

## **JOUR 302: Infomania, Fall 2019**

**Lecture:** Mondays, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Strong 330

### **Discussion sections:**

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Summerfield 501, Professor Olushola Aromon

Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Robinson 201, Professor Robert Karwath

Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Blake 108, Professor Hong Tien Vu

Wednesdays, 3-4:15 p.m., Wescoe 4025, Professor Matthew Blomberg

Wednesdays, 4-5:15 p.m., Wescoe 101, Professor Gerri Berendzen

## **Instructors**

Professor Shola Aromon

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**Office:** Stauffer-Flint GTA offices

**Office hours:** Meetings by appointment.

Professor Gerri Berendzen

**Email:** gberendzen@ku.edu

**Office:** Dole Human Development Center 2056

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Bremner Editing Center appointments will also be conducted in my office at that time.) By appointment at other times.

Professor Matthew Blomberg

**Email:** mattblom@ku.edu

**Office:** Stauffer-Flint GTA offices

**Office hours:** email to set up an appointment.

Professor Hong T. Vu

**Email:** hongvu@ku.edu

**Office:** Stauffer-Flint 207D

**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. By appointment at other times.

## 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

See the Assignment Instructions folder, or respective week folders, for assignment details.

- Brief 1: Business/Individual, due Sept. 22. (100 points)
- Brief 2: Local Business Public Records, due Oct. 7 (150 points)
- Brief 3: Issue, due Nov. 4 (200 points)
- Brief 4: Product or brand, due Nov. 25. (150 points)
- Brief 5: Historical building OR Research tutorial, due Dec. 16. (200 points)

### **Credibility assessments**

20 points (plus up to 20-30 extra credit). Completed during first & last week of class.

### **Reading quizzes**

10 points each, 140 points total. Completed before the beginning of class for which the reading is assigned. Note that the quiz will close at the start of class, so there will be no late submissions.

## **Grading**

All assignments add to 960 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

Grades will not be rounded up.

## **Attendance**

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each lecture and discussion. Students need to be signed in before class starts to be marked present. Late arrival or early departure will be recorded as an absence.

You are permitted two absences of any kind. After two absences, you will receive a 15-point grade deduction to your total points at the end of the semester for each class missed. 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.

### **Journalism school's 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.

### **Late work, grade concerns**

Assignments are due at 11 a.m. on designated Mondays. Quizzes are due at the beginning of the class for which the quiz reading is assigned. Late work will receive a grade of 0. Deadlines exist in this field for a reason: The broadcast starts at 6 p.m., not at 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.

### **Academic 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.

### **Policy on Plagiarism and Fabrication/Falsification**

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications does not tolerate plagiarism, fabrication of evidence or falsification of evidence. Penalties for plagiarism, fabrication or falsification can include a failing grade for the 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 of the 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 acknowledgement 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.

### **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 Belmas," 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 unless 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.

### **Copying or Recording Course Content**

Course materials prepared by the instructor, as well as content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the instructor's property. Video and audio recording of lectures without instructor consent is prohibited. On request, the instructor usually will permit students to record lectures, on the condition that these recordings are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. 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.

### **Policy on Commercial Note Taking**

Pursuant to the University of Kansas' [Policy on Commercial Note-Taking Ventures](#), commercial note-taking is not permitted in JOUR 302. Lecture notes and course materials may be taken for personal use, for the purpose of mastering the course material, and may not be sold to any person or entity in any form. Any student engaged in or contributing to the commercial exchange of notes or course materials will be subject to discipline, including academic misconduct charges, in accordance with University policy.

Please note: note-taking provided by a student volunteer for a student with a disability, as a reasonable accommodation under the ADA, is not the same as commercial note-taking and is not covered under this policy.

### **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.

## **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.

## **Diversity, inclusivity and civility**

- The instructor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the instructor's expectation that ALL students experience this classroom as a safe environment.
- The University of Kansas supports an inclusive learning environment in which diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, and appreciated. We believe that all students benefit from training and experiences that will help them to learn, lead, and serve in an increasingly diverse society. All members of our campus community must accept the responsibility to demonstrate civility and respect for the dignity of others. Expressions or actions that disparage a person's or group's race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, gender, gender identity / expression, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, or disability are contrary to the mission of the University. We expect that KU students, faculty, and staff will promote an atmosphere of respect for all members of our KU community.
- Civility and respect for the opinions of others are very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. Courteous behavior and responses are expected at all times. When you disagree with someone, be sure that you make a distinction between criticizing an idea and criticizing the person. Expressions or actions that disparage a person's or race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, gender, gender identity / expression, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, or marital, parental, or veteran status are contrary to the mission of this course and will not be tolerated.

## **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)

## **KU Writing Center**

Go to <http://writing.ku.edu/> to learn more about the KU Writing Center.

### **Ask a Librarian**

Click on the link above to access library support. This link offers different ways to communicate with library support services.

### **Using the KU Libraries' How-to guides**

The KU Libraries research guides serve to aid you in finding resources by subject or course. These Tutorial/Help guides explain how to use the research resources available to you. Click on the link above which will link you directly to a listing of tutorials.

### **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.

### **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.