

Loyola University Chicago
COMM 372 – 201 / Special Topics Journalism – Fake News: A Critical Look

Autumn 2017

Wednesdays

7 – 9:30 p.m.

Corboy Law Center/Room 105
Professor Dorothy (Dodie) B. Hofstetter
School of Communication
312-307-2906
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Prerequisites

COMM 175 or DMST-MC (Digital-Media & Storytelling Masters program)

Course description

This course will delve into the topic of Fake News, examining current and historical examples and accusations, and conclude with guidelines to help consumers of news recognize what can be trusted and what cannot.

**Instructor Office Hours
(By appointment)**

Grading

Participation in this class is essential. Students will be graded on their active participation in discussions, critiques, q&a's and presentations. Written materials will be graded on content, style (AP), grammar and punctuation; a hard copy must be typed, double-spaced, to be handed in for grading. Presentations must include a hard copy of a typed source list containing at least three sources, to be handed in for grading.

Grades will be determined in the following manner:

Historical Presentation: 100 points

Current Events Presentation: 100 points

Q's for Speakers: 75 points (25 points each)

Analysis of Speakers' Presentations: 75 points (25 points each)

Defining News I: 100 points

Defining News II: 200 points

Consumer Guidelines to Trusting Sources and Defining Fake News: 200 points

Participation: 150 points

Final Grade scale

1000-940: A

939-900: A-
899-880: B+
879-830: B
829-800: B-
799-780: C+
779-730: C
729-700: C-
699-680: D+
679-640: D
629-600: D-
599-0: F

Professionalism

You are expected to act in a professional manner in class. That means approaching your schoolwork as if it were your job. Showing up, and showing up on time, are critical. Letting the instructor know ahead of time of an absence is crucial. Participation and listening attentively are essential. Unexcused absences will affect your final grade. If you have an unexcused absence on the scheduled day of your presentation, you will receive an F for your presentation.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic dishonesty can take several forms, including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying another student's work, and submitting false documents. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, such acts as:

- Obtaining, distributing, or communicating examination materials prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the teacher;
- Providing information to another student during an examination;
- Obtaining information from another student or any other person during an examination;
- Using any material or equipment during an examination without consent of the instructor, or in a manner which is not authorized by the instructor;
- Attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted;
- Unauthorized collaboration, or the use in whole or part of another student's work, on homework, lab reports, programming assignments, and any other course work which is completed outside of the classroom;
- Falsifying medical or other documents to petition for excused absences or extensions of deadlines; or
- Any other action that, by omission or commission, compromises the integrity of the academic evaluation process.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism is the appropriation of ideas, language, work, or intellectual property of another, either by intent or by negligence, without sufficient public acknowledgement and appropriate citation that the material is not one's own. It is true that every thought probably has been influenced to some degree by the thoughts and actions of others. Such influences can be thought of as affecting the ways we see things and express all thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the taking and use of specific

words and ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of the sources, and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Submitting as one's own material copied from a published source, such as Internet, print, CD-ROM, audio, video, etc.;
- Submitting as one's own another person's unpublished work or examination material;
- Allowing another or paying another to write or research a paper for one's own benefit; or
- Purchasing, acquiring, and using for course credit a pre-written paper.

The above list is in no way intended to be exhaustive. Students should be guided by the principle that it is of utmost importance to give proper recognition to all sources. To do so is both an act of personal, professional courtesy and of intellectual honesty. Any failure to do so, whether by intent or by neglect, whether by omission or commission, is an act of plagiarism. A more detailed description of this issue can be found at <http://luc.edu/english/writing.shtml#source>. In addition, a student may not submit the same paper or other work for credit in two or more classes. This applies even if the student is enrolled in the classes during different semesters. If a student plans to submit work with similar or overlapping content for credit in two or more classes, the student should consult with all instructors prior to submission of the work to make certain that such submission will not violate this standard. Plagiarism or any other **act of academic dishonesty** will result minimally in the instructor's assigning the grade of "F" for the assignment or examination. The instructor may impose a more severe sanction, including a grade of "F" in the course. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported by the instructor to the appropriate area head and to the office of the Dean of the School of Communication. A complete description of the School of Communication Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <http://www.luc.edu/soc/Policy.shtml> Students with Disabilities: Students who need special accommodations for exams or class meetings because of a learning disability will provide instructor with a letter documenting the type of accommodations needed. If they claim to have a physical or psychological condition that hinders their ability to perform in class, medical documentation must be provided to the Office for Students with Disabilities and that office will assess whether or not your collaboration is required. These matters are confidential.

Schedule

Week One

Aug. 30

Class Introductions; Course Overview

Week Two

Sept. 6

Historical Presentation by Professor

Current Events Presentation by Professor

Ongoing Guidelines Discussion

Week Three

Sept. 13

Historical Presentation by Students

Current Events Presentation by Students

Ongoing Guidelines Discussion
Explanation of next week's speaker

Week Four

Sept. 20

Guest Speaker: TBA
Ongoing Discussion

Week Five

Sept. 27

Historical Presentation by Students
Current Events Presentation by Students
Ongoing Guidelines Discussion

Week Six

Oct. 4

Guest Speaker: TBA
Ongoing Discussion

Week Seven

Oct. 11

Symposium

Week Eight

Oct. 18

Guest Speaker: TBA
Ongoing Discussion

Week Nine

Oct. 25

Historical Presentation by Students
Current Events Presentation by Students
Ongoing Guidelines Discussion

Week Ten

Nov. 1

Historical Presentation by Students
Current Events Presentation by Students
Ongoing Guidelines Discussion

Week Eleven

Nov. 8

Historical Presentation by Students
Current Events Presentation by Students
Ongoing Guidelines Discussion

Week Twelve

Nov. 15

Historical Presentation by Students
Current Events Presentation by Students
Ongoing Guidelines Discussion

Week Thirteen

Nov. 22

No class – Thanksgiving Break

Week Fourteen

Nov. 29

Historical Presentation by Students
Current Events Presentation by Students
Ongoing Guidelines Discussion

Week Fifteen

Dec. 6

Conclusions