THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS
Course Outline

Title: Journalism and Democracy
Abbreviation and Number: JRNT440
AB Paper No.: 13-36
School: Communication and Creative Arts
Department: Journalism and Communication
Credits: 3
Course Sequence: (X) Fall ( ) Spring ( ) Fall and Spring
Hours Per Week: ( ) Lecture (3 ) Seminar ( ) Laboratory ( ) Studio ( ) Kitchen ( ) Other (Specify)
Pre-requisite(s): JRNT340 or permission of Chair/Instructor
Co-requisite(s): None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students examine the place of journalism in society and analyse the role media play in the architecture of democracy and the political process. They analyse the effect of political, economic, cultural and technological factors on the operation of the media.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
1) Discuss key theoretical approaches to the study of journalism;
2) Assess social challenges that affect a journalist's working environment;
3) Analyse the social role of the journalist; and
4) Apply ethical values and principles in the practice of the profession.

COURSE CONTENT
I. Contemporary Theories of the Press
   A. Four theories of the press
   B. Fifth theory of the press
   C. Developmental journalism
   D. New theories of the media

II. Normative Theory of the Press and Democracy
   A. Evolution of normative traditions
   B. Characteristics of normative theory
   C. The principles and practice of democracy
   D. News media in democracy
   E. Democratic systems
   F. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

III. Roles of News Media in Democracy
   A. The monitorial role
   B. The facilitative role
   C. The radical role
   D. The collaborative role

IV. Media Roles under Challenge
   A. The eastern philosophy of the press
   B. Diversity of audience and cultural pluralism
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C. A free and responsible press
D. New technology, globalization and journalism
E. Global media monitoring
F. Internet in democracy
G. Transformation of the public sphere
H. Journalism ethics in democratic societies

V. The Citizen Journalist
A. The rise of citizen journalism
B. Blogs, journalism and political participation
C. Alternative modes of civic engagement
D. Social media and journalism
E. Journalism, citizenship and digital culture

ASSESSMENT
Class assignments ...................... 20%
Mid-semesters examination ............ 20%
Research paper ................................ 30%
Final project .................................. 30%
Total ........................................... 100%

REQUIRED TEXT

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS/MATERIALS

WEBSITES
www.aejmc.org/bighugelabs.com
www.blogger.com
www.concernedjournalists.org
www.go2web20.net
www.ifj.org/journalism.indiana.edu/resources/ethics
www.journalism.org
www.journalismethics.ca
www.kcnn.org/site/multimedia.journalism.berkeley.edu
u/online.journalism.utexas.edu

www.scirus.com
www.sissurvey.net
www.spj.org
www.surveymonkey.com
www.vorbeo.com
www.vuvox.com
www.wordpress.com
www.zamzar.com