

## **JOUR 302: Infomania, Fall 2018**

**Lecture:** Tuesdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m., Lindley 412

### **Discussion sections:**

- Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m., Stauffer-Flint 204, Professor Bobkowski
- Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m., Stauffer-Flint 206, Professor Finneman
- Fridays, 9:30-10:45 a.m., Stauffer-Flint 204, Professor Aromona
- Fridays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Stauffer-Flint 206, Professor Meinking

### **Instructors**

#### **Professor Peter Bobkowski**

**Email:** [bobkowski@ku.edu](mailto:bobkowski@ku.edu)

**Office:** Stauffer-Flint 209A

**Office hours:** Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m. in Stauffer-Flint 209A; or email to set up an appointment.

#### **Professor Teri Finneman**

**Email:** [teri.finneman@ku.edu](mailto:teri.finneman@ku.edu)

**Office:** Stauffer-Flint 209D

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. By appointment.

#### **Professor Shola Aromona**

**Email:** [shola.aromona@ku.edu](mailto:shola.aromona@ku.edu)

**Office:** Stauffer-Flint 113

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. By appointment.

#### **Professor Keri Meinking**

**Email:** [k670m780@ku.edu](mailto:k670m780@ku.edu)

**Office:** Stauffer-Flint

**Office hours:**

### **Course rationale and objectives**

Journalism and strategic communication practitioners must be information experts. Before communicating any information in news or strategic messages, these practitioners must be able to navigate, assess, and synthesize the vast quantities of information that are available to them. In this course, students develop information literacy skills and dispositions by learning to: (1) identify and access information sources; (2) retrieve information from these sources; (3) evaluate these sources and information critically; (4) question their own assumptions; and (5) summarize and synthesize the information they obtain. These skills and dispositions form the foundation of the information-intensive skills students go on to develop in subsequent courses.

**KU Core:** This course satisfies Goal 1 Outcome 1, Critical thinking

## Learning objectives

1. Students will identify a topic of interest, articulate its significance, explain the necessity of researching it, and plan a research strategy.
2. Students will identify diverse information sources to advance their understanding of a topic. Students will use effective retrieval strategies, including search and interview techniques, to obtain information from these sources. Students will apply critical thinking to evaluate their information sources, the information they collect, and their own assumptions about the topic.
  - a. Students will use digital news databases, business records, public records, population/consumer research, and individuals, as essential sources of information.
  - b. Students will know about other conventional and emerging sources of information (e.g., big data), and will supplement the essential sources from (a) with other information sources as necessary.
3. Students will use effective retrieval strategies, including search and interview techniques, to obtain information from these sources.
4. Students will summarize and synthesize the information they collect, and will articulate the results of their critical thinking evaluations.
5. Students will attribute information completely and consistently to its sources.

## Textbook

The textbook for this course is free and online, and written specifically for this class:

[Be Credible: Information Literacy for Journalism, Public Relations, Advertising, and Marketing Students](#), by Peter Bobkowski and Karna Younger, 2018.

## Assignment categories

Instructions for all assignments are in their respective weekly folders on Blackboard. To do well in this class, look at Blackboard daily and follow all directions listed there.

### Information Briefs

- Brief 1: Classmate, due Sept. 17 (100 points)
- Brief 2: Local business and individuals, due Oct. 1 (150 points)
- Brief 3: Issue, due Oct. 29 (200 points)
- Brief 4: Product or brand, due Nov. 12 (150 points)
- Brief 5: Historical building OR Research tutorial, due Dec. 11 (200 points)

### Credibility assessments

20 points (plus up to 40-50 extra credit). Completed during first & last week of class.

### Reading quizzes

10 points each, 160 points total. Completed before the beginning of class for which the reading is assigned.

## Grading

All assignments add to 1,000 points. Blackboard standards for determining letter grades will be used:

- 94-100 A; 90-93 A-
- 87-89 B+; 84-86 B; 80-83 B-
- 77-79 C+; 74-76 C; 70-73 C-
- 67-69 D+; 64-66 D; 60-63 D-
- < 60 F

## **Attendance**

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each lecture and discussion. Late arrival or early departure will be recorded as an absence.

You are permitted one absence of any kind. After one absence, you will receive a 15-point grade deduction to your total points at the end of the semester. If you are absent, you may not make up what you missed in class, and must ask a classmate for notes. Exceptions include a note from a doctor, a funeral program or an excused note for a university activity.

In the grade book on Blackboard, there is an Absence tally column. This is not a grade; it's a tally of how many classes you have missed. The number in this column will not be averaged with the other numbers in the grade book.

## **Late work, extra credit, grade concerns**

Assignments are due at 8 a.m. on designated Mondays. Late work (starting at 8:01 a.m.) will receive a grade of 0. Deadlines exist in this field for a reason. The broadcast starts at 6 p.m., not 6:01 p.m.

In case of a Blackboard submission malfunction, students must email their assignments to the instructor before the due date/time. Students are responsible for ensuring that their Blackboard submissions are successful and complete. Check this, and double-check it, at the time of submission.

Although grades are not negotiable, the instructor will give every consideration to any concerns a student has about an assignment grade, as long as the concerns are identified promptly. Questions or disputes about a particular grade need to be taken care of within a week of receiving that grade. The only grades that will be discussed at the end of the semester are for assignments due at the end of the semester.

## **Plagiarism and academic misconduct**

In this class, and in all journalism classes, honesty and integrity are critical. Any work you do must be original, factual, and reflect your own ideas, thoughts, and research. In a work setting, if you choose to violate professional standards (e.g., fabrication, plagiarism), you will be fired. In this class, if you choose to violate the standards of academic integrity, you will fail the course, and you may be expelled from the School of Journalism.

Here is the School's official policy statement:

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications does not tolerate plagiarism, fabrication of evidence and falsification of evidence.

In this course, the penalty for plagiarism, fabrication or falsification is a failing grade for the semester. Additional penalties can include expulsion from the School of Journalism. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, please consult the professor of this course.

The KU University Senate defines plagiarism as “knowingly presenting the work of another as one’s own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the information or ideas are common knowledge.” The University defines fabrication and falsification as “unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.”

The KU University Council's Academic Misconduct Policy is part of the University Senate Rules and Regulations. Click on the link above to review the policy and consequences for violations.

### **Email etiquette**

We encourage you to communicate with your instructors about the course face-to-face during office hours, or through e-mail. If you choose the latter, please be mindful of email etiquette:

- Compose a brief yet informative subject line.
- Use a greeting, such as “Hello, Professor Finneman,” at the beginning of your message.
- Write the body of your message using full sentences, proper capitalization and punctuation. Explain your question or concern as completely as possible.
- Sign your message using your full (first and last) name.

Major assignments are due on Monday mornings. Your deadline for emailing your instructor with questions about these assignments is 5 p.m. on the preceding Friday. If you email after this deadline, do not expect to receive a response.

### **Technology use**

Laptops, tablets, smart watches, and phones may not be used during lectures or discussions unless specific accommodations are required and cleared with the instructor, or they are permitted for an in-class activity.

Should the instructor or a student use a personal communication device, application, or website for something other than a class-related research task, and this individual is called out for doing so, he or she will take his or her things and leave the class, and be marked absent for the day.

### **Students with disabilities or special needs**

Student Access Services, part of the Academic Achievement & Access Center, works with all units at the University to insure that every student has an equal opportunity to succeed at KU. The mission of Student Access Services is to facilitate appropriate resources, services and auxiliary aids to allow each qualified student with a disability to equitably access educational, social, and career opportunities at the University of Kansas. We are here to help you whether your disability is physical, medical, sensory, psychological, or related to attention or learning. Students who have special needs may require special accommodations to meet course requirements. Requests for accommodations should be made in advance. To find out more information, please contact [Student Access Services \(http://www.disability.ku.edu/\)](http://www.disability.ku.edu/) to acquire the proper documentation.

Student Access Services  
1450 Jayhawk Boulevard  
Strong Hall Room 22  
Phone: 785-864-4064  
Email: [achieve@ku.edu](mailto:achieve@ku.edu)

### **Academic Achievement and Access Center**

This center offers many services and programs to assist students in their academic success and to enhance their collegiate experience at KU. Choose from learning strategy consultations, group workshops or general or course-specific academic assistance, by appointment or on a walk-in basis. Feel free to talk with us and ask for information or direction about academic and personal issues.

### **Blackboard and IT support**

If you experience technical difficulties using Blackboard, contact Blackboard Support at 785-864-2600 or email [blackboardsupport@ku.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@ku.edu)

For other technical issues, contact KU Information Technology 785-864-8080, or email [itcsc@ku.edu](mailto:itcsc@ku.edu)

### **Journalism Career and Outreach Office**

**The Career and Outreach Office** at Stauffer-Flint, Room 120, provides services for all students at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. If you need assistance with resume and cover letter development, job search strategy, internships, mock interviews and LinkedIn profile, schedule an appointment with Steve Rottinghaus at [steve\\_rottinghaus@ku.edu](mailto:steve_rottinghaus@ku.edu). Make sure to follow job and internship postings on Twitter at [@Rhaus90](https://twitter.com/Rhaus90).

### **Weapons policy**

Individuals who choose to carry concealed handguns **are solely responsible to do so in a safe and secure manner in strict conformity with [state and federal laws](#) and [KU weapons policy](#)**. Safety measures outlined in the KU weapons policy specify that a concealed handgun:

- Must be under the constant control of the carrier.
- Must be out of view, concealed either on the body of the carrier, or backpack, purse, or bag that remains under the carrier's custody and control.
- Must be in a holster that covers the trigger area and secures any external hammer in an un-cocked position
- Must have the safety on, and have no round in the chamber.

This class will require students to visit areas where a variety of self-defense weapons may be legally restricted. Students will also be expected to leave belongings such as backpacks and purses away and unattended for prolonged periods. Students who choose to carry a concealed handgun or other means of self-defense should plan accordingly prior to beginning this class. The university does not provide appropriate secured storage for concealed handguns or any other weapons.

Individuals who violate the KU weapons policy may face disciplinary action under the appropriate university code of conduct, including dismissal from the course.