

JOUR 177 - Younger Voters - Informed Voters

Fall 2019 Syllabus

11:00 am - 12:15 pm - Tuesday and Thursday Wescoe 1003

Instructor: Associate Professor Mike Williams

Email mikewms@ku.edu

Work Phone 785 864 7638

Office Location Dole Humanities Center - Office 2064, 1000 Sunnyside Ave. Main Campus

Office Hours 1:00 - 3:00 pm Monday or by appointment. Please call my office phone to arrange a visit. I will be glad to respond to email questions anytime.

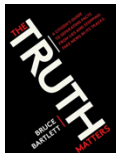
Personal Link <http://www.mikewms.com>

Younger Voters - Informed Voters is an active exploration of the importance of information trust in our society. We will examine the aspects of critical thinking that allow a person to know where to find credible sources of information, understand how to verify the information and how to use the information to debunk falsity. Students will develop personal strategies for expanding their information literacy as they examine the use of subject and objective information sharing in an ever-accelerating flow of digital noise.

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- Appreciate the importance of factual accuracy and source reliability as factors affecting media credibility.
- Describe the likely reasons for disseminating false information from the perspectives of source, publication and audience.
- Demonstrate how fact checking techniques can prove or disprove information.
- Apply fact checking tactics to specific communications.
- List examples of frequently biased information sources and define strategies for preventing further use of such sources.
- Demonstrate methods of spotting fake information in print, online and broadcast media.
- Apply professional and personal ethical standards to information gathering and publication.

Required Materials



The Truth Matters By Bruce Bartlett
Ten Speed Press ISBN 978-0-399-58116-8

- Voice Thread Access (available through KU Blackboard)
- Online access with sufficient bandwidth to consume streamed video presentations

Course Policies and Procedures

You are responsible for your own level of learning and participation in this class. That means if you do not understand any course material, assignments or readings, it is your responsibility to bring your questions to the attention of the instructor. I can't help you if you don't let me know you need help. You each have valuable ideas to contribute to the learning process. You should always feel free to ask questions or add your comments to the course discussions.

Diversity of ideas and attitudes

Because this course is about the ways people share ideas – and how differences of opinion may affect the truthfulness of their statements, a major portion of each week's work will be spent looking at and discussing ways to determine factual accuracy and source credibility. Some of our conversations may not meet the same standards of taste, political allegiances, or other attitudes you personally hold. But because of their place in the examination of information sharing methods and processes, all points of view deserve attention. You are encouraged, and expected, to actively participate in our discussion of all ideas expressed in the class and should feel free to share your feelings about them.

Likewise, you should be tolerant of the attitudes and opinions of others, giving them the same courtesy of free expression you would expect for yourself. We will only learn from each other if we are all willing to listen to and appreciate the opinions and ideas of others.

If you feel offended, or otherwise threatened by the comments of anyone in this class, please let the instructor know as soon as possible so the situation can be addressed.

Participation and attendance

This course is being taught using hybrid learning strategies. This means we will meet in face-to-face class time on Mondays at 11 am. Please be in place at that time. Your attendance at each class meeting is required!

If you anticipate a valid absence, you must notify me by email, preferably BEFORE the class meeting. Be sure to put "JOUR 177 ABSENCE" in the subject line of the email message.

You may call my cell number 541 598 4377 at any time before 10 p.m. to inform me of a pending absence or for other course-related matters that can't be handled through email or in person. If I don't answer, please leave a message.

Do not assume you will be allowed to make up assignments missed during an unexcused absence. You are expected to view the videos posted as well as read the listed chapters and linked material by the date indicated on the course schedule. Traffic data on the video site is recorded. A failure to attend to this course material will seriously hurt your learning in the course and have a negative impact on your discussions.

Technology

You will be required to have access to all technology required for viewing online lectures, for completion of assignments, and participation in on line discussions. This class requires the use of computers capable of running, up-to-date web browsers. Firefox, Chrome or Safari are recommended for all class work. Broadband access to the internet is assumed and required.

KU Libraries and the School of Journalism provide computer labs and facilities for course work. You should make yourself familiar with the location and availability of those computer facilities.

Not having adequate access to the required technology is not an excuse for missing deadlines or poor work. If you are unable to provide your own computing technology, you will need to find a public source, or drop the course.

KU Blackboard

The majority of materials for this course will be accessed via using Blackboard. If you are not familiar with its operation, please let me know.

Deadlines

This course has frequent deadlines throughout the term!

All course work must be completed by assigned deadlines. Any work submitted after the assignment deadline will receive a grade deduction of 10 percent per day, unless a deadline extension is granted by the professor prior to the original deadline.

Do not plan to submit everything on the last day. A grade of INCOMPLETE will be assigned only in accordance with University of Kansas policy.

Journalism School Policy on Classroom Attendance

No student may add a journalism class after the 20th day of a semester.

Students must attend their classes and laboratory periods. Instructors may take attendance into account in assessing a student's performance and may require a certain level of attendance for passing a course. Instructors may choose to drop students from a course, based on attendance, without consent.

The School of Journalism reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of students who fail to attend the first class or laboratory meeting.

Financial Aid Policy

The KU Office of Student Financial Aid is required by federal law to determine whether students who receive aid are attending each class in which they are enrolled. Instructors are required to report to that office absences of students who have stopped attending and names of those who have enrolled but never have attended. Students who do not attend classes may be required to repay federal and/or state financial aid.”

Students who receive any form of financial aid should learn all requirements including minimum hours of enrollment and grades to qualify for and retain that aid.

Misconduct

You are bound by the university rules on academic misconduct. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, please ask BEFORE your endeavor.

Originality

You will always be expected to use your own imagination, images, and information. The highest levels of ethical conduct and integrity expected of working professionals apply to you in this course. Please review the relevant policies as shown below under the Learn More label. You will always be expected to use your own imagination, images, and information. Assignments completed with material from copyrighted sources will require appropriate attribution and/or permission for use.

J-School Policy on Plagiarism and Fabrication/Falsification – Adopted May 7, 2004

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

Penalties for plagiarism, fabrication or falsification can include a failing grade for this course and expulsion from the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, please consult the professor(s) of this course.

The following definitions are from Article II, Section 6, of the University Senate Rules and Regulations, revised FY98.

Plagiarism – Knowingly presenting the work of another as one’s own (i.e., without proper recognition of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the information or ideas are common knowledge.

Fabrication and Falsification – Unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Special learning needs

The University of Kansas is committed to helping all students learn. If you have a special need that may affect your learning, please contact me as soon as possible. Please be aware that the KU Office of Disability Resources coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted this office, please do so as soon as possible. Information about services can be found at <http://www.disability.ku.edu/~disability/>. Or you can visit the office on the first floor of Strong Hall. The phone number is: 785-864-2620. Please contact me privately regarding your needs in this course.

Inclement weather

In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel classes is made by KU officials. To determine whether snow or icy conditions have canceled classes, call 864-7669 (864-SNOW). Because this class is completely on line, this will only affect deadlines scheduled for days when the campus is closed. If such instance occurs, I will notify the class by email to revise the deadline.

Copying or sharing course materials

Course materials prepared by the instructor, as well as content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the instructor's property. Sharing of video and audio recordings of lectures without instructor consent is prohibited. Unless the instructor gives explicit permission, recordings of lectures may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

Email

All students are REQUIRED to regularly check their KU (name@ku.edu) email account.

Class information will be frequently sent to this account. If you use another account, please be sure your KU account is set to forward email to that non-KU account. I will not attempt to chase you to email accounts other than your official KU email. Not being aware of course material because of failure to use your @ku.edu email account is not an accepted excuse.

I will make every effort to reply to your email as quickly as possible within 24-hours of its receipt. Do not expect immediate replies to emails after 10 p.m. or before 9 a.m. I check email regularly on the weekend but do not assume replies will be as immediate as during the workweek.

You may communicate by email with me about anything related to the course except grade revisions. I will not discuss anything related to grade changes online. If you want to discuss a review of a graded assignment or test, you may arrange an office appointment with me.

Concealed carry of weapons

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

Note: Tests, quizzes and concealed carry of weapons

Instructors are allowed by Kansas Board of Regents policy, to require backpacks, purses and other bags be placed in a specific location during exams and quizzes, and as such those items may not be under the constant control of the individual. Students who choose to carry a concealed handgun in a purse, backpack, or bag must review and plan each day accordingly, and are responsible for making alternate arrangements as necessary.

The University does not provide appropriate secure storage for concealed handguns.

Individuals who violate the KU weapons policy may be asked to leave campus with the weapon and may face disciplinary action under the appropriate university code of conduct.

Grading

Your final grade for this course will be based on the scores for the following elements and weighed as indicated in the graphic at the right.

Specific details for each assessment will be provided at the time of assignment.

Commentaries Using Voice Thread - 35% of semester grade

Each of the seven VT assignments will be worth 5% of your overall grade and will include at least two elements. You must complete all parts of the assignment, as described, to receive any credit for the assignment. Failure to do so will result in a score of zero (0) for the assignment. Prof. Williams will post and make live the initial Voice Thread (VT) weekly discussion topic prior to the week it is due. The due date and time is indicated on the VT assignment.

Each VT assignment will require the following:

You will be expected to respond with your thoughts as a "Comment" to the discussion topic originated by Prof. Williams.

You will also be required to "Comment" on the response of at least one of your classmates by time indicated in the assignment.

Two Major Essay Assignments - E1 and E2 - each worth a total of 25% of semester grade

Each Essay Assignment will have three parts submitted for grading

- Search Strategy - 5% of semester grade
- Draft 5% of semester grade
- Final Version 15% of semester grade

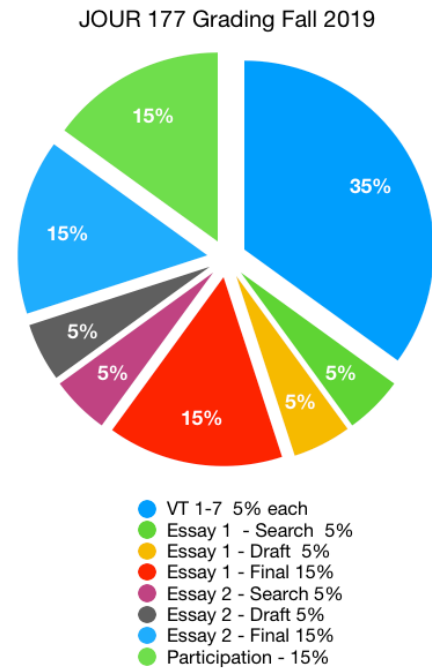
Specifics for each assignment will be discussed in class when assignment is made.

Participation - 10% of semester grade

Because this course is using a hybrid pedagogy, attendance is required at every face-to-face class meeting. We will also, occasionally meet in small groups online using Skype or Zoom. These sessions will be scheduled throughout the semester and you will be expected to attend and participate in at least one during the term.

You will also be required to provide Voice Thread responses to at least two of the Team case study postings during the last half of the semester.

Extra credit is not offered in this course.



Class Schedule

The Class Schedule is subject to revision as course progress dictates.

Note: All VT commentaries are due in VT on Blackboard by Friday 5 pm of the week it is due. All VT responses are due in VT on Blackboard by 11:59 pm Sunday, two days later.

WEEK	DATES	CONTENT FOCUS Tuesday (F-2-F Class Wescoe 1003)	READING, VIEWING, SHARING Thursday (Online Work)	DUE THIS WEEK
1	Aug. 27 Aug. 29	Introductions, syllabus, course review	NOTE: F2F meeting Using the class tools – Blackboard, Voice Thread. How to succeed online.	
2	Sept. 3 Sept. 5	Why Truth Matters Voice Thread Practice Read TRUTH - Chaps 1 - 5	Read TRUTH - Chaps 6- 10	VT 1 About Truth
3	Sept.10 Sept.12	Problems with fake news in politics Read TRUTH - Chaps 11 - 15	Watch Democratic Debate Prepare a review of impact and truthfulness	VT 2 Democratic Debate
4	Sept. 17 Sept. 19	CONSTITUTION DAY Discuss Essay 1 - Critical Thinking and Writing	Propose topic for Essay 1 - Are media the “Enemy of the People”? Constitution	VT 3 Essay 1 Topic and rationale
5	Sept. 24 Sept. 26	Library Visit - Watson Library Commitment to Essay 1 Topic	Essay 1 part 1 - (E 1.1) Search strategy and list of primary and secondary sources	E 1 .1 Search Submit to BB Assignments
6	Oct. 1 Oct. 3	Reading Research Reviewing Search strategies	Preparing Essay 1 part 2 (E1.2) Essay Draft	E1.2 Draft Submit to BB Assignments
7	Oct. 8 Oct. 10	Reviewing Drafts	Preparing Essay 1	
8	Oct. 15 Oct. 17	FALL BREAK - No Class	ESSAY 1 Final version (E 1.F.) DUE 5 pm Friday 10/19	
9	Oct. 22 Oct. 24	Propaganda Visit Spencer Art Museum as class	What is the difference between campaigns and propaganda?	VT 4 Propaganda
10	Oct. 29 Oct. 31	Discussion of Essay 1 and Preparation for Essay 2 - Final Project	Happy Halloween!!	VT 5 Best Costume
11	Nov. 5 Nov. 7	Lies, damn lies and statistics. Plausibility, probability and fallacies	Propose topic for Essay 2	VT 6 Essay 1 Topic and rationale
12	Nov. 12 Nov. 14	Library Visit 2 - Searching and proposal completion	Working on Essay 2 part 1 - (E 2.1) Search strategy and list of primary and secondary sources	VT 7 Library visit response
13	Nov. 19 Nov. 21	NOTE: FYS Colloquium MON. 11/18, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Burge Union. Attendance required No class Tuesday 11/19	Working on Essay 2 part 1 - (E 2.1) Search strategy and list of primary and secondary sources	E 2 .1 Search Submit to BB Assignments
14	Nov. 26 Nov. 28	Essay 2 draft version 1 (E 2.2) due Review with instructor - Submit to BB by 5 pm.	THANKSGIVING BREAK - No Class	
15	Dec. 3 Dec. 5	Essay 2 production	Essay 2 production	E 2 .2 Draft Submit to BB Assignments
16	Dec. 10 Dec. 12	Essay 2 Draft peer reviews	Course evaluations Essay 2 final production	
Finals Week Essay 2 Final version (E 2.F) Submitted to BlackBoard Due Monday, 12/16 5:00 pm (may be submitted earlier)				