

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code, Number, and Title:

JOUR 1122: Journalism Research Techniques

Course Format:

[Course format may vary by instructor. The typical course format would be:]

Lecture 1 h + Seminar 0 h + Lab 1 h

Credits: 1.5

Transfer credit: For information, visit bctransferguide.ca

Course Description, Prerequisites, Corequisites:

Students get a practical introduction to basic journalism research skills: how to find people and how to find information on people, governments, businesses and charities. They learn advanced interviewing skills and how to spot false information. Students conceptualize an investigative project using tools such as freedom of information requests and database analysis, which will be used as a foundation for further study in advanced research techniques and investigative journalism.

Students will receive credit for only one of JOUR 1120 and 1122.

Prerequisites:

Corequisites: JOUR 1128

Registration in this course is restricted to students admitted to the Diploma or Certificate in Journalism

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the many possible sources of information about people, charities, businesses and governments
- Define which sources of information are the most relevant for the news story or project being worked on
- Collect information on people, organizations, authority figures for the news story
- Compare information from multiple sources to create a comprehensive picture of an issue or person
- Evaluate what sources of information are the most credible and relevant
- Assess and synthesize the material collected to ensure the best information is used in news reporting

snəwəyət̚ leləm̚ Langara College acknowledges that we are located on the unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

Instructor(s): TBA

Office: TBA **Phone:** 604 323 XXXX **Email:** TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Textbook and Course Materials:

[Textbook selection may vary by instructor. An example of texts and course materials for this course might be:]

For textbook information, visit https://mycampusstore.langara.bc.ca/buy_courselisting.asp?selTerm=3|8

Note: This course may use an electronic (online) instructional resource that is located outside of Canada for mandatory graded class work. You may be required to enter personal information, such as your name and email address, to log in to this resource. This means that your personal information could be stored on servers located outside of Canada and may be accessed by U.S. authorities, subject to federal laws. Where possible, you may log in with an email pseudonym as long as you provide the pseudonym to me so I can identify you when reviewing your class work.

Assessments and Weighting:

Final Exam %

Other Assessments %

(An example of other assessments might be:) %

Quizzes/Tests: 5%

Assignments: 60%

Project: 25%

Participation: 10%

Courses do not have final exams because of constant assignment and feedback cycle that is characteristic of journalism programs.

Participation format: Attendance; preparation for class with relevant questions based on material assigned

Proportion of individual and group work:

Individual: 100%

Grading System: Letter grade

Specific grading schemes will be detailed in each course section outline.

Passing grade: C-

This generic outline is for planning purposes only.

Topics Covered:

[Topics covered may vary by instructor. An example of topics covered might be:]

Class 1: Think Globally, report locally: An Introduction to investigative reporting

Class 2: How to come up with investigative story ideas: Short-term vs. long-term projects

Class 3: Finding information on people – Part 1: Mining social media, using phone books, sneaky googling tricks

Class 4: Finding information on people – Part 2: Mining social media, craigslist, boolean logic

Class 5: Finding information through Courts: Court/criminal records searches as a tool (Pick your investigative topic, go over deadlines)

Class 6: FOI and ATIP: An introduction to Canadian laws and practices

Class 7: Filing FOIs, brainstorming topics for long-term projects

Class 8: Finding information through other public databases: BC Online, disciplinary agencies, American records

Class 9: Advanced Interviewing Skills: The challenging interviews, including sensitive and reluctant subjects and those who are outright hostile.

Class 10: How to find experts: determining your project topic and doing preliminary interview with expert, advocate or analyst

Class 11: Follow the Money: Private individuals, corporations, and governments, political donations, charities, bankruptcy and SEC records

Class 12: Fallacies: how to spot them, how to combat them (including when public officials lie and what to do about it.)

Class 13: Waiting for FOI: Is your FOI here yet? What other research can you do while you wait?

As a student at Langara, you are responsible for familiarizing yourself and complying with the following policies:

College Policies:

[E1003 - Student Code of Conduct](#)

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[F1004 - Code of Academic Conduct](#)

[E2008 - Academic Standing - Academic Probation and Academic Suspension](#)

[E2006 - Appeal of Final Grade](#)

[F1002 - Concerns about Instruction](#)

[E2011 - Withdrawal from Courses](#)

Departmental/Course Policies:

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