

## M.A. in Journalism and Public Affairs (Broadcast Public Policy)

(Degree Requirements, effective as of Academic Year 2009–2010)

The 33 credit hours of coursework must include:

Required Courses	Semester	Grade
<b>COMM-624: Principles and Practices of Journalism</b> An introduction to news reporting and news writing. Previous students have dubbed this course “Boot Camp” because of its intensity and difficulty. The three-week course introduces you to Washington, D.C., to essential principles for reporting on government and public affairs issues, and to the rigors of graduate-level work in SOC. Involves extensive field reporting and critiques, as well as career preparation through sessions with industry leaders and key alums. <b>(Must earn “B” (3.0) or better)</b>	Summer 2009	
<b>COMM-535: Digital Skills for Journalists</b> Writing and editing the online news publication, <i>The American Observer</i> . Improving grammar, learning AP style, editing, headline writing, good news judgment, story and visual selection, discussion of legal and ethical issues and trends in news coverage and audiences.	Fall 2009	
<b>COMM-724: Reporting of Public Affairs</b> Training in writing news as a Washington correspondent with emphasis on the coverage of domestic, international, and economic public policy issues. Students will learn news judgment, news writing, how to gather information, the rules of the Associated Press Stylebook, interviewing and note-taking skills, basic journalism ethics, resourcefulness and accountability.	Fall 2009	
<b>COMM-721: Broadcast News I</b> Audio storytelling for radio and the Web in narrative and non-narrative forms. Students gather, write, report, produce and edit stories in digital format. Coursework includes production of radio newscasts and/or podcasts and a final mini-documentary. Discussion of ethical issues, industry trends in commercial and public radio. Training in vocal delivery.	Fall 2009	
<b>COMM-710: Seminar in Public Affairs</b> Exploration of the rapidly changing world of journalism in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. A critical examination of important issues in contemporary journalism with an emphasis on confronting and challenging assumptions about the news media and their influence. Current issues in the making of domestic, international, and economic public policy in Washington with emphasis on the role of the media. Includes a major reporting project. <b>(Must earn “B” (3.0) or better)</b>	Fall 2009	
<b>COMM-601: Legal Aspects of Communication</b> Students will gain a working understanding of the American system of freedom of expression, a firm grasp of substantive mass communication law, working knowledge of the structure of the judicial system, a familiarity with legal reasoning and the skills needed to conduct fundamental legal research online. This course will focus on the U.S. Supreme Court’s legal rulings and the reasoning the justices apply to expand or limit the expressive rights of the press in the conventional mass media as well as the Internet.	Spring 2010 or Summer 2010	
<b>COMM-632: Television Field Reporting</b> Instruction in shooting, writing, and producing of television news packages and non-narrative video storytelling. Training in vocal delivery and on-camera presentation skills. Mastery of non-linear editing and graphics. Discussion of ethics, industry trends. Production of a resume tape.	Spring 2010	
<b>COMM-722: Broadcast News II</b> Development of news judgment, producing and writing television newscasts on the Associated Press ENPS system. Learning and practicing on-camera performance skills for TV newscasts. Training in studio production skills from technical direction to camera operation.	Spring 2010	
Approved Elective*	Spring 2010 or Summer 2010	
Approved Elective*	Spring 2010	
<b>COMM-696: TV Documentary</b> Shooting, writing, producing and video editing of a television news mini-documentary. <b>(Must earn “B” (3.0) or better)</b>	Summer 2010	
<b>Journalism Comprehensive Examination:</b> All students must take and pass the Comprehensive Exam, which is given every spring semester for this program.	Spring 2010	

\*Two approved elective courses (6 credits), which may include an internship or cooperative field experience course for 3 credits, are required. Students are encouraged to take at least one course (3 credits) outside of the SOC in an area of graduate study related to public affairs. Possible areas include political science, public administration, history, economics, the range of social sciences, and international relations. Depending on background and experience, two such courses (6 credits) may be approved with permission of the program director.