JOURNALISM (JOUR-GA)

JOUR-GA 11 First Amendment Law (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
Discusses exceptions to the First Amendment language that ?Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech or of the press.? Subjects covered include prior restraint of the press, libel, invasion of privacy, news-gathering problems, shield laws and protection of sources, free press and fair trial, and broadcast regulations by the FCC.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 12 Press Ethics (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Summer terms
Explores the ethical questions facing working journalists. Focuses on specific cases, both real and hypothetical. Through readings, papers, and class discussion, students analyze the ethical problems raised by these cases and develop their own systems for making ethical decisions.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 13 Media Ethics and Law (3 Credits)
This course offers through the case method a critical examination of current and recurring ethical and legal issues in journalism. Areas covered include reporting practices, roles of editors and executives, conflict of interest, sources, defamation and privacy, criminal justice and national security.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 60 Writing for a Wide Audience (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
This course is expressly designed for graduate students outside of the Journalism Department. Writing for A Wide Audience is grounded in the idea that expertise is a wasted (and often unlovely) thing if not shared with non-experts. The purpose of the course is to help students specializing in a wide range of disciplines to learn how to write for the public — people outside their academic discipline. Students will work on writing that is rigorous, but never jargon-riddled or obscure; accessible to readers who don't share their expertise; and compelling to people with little previous knowledge of its subject.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 331 Investigative Reporting (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
This course is expressly designed for graduate students outside of the Journalism Department. Writing for A Wide Audience is grounded in the idea that expertise is a wasted (and often unlovely) thing if not shared with non-experts. The purpose of the course is to help students specializing in a wide range of disciplines to learn how to write for the public — people outside their academic discipline. Students will work on writing that is rigorous, but never jargon-riddled or obscure; accessible to readers who don't share their expertise; and compelling to people with little previous knowledge of its subject.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1012 Digital Thinking (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
This course examines what makes journalism different now that it runs on a digital platform. Readings and discussion will focus on making sense of the large shifts that accompany the move to digital production and distribution in professional journalism, including the "always on" web, the lower barriers to entry, the rise of social media and "the people formerly known as the audience," the ease of production using digital tools, the "unbundling" of news packages that were well adapted to prior platforms, the loss of monopoly status among news organizations, and the re-voicing of journalism in a more interactive environment for news. By comparing press ethics and key working concepts under the "old" system and the new codes that have emerged in the digital era, students will be able to hone in on what is different for professional journalists today, which is knowledge they will need for the remainder of the Studio 20 program.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1017 Curr Tpcs in Science, Health, & Envir Reporting (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
This course will introduce you to the world of science journalism by looking at scientific topics that are at the cutting-edge of current research and also have profound implications for the way we live.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1018 Science Literacy and Numeracy (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course aims to give This course aims to give SHERP students a historical and literary context for science journalism, and will also introduce them to crucial concepts in statistics, probability and data analysis. The course will be rigorous, with an extensive reading list tracing the development of science journalism and examining the science journalist's role in society. There will also be heavy usage of problem sets and writing assignments aimed at showing students how to recognize "good science" and it's opposite.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1019 Current Problems in Journalism (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Topical issues in journalism. Subjects vary: media criticism, perspectives on race and class, global journalism, and others.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1021 Writing/Report Wkshp I (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
Workshop I is taken the first semester; Workshop II, the second semester. Provides a foundation in the principles and practices of basic news reporting. Includes lectures on reporting principles and techniques, study of specialized areas of reporting, and completion of increasingly challenging in-class assignments. Students use New York City as a laboratory to gather and report actual news events outside the classroom. A special section of Workshop I is offered for students in the cultural reporting and criticism concentration. A special section of Workshop II is offered for students in the Business and Economic Reporting Program.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes
JOUR-GA 1022 Writing/Report Workshop II (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Workshop I is the first semester; Workshop II, the second semester. Provides a foundation in the principles and practices of basic news reporting. Includes lectures on reporting principles and techniques, study of specialized areas of reporting, and completion of increasingly challenging in-class assignments. Students use New York City as a laboratory to gather and report actual news events outside the classroom. A special section of Workshop II is offered for students in the cultural reporting and criticism concentration. A special section of Workshop II is offered for students in the Business and Economic Reporting Program.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

JOUR-GA 1023 Journalistic Tradition (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Students read from the works of some of the best English and American journalists, including Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, Margaret Fuller, Charles Dickens, Stephen Crane, H. L. Mencken, Ernest Hemingway, Edward R. Murrow, Lillian Ross, James Baldwin, and Tom Wolfe. Special attention is paid to tone, voice, and imagery and to theories of reporting. Some sections are tailored to specific themes.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

JOUR-GA 1040 Television Reporting I (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
This beginning course introduces students to field reporting. Students learn to develop story ideas, write to picture, structure a story and conduct interviews and shoot and edit. Beat assignments cover a variety of topics in the neighborhoods of New York. As the course develops, detailed script analysis is combined with in-depth discussions of the completed pieces. A discussion of aesthetics is supported by viewing a variety of documentaries. Students work in teams of 2. They use small DV cameras, linear and non-linear editing systems.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1042 Studio I (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
This course will explore the wave of innovation that is sweeping journalism as a result of the digital disruption that is altering or destroying news companies’ business models. Students will examine the history of innovation in journalism, the causes of the current business disruption, the reinvention of Old Media, the creation of new models, and the nature of innovation itself. They will try their own hand at innovation, creating basic prototypes for a new journalism form or new business.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1043 Studio 2 (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
In Studio 2, students in the Studio 20 program, and others who request to take the course and receive permission from the instructors, tackle one large project in web development: as a team. The project chosen will vary from term to term, but it always be an adventure in web journalism, and it will always have a media partner-- typically a news organization or existing journalism site that wants to do something new or collaborate with Studio 20 on an extension of its current editorial presence. Students participate in all phases of the project: background research, news ecosystem analysis, technology assessment, design and conception, prototyping, editorial workflow, content production, testing, launch, feedback and adjustment, de-bugging, iteration and evaluation. They collaborate actively and in person with the media partner. They learn to divide up tasks and coordinate the different parts of the project. They try to push the envelope and do something effective but also innovative in web journalism that meets the partner’s goals, works for the users and adds to the reputation of Studio 20.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1044 Portfolio (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
Portfolio is the first in a two-course workshop, during which you will learn the basic building blocks of literary reportage: generating ideas, refining those ideas into pitches, and developing those pitches into pieces of roughly 1,500-3,000 words. The class also covers interview and reporting techniques, structure and outlines, scenes, and dialogue.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1045 Portfolio II (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
Portfolio II is a nonfiction M.F.A.-style workshop to help clarify the work students have done in Portfolio I, and to prepare them to produce a masterpiece in the following semester. The genre of the work is not specified (profile, reported essay, etc.) The only requirement—other than a coherent idea, intensive reporting and research, and flawless writing—is that it fall into a recognizable genre. Multimedia and collaborative journalism of all kinds are welcome, too, so long as the student possesses the technical skills for producing high quality work.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1050 Topics in Literary Journalism: (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
A course for ambitious writers who want to learn to read the way professional writers read, explicating the structure and language of well-crafted narratives and learning how to apply those lessons and techniques to their own work. Close readers and careful thinkers are wanted.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes
JOUR-GA 1060 Topics in Business Journalism (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Provides a foundation for students who intend to become journalists covering business and financial issues. Students study accounting language and concepts and learn how to read and analyze the financial statements issued by corporations. They learn how to use these financial statements to detect problems and assess the financial health of an enterprise. The course also covers the financial markets and the financing tools available to corporations in need of capital.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1070 Digital Newsroom (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
This class will allow graduate students to develop a comprehensive set of skills that will prepare them for a career in video journalism. This is a holistic course that will expand the scope of the newscast and meet the needs of a wide range of students. It will also introduce the idea of entrepreneurial journalism for those students with a video emphasis. Students will be able to develop their reporting and writing skills, achieve fluency with a wide range of newscast production tools and gain basic understanding of how to produce a newscast and, through a rotation, focus more heavily on field reporting, advanced editing and camera techniques, and live reporting. The class will also encourage media crossover and experimentation.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1080 Multimedia Storytelling (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Over the course of the semester, students develop technique in basic photography, audio and video production. At the same time, they are constantly expanding their journalism capacity with real world practice – focusing on the core skills of research, interviewing and digesting and presenting important information. While much of what we focus on is of a technical skills nature, our main priority is to learn and practice the essential elements of visual storytelling and reporting.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

JOUR-GA 1090 Digital Magazine (4 Credits)
Magazine reporting exists on a variety of platforms and communication channels: Tweets, online posts, blogs and features, listicles, and multimedia, from photo essays, to podcasts, to videos. “Digital Magazine” will teach students how to practice magazine journalism in different multimedia formats: from conceptualizing, shooting and producing photo essays, reporting and recording audio pieces to producing and shooting their own video stories.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1148 Visual Thinking (2 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
The class explores the complexity of documentary visualization through cinematography. It will examine not only how stories get told, but also how we might inspire new ways of telling them visually. This class will immerse the students in the challenges of different approaches and shooting styles through production exercises and through significant documentary examples.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1149 The Art of Video Editing: Long Form (2 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
The class will explore the complexity of long form visualization and the various structural options possible through editing. It will examine not only how stories get told, but the different ways of telling them. Through various exercises the students will experiment with various approaches and editing styles. Simultaneous with this class, students will be working on their own documentaries in Advanced TV Reporting. Whereas that class is more focused on concept and structure, the editing class will look closely at specific editing choices and techniques.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1172 Television Reporting II (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
This intermediate second-semester course is run like a local news operation. The students work individually as reporters some weeks and as crew other weeks. They cover beats and do short investigative and enterprise stories as well as cover breaking news and NYU-related stories that air weekly on NYU Tonight. A three-hour editorial meeting provides the time to pitch and plan stories as well as critique finished pieces. Shooting and editing are done as needed with an open schedule. Students have full access to the DV equipment and editing systems throughout the week. Students edit their in-depth pieces on the Final Cut Pro nonlinear editing system.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1175 Advanced T.V. Reporting (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
Students produce in-depth newsmagazine pieces that strengthen their reporting and stylistic skills. The class works as a production team and holds editorial meetings every week. Students have the freedom to produce their stories according to their own schedules outside of class. Students have access to digital and beta cameras and edit on nonlinear systems.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1180 Science Writing (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Covers methods of popularizing scientific, technical, and medical information for the mass media with emphasis on producing work that meets the standards of professional publication or broadcast.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1181 Cultural Conversation (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
Acquaints students with a broad view of culture and of cultural journalism as an ongoing public conversation, while providing an introduction to the basic concepts and practice of cultural criticism. Emphasizes the connections between aesthetic and social issues.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1182 Specialized Reporting: (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
A variety of specialized reporting courses is offered on a rotating basis.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes
JOUR-GA 1184  Critical Survey  (4 Credits)  
Typically offered  Fall  
Teaches students how to write arts criticism that combines clear, vivid prose and a distinctive individual voice with close analysis of specific works in such media as music, literature, art, movies, dance, and theatre. Surveys late 19th- and 20th-century history of criticism.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1186  Reporting Social Worlds  (4 Credits)  
Typically offered  Spring  
Focuses on developing the in-depth reporting skills needed to depict social and cultural milieus with accuracy and power. Students examine the problems and challenges of reporting on social worlds created by identities, places, occupations, institutions, and interests.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1187  Medical Reporting  (4 Credits)  
Typically offered  Fall  
Provides a solid basis for understanding many of the elements involved in covering medicine, including the biology of cancer, environment-related illness, epidemiology, and the precepts of sound medical research and peer review. Students are required to write several stories from press releases, conferences, and developed interviews.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1188  Environmental Reporting  (4 Credits)  
Typically offered  Spring  
Designed to train students to write balanced, informative articles about environmental issues and alert them to the special problems reporters face covering a beat that is often highly charged and highly politicized. For this reason, the investigative aspects of environmental reporting are emphasized.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1189  Investigative Science Journalism  (4 Credits)  
Typically offered  Spring  
A journalist, even a science journalist, must be able to see through lies and to shed light on facts that certain people would rather keep hidden. This course is designed to give you the tools to do precisely that. By the end of the semester, you'll be able to sniff out lies and find the facts to uncover them; you'll also be relentless -- once you sink your teeth into a juicy story, you won't let go. This course gives SHERP students mathematical knowledge, investigative reporting techniques, and computer skills that will help them cut through hype and obfuscation, and it will do it by having SHERPies perform first-rate investigations on important scientific or medical topics. After completing this course, students will be formidable -- and dangerous -- reporters  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1190  Entrepreneurial Science Journalism  (4 Credits)  
Typically offered  Fall  
This is a hands-on, project-based course. You will work in teams to target a potential market and develop a new business product or service to capture that market. Through research, interviews and exercises -- over the course of 11 classes in five weeks -- you will gain a foundational knowledge of how to build and defend a business concept.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1192  On-Line Reporting Workshop  (4 Credits)  
Typically offered occasionally  
Students in this third-semester course will use all the skills and knowledge they've acquired in the program to produce their own business publication. Under the guidance of an instructor, they will assign, write, and edit the articles that will appear in the publication.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1193  Introduction to Audio Reportage  (4 Credits)  
Typically offered  Fall  
Audio Reportage will teach you how to craft a story in sound. We'll review crucial concepts of audio reportage by studying narrative theory; at the same time, students will apply that theory by producing two pieces over the course of the semester.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1210  Law and Ethics in American Journalism  (4 Credits)  
The ethical and legal rigors of journalism set professionals apart in a crowded market and help protect the public from the spread of misinformation. In this course, you'll survey many of journalism's core ethical issues—what it has gotten right, and, equally important, what it has gotten wrong—questions of sensationalism, bias, diversity, major scandals, effects on the public's perceptions, and an exploration of the current digital upheaval. To better understand what journalism has been and what it might be, students consume a selection of media and delve into the specifics of radio, TV news, and the Internet, as well as exploring "fake news." We consider watershed legal cases, including the First Amendment, landmark legal cases such as Branzburg v. Hayes, New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, and the Pentagon Papers, as well as a look at shield laws, the use and misuse of anonymous sources, and more.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1220  Reporting the News  (4 Credits)  
Learn to spout off story ideas, track down interviews, cover live events, structure hard news, and construct a compelling nut graph. In this newsroom crash course, you'll collaborate with a global cohort to write, edit, produce and promote an online publication. Each week, we'll cover the nuts and bolts of reporting the news and get you out in the field conducting interviews, taking photos and writing stories. Then you'll work together as editors, art directors, and social media mavens under the guidance of an experienced instructor. You'll build a solid portfolio of clips to showcase your talent to future employers.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  

JOUR-GA 1230  Feature Writing  (4 Credits)  
Dissect great works of journalism for story, character, dialogue, scenes, structure, transitions, verb tense, point of view, style and impact. The goal is to create memorable narrative non-fiction stories that hold a reader's attention to the last word. We'll operate like a newsroom to maintain a class online publication with students working to write, edit and publish stories, blog on a topic, find and post art and photos, track traffic and analytics, and market the site by engaging in social media.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No
JOUR-GA 1231  Magazine Writing Wkshp:  (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Teaches the practical skills required of a nonfiction magazine writer, as well as how to focus an article for a particular market. Emphasis is on producing pieces that both inform and entertain through the careful use of language and the cultivation of an effective, powerful style. Each student writes a magazine-length article of publishable quality.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

JOUR-GA 1240  Media Startups and News Innovation  (4 Credits)
Journalists who can successfully navigate these turbulent media times must be equal parts journalist and entrepreneur. This course is two-pronged. We'll look at the business of journalism, the latest trends in revenue strategies, and the growth in not-for-profit publishing. We'll consider which strategies are failing and which are succeeding (for now) by looking deeply at examples of media companies' business plans, financials, and reputations. We'll also walk through the steps of conceiving of your own media startup. You'll learn about seed and venture capital, marketing and tracking traffic. All along the way you'll be workshopping ideas for a business. The semester will culminate with the drafting of a business plan and pitch to a panel of entrepreneurs and venture capitalists for feedback.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1250  Investigative Reporting  (4 Credits)
Investigations require a wide range of techniques for gathering information. You'll learn how to formulate a strategy for effective reporting, gather the needed information from interviews, documents, and online sources, form relationships with sources to gain deeper knowledge, and structure an investigative piece. The work focuses on collecting information from sources such as government agencies, legal source material, and databases and the use of spreadsheets to analyze information.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1260  Multimedia Storytelling  (4 Credits)
The frame of a shot, the quality of light, and the tilt in your voice—the most nuanced techniques can turn a story into a groundbreaking message. You'll learn to overcome the challenges of multimedia storytelling, focusing on video, still images, and audio as effective reporting tools. This course will involve a lot of learning by doing, using easily accessible equipment like smartphones and audio recorders, as well as more advanced equipment for those with access.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1261  Broadcast Newscast  (4 Credits)
Students will be given practical experience as on-air reporters, mastering news writing, audio recording and video editing, best practices in lighting and sound, on-air interviewing and production for digital and television media. Learn to produce a newscast that is relevant, engaging and distinctive, while learning broadcast news-editorial and operational processes
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1262  Audio Storytelling  (4 Credits)
We are living in a golden age for audio journalism. Podcasting is a special medium that lends itself to communicating the news in an immediate and intimate way. It also affords a unique form of storytelling. It's also a meaningful entry point for new and diverse voices with platforms that can grow quickly and widely. This online course will provide you with the tools to tell your own audio stories while learning practical skills to help you build your career. We'll cover the basic concepts of audio storytelling, including pitching, story structure, reporting and producing, finding tape, and editing. You will produce reported audio stories to develop professional-level skills in editorial and production. By the end of the course, you will be able to identify, pitch, report, and produce professional-sounding audio stories in the podcast format.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1263  Photojournalism  (4 Credits)
This elective course will teach students the basics of photojournalism as well as explore its history and evolution through lectures, discussions, assignments, and editing sessions. Topics include a brief history of photojournalism, ethics, being on assignment, editing images for publications, documenting a place, capturing an event, environmental portraiture, and how to build a photo essay. Students will produce assignments under the pressure of deadlines, and during the final weeks of the class create a narrative photo essay. While students enrolling in this class are not expected to possess a basic knowledge of photographic technique, each must have a DSLR, mirrorless or smart phone that can shoot in camera RAW mode.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1270  Long Form Narrative  (4 Credits)
This seminar focuses on in-depth magazine stories and non-fiction books. We'll dissect great stories, books and book proposals for story, character arcs, dialogue, scenes, analysis, structure, transitions, verb tense, point of view and style. The goal is to figure out how memorable magazine features and narrative non-fiction books that keep your attention to the very last page are created, then to take what we've learned and apply it to our own work.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1280  The Working Journalist  (2 Credits)
Now that you've completed your classroom education and built up a solid list of clips, it's time to use it to land a job, internship, or promotion. Whatever your goals, you'll work with an experienced mentor to learn the real-world skills of pitching, freelancing, applying, paying taxes—the kinds of things that can trip up a reporter of all experience levels. But don't stress—we'll focus a whole course on helping you reach your next career goal.
Grading: GSAS Pass/Fail
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 1281  Tpc in Cult Journalism  (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Focuses on a broad cultural theme, allowing students to pursue a variety of interests. Students read and discuss relevant works of cultural journalism, explore an aspect of the topic in depth, and produce a substantial writing project.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes
JOUR-GA 1290 Fieldwork in Journalism (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms
Students who have completed more than half the required courses may receive permission to intern with area publications or broadcast stations. Their work is evaluated by executives and editors of the cooperating news organizations.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeateable for additional credit: Yes

JOUR-GA 1299 Directed Reading (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered all terms
A student works with one professor on a substantial project combining readings with in-depth writing.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeateable for additional credit: Yes

JOUR-GA 2004 Master Class in Documentary (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This exceptional class introduces you to video storytelling and insights from the documentary directors and producers themselves. The course consists of weekly screenings of mostly current and some classic documentaries, followed by discussions with the directors joining the class. Students have the opportunity to ask questions and to learn about the making of films and the industry as well. The documentaries screened reflect different styles but all are centered around social issues and social change. This class provides a unique experience to understand the motivation, production, distribution and meaning of a documentary.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeateable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 2034 Reporting the Arts (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
In this course, you’ll develop your voice and your reportorial skills, enhance your understanding of the way magazines and websites operate, and prepare for a career in an industry that has changed even since you started reading this paragraph.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeateable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 2044 Studio 3 (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
In Studio 3, students put together everything they have learned in the Studio 20 concentration by finding a willing and suitable media partner for a final project in innovation. It is the culmination of two years of focused study. Working with a media partner, students each have to design and execute their own project in innovation. Studio 20’s currency is “good problems.” Meaning: some new and improved thing the partner should be doing, or could be doing, but isn’t doing now. Project students last for one semester (always in the fall) so they have to study the problem, do their research, design an approach, test it, troubleshoot, finish and present the work by December 15—all while coordinating closely with the partner.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeateable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 2046 Long Form Narrative (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
This seminar focuses on the various components that comprise in depth magazine stories and non-fiction books. We’ll dissect great modern and classic magazine stories, books and book proposals for story, character arcs, dialogue, scenes, analysis, structure, transitions, verb tense, point of view and style. The goal is to figure out how to create memorable magazine features and narrative non-fiction books that keep your attention to the very last page, then take what we’ve learned and apply it to our own work.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeateable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 2048 Introduction to Literary Reportage (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
What is “literary reportage”? Sometimes called “literary journalism,” “narrative nonfiction” or the “literature of fact,” it might best be thought of as a way of weaving characters, reporting, research and stories together in order to create something that appeals to the general reader. In my opinion, literary reportage is less a subject to be studied than it is a collection of practices, insights, techniques, guidelines and formulas to help a writer explore the subjects he/she cares about, and share that passion with an audience in the most aesthetically pleasing way possible.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeateable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 2056 The Long-Form Essay (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
This is an advanced course in the reading and practice of essay writing, with a rigorous focus on the mechanics of the essay. How does a great essay work? We will examine the elusive elements of precision, originality, and style. Over the course of the semester students will focus on developing and refining their own critical voice. Critics under discussion will include: Vladimir Nabokov, Kenneth Tynan, Elizabeth Hardwick, Randall Jarrell, Virginia Woolf, Janet Malcolm, Jonathan Franzen, David Foster Wallace, John Updike, and James Wood.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeateable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 2057 The Critical Profile (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
In this course, we’ll tackle the challenges of producing successful profiles, with an emphasis on practical solutions to frequently encountered problems. (Topics will include composing a seductive yet brainy lede, translating jargon and technical arcana for lay readers, wrestling vivid scenes from dull subjects, and handling uncooperative subjects.) We’ll study how various journalists, writing about figures in a broad range of fields, from politics and retail to scholarship and the arts, have negotiated the profile’s challenges. We’ll read pieces by some of the genre’s most talented practitioners and meet several of those journalists in class.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeateable for additional credit: No
JOUR-GA 2081 Cataclysm and Commitment (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
This seminar will focus on some of the extraordinary political events that made, and changed, the political (and moral) realities of the past century, and that created the world that we now inhabit. Throughout the term we will return to certain questions, including the changing nature of violence; the tension between nationalism and universalism; the question of "progress"; the emergence of disputed concepts such as "crimes against humanity" and "human rights." We'll consider the ways in which "the face of war" in the 20th century (and early 21st) has changed—and the ways in which the journalism that described those wars also changed. We will start with the Russian Revolution and the Spanish Civil War and then study the journalism of, among other events, the Holocaust, the Iranian Revolution, the fall of Communism, the genocide in Rwanda, the war in Bosnia, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, 9/11, and the Arab Spring.

Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

JOUR-GA 2090 Master's Thesis (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
A student works with one professor on a substantial project combining readings with in-depth writing.

Grading: GSAS Pass/Fail
Repeatable for additional credit: No