OVERVIEW:

The crush of information on social media and the array of news organizations covering -- and commenting on -- current events is overwhelming. We’ll learn how to evaluate the quality and trustworthiness of news sources, and analyze coverage of current events using investigative tools, fact checking and critical thinking skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
- Identify reputable news sources and content
- Define and identify original news reporting, opinion and analysis
- Evaluate the reporting process of news organizations and journalists
- Perform fact checking
- Trace news on social media to its source
- Assess the impact of political partisanship on media content and trust
- Identify challenges to local reporting in Wisconsin and beyond

READINGS and RESOURCES (all free and posted on Canvas)


Links and PDFs for other readings, audio and video sources will also be free and posted to Canvas.

COURSE ORGANIZATION & COMMUNICATION

Check the Canvas Home page first for updated information on assignments, due dates and class news. If you have questions after reviewing the Home page and Announcements, contact the instructor for clarification.

You are responsible for receiving and responding to emails, announcements and due dates related to this course. Students control their Canvas notification preferences. Be sure your preferences are set to receive all forms of communication from the class.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES
Weekly readings and assignments build toward the week’s discussion and, ultimately, to the final exam. Missing quizzes and assignments will affect your grade in later parts of the class.

**Due dates and deadlines will follow the same pattern each week:**

- **Content for the week** posted Monday morning before 9 a.m.
- **Quiz or Assignment** due Wednesday before 11:59 p.m.
- **Quiz or Assignment** due Thursday before 11:59 p.m.
- **Discussion** post due Friday before 11:59 p.m. and response due Sunday before 11:59 p.m. Note: Discussions often require students to complete a short activity. Plan ahead and read instructions before posting.
- **Final exam** due Saturday, July 20 before 11:59 p.m.

**QUIZZES – complete before 11:59 p.m. on the due date**

Most assigned readings, audio & video pieces will have a corresponding quiz on Canvas. Some quizzes will be based on two or more related articles or stories. Quizzes are designed to give you credit for doing the reading, listening or watching. *There will not be enough time to hunt for answers – you must carefully read/listen to/watch each piece to do well.*

**Deadlines:** All quizzes are due before 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Unless there is a documented, campus-wide Canvas failure, instructor cannot offer quiz re-takes.

**ASSIGNMENTS – submit before 11:59 p.m. on the due date**

**Deadlines:** All writing and other dropbox assignments are due before 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Review assignment sheets and grading rubrics carefully and get in touch with questions well before the assignment is due.

**Document format:** Use Word .doc or .docx formats only. Microsoft Office 365 including Word is available free to UWM students: [http://www4.uwm.edu/techstore/personal/software.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/techstore/personal/software.cfm).

**DISCUSSIONS – post before 11:59 p.m. on Friday and respond to at least two posts before 11:59 p.m. on Sunday**

**Deadlines:** All discussion posts are due before 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Review prompts and grading rubrics carefully.

**Discussion content:** Class discussions should be honest, interesting and fun. Disrespectful or inappropriate posts will result in grades of zero.

**FINAL EXAM**

The final exam will cover major concepts and definitions from quizzes and course content throughout the semester.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Late assignments will receive grades of zero. With *advance notice* of conflicts or problems, instructor may grant extensions.

**ACCOMMODATIONS AND EXTENSIONS**
UWM’s Accessibility Resource Center offers help with situations that affect students’ ability to succeed. If you need accommodations or extensions to successfully complete this or any class, contact ARC immediately and get the process going. They can often provide documentation so the instructor can adjust course requirements appropriately and fairly.

USING CANVAS

Assignments, due dates and quiz materials are available on Canvas. Quizzes and tests will be taken online. UWM’s Canvas help page and the Canvas Student Guide offer help with all aspects of Canvas. If you have further questions about using the course site or accessing materials, contact Jane via email at jhampden@uwm.edu or text/call at 414-962-0776.

INVESTMENT OF TIME

The average student should expect to devote about 100 hours to this class during the semester, with the time commitment distributed roughly equally among the following activities: 1) watching online lectures and reading/listening to/watching material for quizzes, 2) completing assignments, 3) participating in discussions and 4) preparing for the final exam. Some students may need to devote more time to meet learning outcomes.

GRADING CRITERIA

- Assignments 30 percent
- Quizzes 30 percent
- Discussion posts and responses 25 percent
- Final exam 15 percent

GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94=A</td>
<td>83-80=B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-90=A-</td>
<td>79-77=C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-87=B+</td>
<td>76-74=C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-84=B</td>
<td>73-70=C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-67=D+</td>
<td>66-64=D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-60=D-</td>
<td>59-0=F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. Students with disabilities. Students have a right to accommodations: http://uwm.edu/arc/
2. Religious observances. Students have a right to accommodations: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm
4. Incompletes. A notation of “incomplete” may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student’s control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf
5. Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.pdf
6. **Academic misconduct.** Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

7. **Complaint procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimination_Policy.pdf

8. **Grade appeal procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm

9. **LGBT+ resources.** Faculty and staff can find resources to support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment. http://uwm.edu/lgbrtc/

10. **Other.** The final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, etc. http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm


**ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR**

*Jane Hampden Daley* has more than 20 years’ experience in broadcast journalism. For five years, she hosted the *Lake Effect* interview program on WUWM Milwaukee Public Radio. Before that, Hampden worked for 15 years as a television news anchor and reporter in Denver and Milwaukee, most recently as evening anchor for WISN Channel 12. She has received many awards for broadcast writing and reporting, including four regional Edward R. Murrow awards for her public radio work, and currently freelances for Wisconsin Public Radio and other news organizations. Jane is a graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism. https://www.janehampden.com