

**Pre-requisites for Undergraduate Journalism courses**  
**School of Communication**  
**Western Michigan University**  
(Effective September 2008)

<b>Course Number &amp; Title</b>	<b>Current catalog copy</b>	<b>Current pre-reqs</b>
JRN 1000 Foundations of Journalism	An examination of the role of journalism in American society and an introduction to writing for newspapers. This course includes discussion of news values, objectivity, journalism history, libel, ethics, current events and the impact of the mass media on individuals, groups and institutions. Students will learn news story content and structure and Associated Press Style. There is a strong emphasis on news writing assignments in this course. 3 hours	None
JRN 2100 News Writing and Reporting	A continuum of JRN 1000, this course continues to hone students' skills in news writing and reporting but with an emphasis on out-of-class reporting and information gathering, ethics, current events, and a variety of news stories and styles are emphasized. Students will learn about beat reporting, the use of public documents, and meeting coverage. Prerequisites: JRN 1000 with a grade of "C" or better. 3 hours	JRN 1000 with a grade of "C" or better
JRN 2500 Photojournalism	Introduction to the use of still photography in journalism and related information gathering processes. Students will learn appropriate camera operation, the producing and processing of photographs and the preparation and editing of photographs for print and on-line media. Prerequisite: "C" or better in JRN 2100. 3 hours	"C" or better in JRN 2100
JRN 3010 Copy and Content Editing	This course provides practice in copy and content editing. Students learn the techniques of copy, content and page editing. If focuses on copy editing, rewriting, typography, headline writing, page design, handling photographs, developing story ideas, working with writers, and editing for accuracy and fairness. This course offers students an overview of the roles and responsibilities of news editors. 4 hours	None
JRN 3100 Advanced Reporting and Online Journalism	An advanced course that focuses on advanced reporting and online research. Students will learn to gather and evaluate information from a variety of sources including libraries, government documents, databases and the World Wide Web. Students conduct research and interviews during a semester-long project to produce a comprehensive, in-depth news story. Prerequisites: "C" or better in JRN 2000 or JRN 2100; admitted major or declared communication minor status. 3 hours	"C" or better in JRN 2000 or JRN 2100; admitted major or declared communication minor status.
JRN 3300	This is a study of the historic relationship between American culture and society and the printed, broadcast, and computerized news media. The course will consider how the news media influence	Junior standing, or sophomore standing with instructor's

The Cultural History of American Journalism	and are influenced by cultural, social, intellectual, political, and economic institutions. As part of the course, students will study the contributions and lives of influential American journalists such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, William Cullen Bryant, Elias Boudinot, Horace Greeley, Frederick Douglass, Ida M. Tarbell, W.E.B. DuBois, Ida B Wells-Barnett, Walter Lippmann, Henry Luce, Margaret Bourke-White, John H. Johnson, Edward R. Murrow, and Tim A. Gingo, Jr. Particular attention will also be paid to how the news media have impacted the social status and cultures of lesser-heard voices: women, African and Native Americans, immigrants, political dissidents, and others. Prerequisite: Junior standing, or sophomore standing with instructor's permission.3 hours	permission
JRN 4100 Specialized Reporting	A writing-intensive capstone course for journalism majors and minors that explores in-depth an area of journalism. The course will include advanced reporting and writing assignments, as well as lecture in the special topic selected for that semester. Topics may include feature writing, health and science reporting, critical writing, diversity, narrative journalism and journalism history. JRN 4100 satisfies the baccalaureate-level writing requirement. Prerequisites: "C" or better in JRN 3100; admitted major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	"C" or better in JRN 3100; admitted major or declared Communication minor status
JRN 4200 Journalism Law and Ethics	The study of the legal and intellectual ramifications of the practice of journalism. Topics and issues include the application of Constitutional, common, and statutory law to journalism, reporting on the law and various court systems, and ethical behavior in writing and reporting news. Students will study the responsibilities of journalists to bring to their work relevant knowledge, informed judgment, critical intelligence and appropriate ethical standards. Prerequisite: "C" or better in JRN 2100. 3 hours	"C" or better in JRN 2100
JRN 4990 Journalism Practicum	Students must work 40 hours per credit hour during the course of the internship. Students must submit an application prior to contacting an internship sponsor and must receive prior approval from the journalism faculty. Prerequisites: "C" or better in JRN 1000 and JRN 2100 and School approval; no more than 6 credit hours in combination with COM 4990 or JRN 4990. 1 to 3 hours	"C" or better in JRN 1000 and JRN 2100 and School approval