JOURNALISM AND SCREEN STUDIES (JASS)

JASS 205  Fundamentals of Journalism  3 Credit Hours
Study and practice in newspaper reporting and news gathering, interview techniques, and basic newswriting skills. Students will also discuss libel law, ethics, and the use of the Freedom of Information Act. (YR).
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107 or COMP 280

JASS 240  Film and Society  3 Credit Hours
A survey of the major genres of film, chiefly in historical and political perspective, but also in the light of important intellectual frameworks (e.g., feminism, psychoanalytical theory). The films selected, both Western and non-Western, will be examined both for their visual codes of meaning and for their wider role in developing a powerful social language in various cultural contexts. (YR)

JASS 248  Introduction to Screen Studies  3 Credit Hours
This course will introduce students to the development of world cinema by integrating the aesthetics of film with its technology, and its social and economic milieu. It will train the students in analyzing the formalist qualities of the medium, and in understanding the evolution of its various genres and styles. (YR)

JASS 305  Advanced Reporting  3 Credit Hours
Advanced study and practice in news reporting and writing. Students will gain experience with in-depth reporting through coverage of developing news stories. Longer articles of publishable quality are required. (OC).
Prerequisite(s): COMM 2015 or JASS 2015

JASS 302  Media Law and Ethics  3 Credit Hours
The basis of repertorial journalism is its foundation in the First Amendment. This course examines the legal restrictions and freedoms governing print media and explores the ethical responsibilities of print journalists. Specific topics covered include First Amendment law, the clear and present danger standard, defamation and libel, privacy, obscenity, free press/fair trial, access, shield laws, and journalism ethics.

JASS 303  Media Design & Animation  3 Credit Hours
This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of graphic design in a convergent media landscape, with an emphasis on animation and motion graphics. Students will develop skills in the fundamentals of color, typography and layout, as well as build practical skills in animation technique. Animation projects may include animated lower thirds, motion graphics, kinetic typography or 2d/3d character animation, with applications for film, television and the web. Students may not receive credit for both JASS 303 and JASS 250 (F,W,S).
Restriction(s):
Cannot enroll if Class is Undergraduate NCFD or Post-baccalaureate NCFD or Specialist or Undergrad Certification only or Post-baccalaureate Cert only or Graduate or Doctorate

JASS 307  Copy Editing  3 Credit Hours
Course covers manuscript and electronic editing of news and feature stories, editing for libel and taste, fact-checking, writing headlines and captions, and use of reference books. Includes a review of grammar and work usage, punctuation, spelling, and style.
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107 or COMP 280

JASS 310  Narrative Journalism  3 Credit Hours
Students learn to identify, understand and use the techniques of fiction in the service of nonfiction material. While studying the texts as literature, students are also encouraged to view them as models for writing. Assignments include the writing and revising of articles, based on research and interviews, and writing in story form, drawing on literary techniques. (YR).
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107 or COMP 280

JASS 312  Media Performance  3 Credit Hours
This course focuses on voice, diction, and movement for the various media of electronic and digital production. The emphasis is on developing skills in announcing, news reading, on-camera stand ups, voice-overs as well as dramatic interpretation and performance. Students will be exposed to a variety of projects and assignments, along with strategies for developing on-air personalities, voices, and characters. Basics of professional dress and makeup will also be discussed. Students will be expected to submit a professional portfolio of their on-air work at the end of the semester. (AY)

JASS 315  Media Productn for Metro Comm  3 Credit Hours
This community-based course partners with a community organization to produce media projects that serve the needs of the organization. Students will build skills in intermediate aspects of media production including concept development, research, proposals and pitching, scriptwriting, producing, shooting, editing, and sound design, as well as professional and organizational communication skills. Students will also develop a broader understanding of community engagement, citizenship, and issues impacting the Detroit Metro community. Productions will include both studio experience and fieldwork.
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107 or COMP 280

JASS 330  Feature Writing  3 Credit Hours
An introduction to the writing of feature stories for newspapers and magazines. Students study methods of gathering information and of preparing a manuscript for publication. (AY).
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107 or COMP 280

JASS 331  Online Reprting,Rsrch,Writing  3 Credit Hours
Course introduces the technical, social, legal and ethical practice of online research, focusing specifically on reporting (i.e. research and interview) skills required by journalists and others. Students use new media technology to generate ideas, to research subjects, and to develop general-audience writing projects in their areas of interest. Course covers the use of Web search engines, directories and databases; finding sources and interviewing people online; evaluating the credibility of online sources and information; using Lexis-Nexis to access archives and public records; and using spreadsheet and database programs.
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107 or COMP 280
JASS 332 Creating the Graphic Novel 3 Credit Hours
This course focuses on the creation of an original graphic novel from inception to fully developed story. Students work on character, plot development, dialogue, drawing style, and layout planning, and are encouraged to introduce any cross-disciplinary techniques such as digital applications when appropriate. Lectures and readings consider contemporary media. (OC).
Prerequisite(s): ART 202 or ART 206
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore or Junior or Senior

JASS 333 Sports Reporting and Writing 3 Credit Hours
In this course, students not only learn how to write a sports story and report it across a variety of media, they also examine and write about relevant issues, from race and gender to sportsmanship and hero worship. In addition to assigned class readings, students read and report on one sports-related film and one book, chosen from a list of classics posted on CTools, and write a final paper in which they address an issue relevant to sports reporting. Local and national practitioners contribute their thoughts on a variety of subjects throughout the term.
Prerequisite(s): JASS 2015
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore or Junior or Senior

JASS 334 Science and Environmental Journalism 3 Credit Hours
This course introduces the practice and theory of science and environmental journalism. Students report and write short science and environmental articles across a variety of media. They also examine the history, ethics and politics of environmental and science journalism and isolate a relevant issue as the focus of a research project, which will later generate a longer science/environment feature story. After instructor critique, students revise all work and submit a final ePortfolio. (W).
Prerequisite(s): JASS 2015
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore or Junior or Senior

JASS 335 Multimedia and Music 3 Credit Hours
In this course, students will explore case studies of music created, performed, and distributed in combination with other media from the 1960s to the present. Multimedia is understood as any context in which several media are integrated, but particular focus will be paid to technological and creative innovations (such as video games, computers, and phones). The use of music will be considered in such media as film and television, multimedia performance and installation art, and international developments in multimedia production and distribution.
Prerequisite(s): MTHY 100 or MTHY 101 or MTHY 102 or MHIS 100 or MHIS 120 or MHIS 130 or MHIS 150

JASS 336 Film and Music 3 Credit Hours
In this course, students will be introduced to the varieties of music used in film from c. 1900 to the present. Topics covered include a basic introduction to the musical features of Western European dramatic music; the role of music in the early decades of the 20th century; the growth of film and musical sound in the ‘classic era’ of Hollywood film; the use of music in specific genres such as film noir, science-fiction, epic, and musicals; and the use of popular song in film. Prerequisite: previous completion of MHIS 100, 120, 130, or by permission of the instructor.
Prerequisite(s): MHIS 100 or MHIS 120 or MHIS 130

JASS 338 Business/Automotive Reporting 3 Credit Hours
This course covers two inter-related areas: finance and automotive journalism. Students learn how to cover the economy and business community, focusing on areas such as Wall Street, economic indicators, stocks and bonds. Since the University of Michigan-Dearborn is located in the heart of the world automotive industry, the course also emphasizes the skills necessary for a career in automotive journalism, specifically how to read and report auto-related financial, environmental, safety, labor, finance and manufacturing documents. An introductory course in Economics is recommended.
Prerequisite(s): JASS 2015

JASS 345 Audio Production 3 Credit Hours
This hands-on course will introduce students to the basic theories of audio and audio program production, including the fundamentals of digital audio and studio and remote recording. The course is designed to instill upon students the importance of sound in the electronic media and how its use or misuse can enhance or detract from media productions. Readings, lectures and projects are designed to teach students how to discern good audio from bad and how to avoid pitfalls media producers and directors commonly make. Through the practical application of audio concepts in the radio laboratory and through critiques of radio projects and programs, students will gain the insight and experience they will need to successfully design and execute audio strategies for the electronic media.
Prerequisite(s): ENGL 248 or HUM 248 or JASS 248 or FILM 248

JASS 350 Digital Film & Television 3 Credit Hours
Media production taught in the context of the history, aesthetics and technologies of film and television. Purpose of the course is to provide students with a working knowledge and critical awareness of digital production through classroom instruction and studio training. Course counts toward minor in Communications. (YR)
Prerequisite(s): (ENGL 248 or HUM 248 or JASS 248 or FILM 248)

JASS 357 National Cinemas 3 Credit Hours
This course will introduce students to the national cinemas of a select country In contrasting the evolution of cinema in the East, with the dominant genres and conventions of Hollywood, the course will enable students to critically examine non-Hollywood narratives; the interaction of various nationalistic movements within the institution of cinema; and the ways in which world cinema has been influenced by various indigenous performance practices and other visual representations. (OC).
Prerequisite(s): HUM 240 or JASS 240 or FILM 240 or ENGL 248 or HUM 248 or JASS 248 or FILM 248

JASS 370 Narratives of Film and Lit 3 Credit Hours
Explores the narrative conventions of literary and filmic fictions in a cultural, historical and psycho-analytical context. The course goes beyond a discussion of the relative merits of novels and their respective film adaptations and examines the more complex interchanges between the two narrative forms; the ideological function of narrative in contemporary society; and the effect of the medium of a fictional text on the reader/viewer. (OC).
Prerequisite(s): ENGL 248 or HUM 248 or JASS 248 or FILM 248

JASS 378 History of U.S. Broadcasting 3 Credit Hours
A survey of the history of broadcasting in the United States, from the development of radio at the turn of the 20th century to the rise of cable television in the late 20th century. The course focuses on the business, political and demographic factors guiding the various broadcast industries; the development and shifts of programming genres over time; and a wide look at the social impact of broadcasting in the country.
JASS 380 History of American Journalism 3 Credit Hours
This course surveys the history of American journalism from the Colonial period to the present. Topics explored include the development of print journalism, the rise of the reading public, the growth of advertising, photojournalism, and the tabloid press, and the evolution of electronic journalism from radio and television through the computer age. (YR).
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107 or COMP 280

JASS 381 Postwar European Cinema 3 Credit Hours
The course will concentrate on a series of films from various European countries with a focus on the socio-political issues, historical events and cultural preoccupations that have defined and also challenged European societies from WWII to the present. Zeroing in on the construction of European identities, the course will analyze and compare modes of narrating national, class, racial, sexual and social differences in different European nations. Themes such as memories of war and the Holocaust, new conflicts, class, immigration, women's rights, gender, and East-West relations will be addressed. The course will thus privilege a cinema that offers a 'récit,' a story. Particular attention will be given to discourses on otherness and on the ways in which film culture has reflected, reinforced, reshaped and, in some instances, contested Europe's past and current dominant ideologies, and identities. Readings by cultural historians and analysts will provide the context for an understanding of the films. The course will conclude with a discussion of the possible existence of a specific postwar European Cinema.
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore or Junior or Senior

JASS 385 Black Cinema 3 Credit Hours
This course will examine selected films from African American and African film traditions in order to analyze how their cultural production is responsive to the conditions of social oppression, economic underdevelopment, and neo-colonialism. How film traditions define 'Black aesthetics' will also be discussed. (AY).

JASS 387 Gender, Sex, Power Screen Studies 3 Credit Hours
This course examines representations of gender and sexuality across multiple screens, with a particular emphasis on Hollywood, independent, and non-Western cinema. In addition, the course explores intersections of gender with race, class, and ability to further investigate power structures in contemporary screen studies. The course will engage with a range of debates in film theory and women's and gender studies, and enable students to apply concepts and theories to specific media texts.
Prerequisite(s): HUM 240 or JASS 240 or ENGL 248 or HUM 248 or JASS 248 or FILM 240 or FILM 248 or WGST 275 or WGST 303 or ANTH 275 or ANTH 303 or PSYC 275 or PSYC 303 or SOC 275 or SOC 303 or WST 275 or HUM 275 or HUM 303

JASS 390 Topics in JASS 3 Credit Hours
Examination of problems, issues, technology and critical issues in advanced subject areas in journalism and screen studies. Title as listed in schedule of classes changes according to content. Course may be repeated for credit when specific topics differ.
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Junior or Senior

JASS 398 Independent Study in JASS 1 to 3 Credit Hours
Readings, supervised practice or analytical assignments in Journalism and Screen Studies, determined in accordance with the needs and interests of those enrolled. May count toward JASS minor.
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Junior or Senior
Can enroll if College is Arts, Sciences, and Letters

JASS 401 Interpretive Journalism 3 Credit Hours
A study in the reading and writing of newspaper columns, editorials and reviews. Course prepares students to write newspaper columns as well as reviews and interpretive pieces on the arts. It examines current writing on literature, drama, cinema, graphic arts and music, and includes a study of the newspaper/magazine column.

JASS 402 Investigative Reporting 3 Credit Hours
A course in investigating a subject and writing a publishable story. Course covers the rudiments of investigative reporting: preliminary research, story selection, investigative strategies and resources, interviewing, and evaluation of material. Examines the history and current status of investigative reporting, including its ethics and politics. Students write and edit several articles and focus on two longer investigative pieces. (YR).
Prerequisite(s): COMM 2015 or JASS 2015

JASS 403 Issues in Cyberspace 3 Credit Hours
This course will explore some of the current social, political, legal, and technological issues associated with the use of new media technology to move ideas and information in a democratic society. Examples of areas to be explored include the Internet and World Wide Web, privacy, the future of the mass audience, and the meaning of the First Amendment in the 21st Century. Students cannot receive credit for both COMM 403 and COMM 503. (OC)
Restriction(s):
Cannot enroll if Class is Graduate

JASS 404 Video Game Studies & Criticism 3 Credit Hours
This course will explore some of the current social, cultural, legal, and aesthetic issues associated with video games as an immensely popular new media technology that has sparked a dynamic user culture. Examples of areas to be explored include ludology and narratology, narrative architecture and game spaces, ethical questions and controversies, and player experience and communities. (YR)

JASS 405 New and Emerging Media 3 Credit Hours
This workshop-oriented course focuses on expanding conceptual and technical skills in emerging forms of media storytelling in an online context, including interactive-based media, collage, , , and apps for mobile devices. The course integrates a range of software and interfaces with an emphasis on the conceptual and creative applications of these tools. Students may not receive credit for both JASS 405 and COMM 405. Students who have taken JASS 405 under the course title “Web Design” are not allowed to take the course for credit again under the title “New and Emerging Media.”
Prerequisite(s): (COMP 106 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107) and (JASS 345 or JASS 350)

JASS 406 History & Theory of Documentary 3 Credit Hours
This course surveys the history of European documentary and explores its ethical, legal and economic issues. Students study documentary's central moments, forms and artists; the changing theoretical approaches to documentary making; and the range of documentary purposes (informational, educational, propagandistic, entertainment). The course also provides historical and theoretical background fro those students who wish to pursue their interest in documentary in the script-writing and production courses also offered in the Journalism and Screen Studies Discipline.
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or COMP 280
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Sophomore or Junior or Senior
JASS 410  Advanced Media Production  3 Credit Hours
The course covers advanced concepts in media production and provides a pre-professional opportunity to direct. Elements include scripting and organization, producing, and post-production editing techniques. Emphasis is placed on individual and small group work in both field and studio settings, leading to the creation of a professional broadcast-quality portfolio program or segment. May be repeated once for credit.
Prerequisite(s): JASS 350 or COMM 350 or JASS 405 or JASS 406 or JASS 345

JASS 413  Photojournalism  3 Credit Hours
A hands-on digital imaging course in which students learn the basics of photojournalism and photography, including subject selection, composition, cropping, retouching and caption writing.
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107 or COMP 280
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Sophomore or Junior or Senior

JASS 421  Environmental Filmmaking  3 Credit Hours
Environmental Filmmaking combines theory and practice in the examination of issues related to the environment and ecology as represented in film and television. Students will analyze the medium's ability to effectively communicate and integrate scientific and technical information about the natural world to target a audience. The course will include online screenings selected from a variety of eras and genres, readings in the field of eco-criticism, the development of a documentary treatment and the production of an original multimedia project focusing on an environmental issue. (F, AY)
Prerequisite(s): JASS 248 or ENST 301

JASS 436  Memoir and Travel Writing  3 Credit Hours
A course in narrative non-fiction that focuses on memoir and travel writing. Reading involves several books as well as classic essay-length examples. Assignments include both short analytical papers and the writing and revising of three original articles, based on research, interviews, memory, and observation, and drawing on literary techniques. (YR).
Prerequisite(s): COMP 106 or COMP 220 or COMP 270 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 40 or Composition Placement Score with a score of 107 or COMP 280
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Junior or Senior

JASS 440  Theory of the Screen  3 Credit Hours
A study of the art, technology, language and theory of the screen arts through an analysis of their formalist elements and medium-specific codes. Film language, representations of art and reality, authorship, spectatorship and globalization are among the core concepts that will be examined. The course includes extensive online screenings of a variety of films encompassing a number of different forms and genres. (F)
Prerequisite(s): JASS 248 or ENGL 248 or HUM 248 or FILM 248

JASS 447  Script-Writing Workshop  3 Credit Hours
This writing intensive course will train students to compose a film script, focusing on the substance, structure, and style of an original screenplay. The course will be conducted as a workshop in which students will first study classic scripts (and films based on these) of the film-school generation of directors, then model scenes and sequences of their own scripts on the principles of the above texts, and finally, write their own respective film stories in accordance with an appropriate narrative structure and design. (YR).
Prerequisite(s): JASS 310 or COMP 310 or ENGL 310 or COMM 310

JASS 477  Ethnographic Film  3 Credit Hours
This course will analyze ethnographic films as a medium for the construction of meaning in and across cultures. It will teach students to understand how the putatively ‘real’ content of documentary film creates a mixture of fantasy, news and ‘science.’ Covering texts as varied as National Geographic photographic layouts, traditional ethnographic films made by anthropologists, and auto-ethnographies of cultural groups such as Native Americans and the Trobriand Islanders of Papua, New Guinea, the course will aim to deconstruct such oppositions as indigene vs. alien, us vs. them, and self vs. other. Students cannot receive credit for both FILM 477 and FILM 577. (AY)
Prerequisite(s): ENGL 248 or HUM 248 or JASS 248 or ANTH 101 or FILM 248

JASS 497  JASS Thesis  3 Credit Hours
A thesis project that is the culmination of the Journalism and Screen Studies major. Students choose the project area and write a thesis (40-50 pages) under the direction of a JASS faculty member. The thesis option is available only to students with substantial practical experience in the field of journalism or screen studies, and requires the approval of the JASS faculty. This course is available only to Junior/Senior students majoring in the JASS program.
Prerequisite(s): JASS 2015 and JASS 248 and JASS 310
Restriction(s):
Can enroll if Class is Junior or Senior

* An asterisk denotes that a course may be taken concurrently.

Frequency of Offering

The following abbreviations are used to denote the frequency of offering:
(F) fall term; (W) winter term; (S) summer term; (F, W) fall and winter terms; (YR) once a year; (AY) alternating years; (OC) offered occasionally