among other postulates, article 4 of the Universal Declaration on cultural diversity of UNESCO (2002) which states that 'the defense of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for dignity of the human person.' We promote the understanding of the plurality of identities in a disposition of inclusion in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, ways of thinking and being, cultural background, national origin, social class, age, political ideology, etc. We fully comply with Law 51 of June 17, 1996, which gives the persons with disabilities the right to receive reasonable accommodation for the development of their particular abilities and abilities. We honor article 6 of the Student Regulations of the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, which establishes that "you will not be able to deprive no student, by reason of sex, race, origin, social status, creed political party or religion, the right of association or the services and programs provides the University."

By the very nature of the knowledge that investigates and studies the field of communication, we are guided by the interest to promote in the curricular design the transdisciplinary, multicultural and international dimension thereof, thus stimulating not only knowledge but also the relevant sensitivities for the understanding of the diverse identities that define us.

A REASONABLE COMODE:

• Students who have special needs or who suffer from medical conditions or any type of physical, mental or emotionally requiring a reasonable accommodation must notify the Office of People with Disabilities of the Precinct, to the highest as soon as possible, in order to provide them with the necessary reasonable accommodation, tenor with applicable federal and state laws.
• Students who receive Vocational Rehabilitation services they should contact the teacher at the beginning of the semester to plan the reasonable accommodation and necessary assistance equipment according to the recommendations of the Office of People's Affairs with Impediments (OAPI) of the Dean of Students.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The University of Puerto Rico promotes the highest standards of integrity academic and scientific. Article 6.2 of the General Regulation of Students of the UPR (Certification No. 13, 2009-2010 of the Board of Trustees) establishes that the "Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: fraudulent actions, obtaining of grades or academic degrees using false or fraudulent simulations, copy totally or partially the academic work of another person, plagiarize totally or partially the work of another person, copy totally or partially the answers of another person to the questions of an examination, doing or getting another to take on their behalf any test or oral or written exam, as well as the help or facilitation so that another person incur the referred behavior ". Any of these actions will be subject to sanctions disciplinary proceedings in
accordance with the disciplinary procedure established in General Regulation of Students of the UPR in force.

**RATING SYSTEM:**

This course uses the traditional rating system from *A* to *F*

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**


Creemos en los Sueños.


Tascón, Mario, y Quintana, Yolanda (2012). “Defendiendo la frontera. La historia de los ciberactivistas pioneros”, en https://periodismoabc.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/lahistoria-de-los-ciberactivistas-pioneros.pdf


**Recommended supplementary bibliography:**


Cybernetic pages:
American Press Institute, http://www.americanpressinstitute.org/broadcastjournalism
Cyber Journalist, http://www.cyberjournalist.net/
Poynter Institute, http://www.poynter.org/
Real Academia Española, http://www.rae.es
Salaverría, Ramón, Salaverría.es, ideas about journalism.
Revised May 2016