

## M.A. in Journalism and Public Affairs (Print/International)

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

The 33 credit hours of coursework must include:

Required SOC Courses	Semester	Grade
<p><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></p>	Summer 2009	
<p><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.</p>	Fall 2009	
<p><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></p>	Fall 2009	
<p><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.</p>	Fall 2009	
<p><b>Approved Elective</b> (One elective should be an SIS or international-related course)</p>	Fall 2009	
<p><b>COMM-621: Advanced Editing</b> Print and online production training in editing news and feature stories. Writing and editing the online news publication, <i>The American Observer</i>. Emphasis is on the dynamics of stories and the refinement of stories for publication.</p>	Spring 2010	
<p><b>COMM-636: Washington Reporting OR SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE</b> Refining journalistic skills in the area of feature article writing and editing with the emphasis on feature writing in the Washington environment. The course will teach the principles of good feature reporting and writing, as well as how to market ideas and stories. Extensive outside reporting and writing of articles appropriate for newspapers, magazines or the online environment.</p>	Spring 2010	
<p><b>COMM-720: Seminar in Journalism</b> Examines ethical and economic issues affecting the press and initiates studies to add to the literature of media criticism. Students become acquainted with team journalism and magazine writing through in-depth projects focusing on press issues. <b>(Must earn “B” (3.0) or better)</b></p>	Spring 2010	
<p><b>COMM-546: Foreign Policy and the Press</b> The role of the American news media in the coverage of foreign policy issues. Philosophical issues include whether freedom of the press is adequately exercised in the foreign policy field and whether the national media sometimes serve as propagandists for the United States government. Students should be prepared to engage in adversarial debates over key issues. <b>OR</b> <b>COMM-596: Foreign Correspondence</b> This course prepares students to work as journalists, photographers, documentary makers, and social media producers in foreign countries. It also provides research skills and training applicable in business, non-profit, non-governmental organizations. Examines structure/process of news/information gathering and journalistic standards. Students build a “Trip File” with analysis and story ideas to execute overseas.</p>	Spring 2010 or Summer 2010	
<p><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.</p>	Spring 2010 or Summer 2010	
<p><b>Approved Elective</b> (One elective should be an SIS or international-related course)</p>	Summer 2010	
<p><b>Comprehensive Exam</b> All students must take and pass the Comprehensive Exam, which is given every spring semester for this program.</p>	Spring 2010	