

**COURSE CARDS FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE
WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED.
Course Cards will be held for pick up at the proctors' table.**

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- A. Media History: Power, Protest, and Passion**
Jon Marshall, Associate Professor, The Medill School of Journalism
Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Norris University Center

Beyond our own observations and conversations, much of what we know – or think we know – about the world comes through the media, which has a long and colorful history. Ever since a Boston bookstore owner boldly decided to print a newspaper critical of the colonial government, the press in America has challenged authority and provided information essential to democracy and our daily lives. The story of U.S. journalism is filled with acts of great courage and skill along with examples of greed, partisanship, bigotry, and sensationalism. This nine-week course will explore the politics, economics, technology, demographic trends, and individual personalities that have shaped U.S. journalism over time so that we can better understand our current tumultuous media environment.

Apr. 1 Kings, Partisans, and the Birth of Newspapers

Since they began in the 1600s, newspapers have taken big risks as they challenged kings, presidents, and other authority figures. Editors and writers helped inspire the Revolutionary War and then became bitterly partisan during the early years of the United States. However, changing technology, audiences, and economics transformed journalism in the 1800s. Benjamin Harris, Ben Franklin, John Peter Zenger, Thomas Paine, George Washington, John Adams, James Gordon Bennett, and the mysterious E. Mallet will be discussed.

Apr. 8 Government Power and the Press

Hostility by political leaders toward journalists has existed from the start. Governments often use their power to intimidate and restrict the news media while spreading their own propaganda, especially during times of conflict including the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Iraq War. Presidents have also become increasingly sophisticated in their efforts to manipulate coverage. Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph McCarthy, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Chicago's own Ethel Payne will be discussed.

Apr. 15 Abolitionists, Suffragettes, and the Journalism of Protest

When Americans have been unrepresented or misrepresented by the dominant media of their times, they have often launched their own news outlets. Their small yet courageous publications played important roles in the abolition of slavery, the protection of immigrants, and the promotion of the suffragette, civil rights, Chicano, and gay rights movements. Meanwhile, some of the most powerful news organizations opposed their efforts. The Cherokee Phoenix, Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Elijah Lovejoy, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Robert Abbott, Charlotta Bass, Ruben Salazar, Gloria Steinem, and Randy Shilts will be discussed.

Apr. 22 “Stunt Girls,” Muckrakers, Watergate, and the Investigative Impulse

An impulse to investigate wrongdoing and society’s problems has been part of journalism since its start. The “stunt girls” of the late 1800s wrote sensational stories about people being exploited, stories by the muckrakers led to widespread reforms, reporters exposed the murder of civilians during the Vietnam War, journalists helped uncover the Watergate scandal, the Spotlight team investigated sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, and stories in the *New York Times* and the *New Yorker* fueled the #MeToo Movement. In recent years, the Internet has allowed investigative reporting to go global. Nellie Bly, Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, Drew Pearson, I.F. Stone, Rachel Carson, Seymour Hersh, Bob Woodward, Carl Bernstein, Katharine Graham, Sheila Coronel, Jodi Kantor, and Megan Twohey will be discussed.

Apr. 29 Every Picture Tells a Story: Illustrations, Cartoons, and Photojournalism

One image can tell as powerful a story as a thousand words. Starting in the 1800s, improved technology allowed newspapers and magazines to start printing illustrations, then cartoons, and eventually photographs. These images have skewered politicians, revealed social ills, shown the horrors of war, and sometimes made us laugh. Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Nast, Jacob Riis, Dorothea Lange, *Life Magazine*, Margaret Bourke-White, Gordon Parks, Herblock, Peter Magune, and Lynsey Addario will be discussed.

May 6 Radio, Television, and the Power of Broadcasting

As commercial radio began to spread after 1920, audiences could instantly hear the voices of their leaders, the sounds of war, and the emotions of everyday people. Whether it was Franklin Roosevelt giving a fireside chat or Edward R. Murrow reporting from the rooftops of London while bombs fell around him, the news had an immediacy that it never had before. Once television became common following World War II, the dramatic impact of the news only intensified as people learned about JFK's assassination, witnessed the brutality of the Vietnam War from their living rooms, and watched the moon landing. Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Edward R. Murrow, Walter Cronkite, Barbara Walters, Ronald Reagan, and Connie Chung will be discussed.

May 13 Eat, Drink, and Be Merry: Food, Sports, and Entertainment Journalism

Journalism is not just about politics, business, and social problems. Since the start of the Penny Press era in the 1830s, the media have also shared information that is useful – and often enjoyable – for our homes, families, entertainment, and other parts of our daily lives. In doing so, journalism has reflected broader shifts in our culture. Grantland Rice, Wendell Smith, Howard Cosell, Dear Abby, Helen Gurley Brown, Joan Didion, Gay Talese, Jane Nickerson, Julia Child, Jann Wenner, Bill Cunningham, and Andre Leon Talley will be discussed.

May 20 When Media is Bad: Hoaxes, Sensationalism, and Other Failures

Along with examples of great courage and skill, media history contains many instances of fraud, sensationalism, and incompetence. Sometimes this bad journalism was harmless, such as the infamous moon hoax, and often it was dangerous, such as the encouragement of lynching and the downplaying of the Holocaust. We will discuss Joseph Pulitzer, William Randolph Hearst, Walter Winchell, O.J. Simpson, Matt Drudge, Monica Lewinsky, Stephen Glass, and Jayson Blair.

May 27 The Shattering of Traditional Journalism: What Comes Next

Political, economic, and technological changes have shattered the journalism model that prevailed for nearly a century. Newspapers are closing at a rate of more than one a week, television news audiences are plummeting, hedge funds control much of the news media, and misinformation is flowing. Many social media influencers, podcasters, and conspiracy purveyors now have larger audiences than most news sites. In our new era of instant, personalized media, how can high-quality journalism survive? We'll examine some possible solutions.