Welcome to the Newsroom!

When you walk through the doors of this classroom you are no longer a student. You are a working journalist. In this course you will learn to think, act and write like a journalist as we explore the skills you need to succeed in the newsroom.

This course will provide an introduction to the basic principles of research, reporting, writing and producing the news. You will learn to develop what is at the core of every good journalist – an observer and listener who uses every sense, sight, sound, taste, smell and feel to tell the story. You will learn to become a human sponge and notice details that no one else sees. Finally, you will learn to write the story vividly and seamlessly so the reader feels as if he or she was there. You will also learn to shoot video, edit video, shoot still photo and the basics of NPR audio style journalism. We will also explore journalism and trauma a big issue in our world of hurricanes, earthquakes, terrorism, wars and violence. We also will look unflinching at race in America.

By the time I am finished with you this semester you will be a fearless multimedia journalist.

To be a good reporter, you have to know what’s going on in your community, your city, your country, and your world. You have to read the New York Times and the New York Daily News every day online or print. Think about the types of stories they cover, the people they write about, how they write about them and why. You must watch at least fifteen minutes of television news a day, listen to 1010 WINS and read the free weeklies. Download podcast that focus on storytelling and interviewing. Follow media on twitter and use it to connect you to stories around the city, nation and world. Be a true student of media, in every form, that will help your writing, producing and make you a smart reporter.

This course will follow as closely as possible the workings of a real newsroom.
Everyone must participate. Students will take turns leading NEWSCHECK. For the first 10-15 minutes of class one or two students will lead a discussion on a story of their choosing from the of www.nytimes.com (there are discounts for student subscriptions). Everyone must participate in the discussion. Think about it - when it's your turn to lead the discussion you want your fellow reporters to participate so you are not just talking to yourself.

Next, we'll talk about stories you worked on or are preparing on for class. You will pitch ideas and as a group we will discuss them and sharpen them.

Journalism is about people, their stories, the government and services that enable them to live their lives. This class is about finding your voice and embracing the community you cover with passion, respect and understanding. This dynamic city will serve as your laboratory as we cover local and national issues that you will see come to life in these neighborhoods.

For the first three to eight week of class you will cover assignments from the AP daybook in addition to other stories I will assign you. I want you to report, report and report. You will be doing lots of writing, but also working across platforms.

But every story in this class must have a sharp angle. In journalism today there is no room for the same-old-same-old. You have to bring something fresh to the table. To get that edge, our work has to be rooted in thorough research. You must be well versed on your story and the issues surrounding it.

**STRUCTURE**

If a big news story breaks, prepare to cover it. If you like a lot of structure and a routine schedule; if you need coddling, constant reassurance and praise, this class — and this profession — will not be for you. On any given day in the newsroom you have no idea what is going to happen. Think of the newsroom like a roller coaster: strap yourself in and get ready for a wild ride. Be prepared to make a lot of mistakes – you learn from them. Be prepared to feel uncomfortable as you roam the streets hunting for news and talking to strangers. Be prepared for honest and harsh editing. But know you will have my support and help. I am here for you. My only goal is for you to do great work and do great things with the skills you learn in this newsroom.

We will also do at least one social media project, but you must tweet and instagram regularly. Follow me @yvonnelatty and I will follow you.

I don’t friend students on Facebook. But you must join our class Facebook page, which is an important resource.

We will also visit Westpoint and work with cadets on computer simulated embeds in the fall.
**Pavement Pieces**

The best stories you write will be posted on “Pavement Pieces.  
www.pavementpieces.com

Each of you will have to contribute a minimum of two stories to the website this semester.

Every written story must be submitted with three photos, a detail shot, profile and establishing shot.

**STORIES**

We will start by covering the 9/11 memorial service and for the next four weeks you will choose a daybook story on the AP wire, report, write and take photos, then submit it 10 hours after the event occurred.

Here is how you access the daybook

Go to:

http://nyujournalismtools.wordpress.com/category/ap-daybook/

Here's how:

* Go to Factiva

* Enter the following statement in the free text search box: ny day schedule

* Click on the "More Options" Area (at bottom of page) to expand it.

* UNCHECKMARK the "Obituaries, Sports, Calendars" box in the Exclude from area.

* Select a date; use "in the last day" for today's schedule
Please note that Factiva has an 8 simultaneous user limit; this means that only 8 people can access it at any given time. So, if you sign in and are prompted for a user name and password, this means that we have reached our limit. Just try again in a few minutes and you should be able to get in.

We will also do a Final Cut Workshop and Video daybook.

And an audio workshop.

At midterm will travel for three days reporting and executing on the ground.

Your final will be a story that you will pitch and execute in more than one medium.

But in between all of this we will chase news and any story that comes our way.

All photos should be posted on our Flickr account and you send me the links.

All videos on our Vimeo account and you send me the links.

The passwords are below:

FOR VIMEO

pavementpieces@yahoo.com

nyureporting

FOR FLICKR

pavementpieces@yahoo.com

reportingnyandnation

FOR COMPUTERS IN OUR SECTIONS

Pr0flatty. (*note that P is uppercase and 0 is a number, not alphabet).

Travel

There are multiple opportunities to travel.
1) We will be traveling to a location that I will announce soon in Nov for our three-day multimedia trip.
2) We will travel as a class to Westpoint.
3) In the second semester, if the budget allows, several students, based on their pitches will travel on another three day reporting trip.
4) If national news breaks, I will send students or the class to cover, if the budget allows.

Requirements
We only meet once a week. Do not miss class. If you miss three classes you fail, no excuses.

All stories must be turned in on deadline. If you miss deadline your grade on that assignment drops a letter.

Read over your work. You don’t have to write headlines.

PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR WORK!

Required Books
The Associated Press Stylebook (online access)
Purchase several reporter notebooks and have one with you all the time.

The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation by Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff

Enrique’s Journey by Sonia Nazario

Optional Textbook -Writing and Reporting the News By Carole Rich (you can buy this used. This book acts as a guide to help you since we move very quickly.)

Documentary Screenings
We also will be screening at least two documentaries in class that deal with issues of race, poverty, immigration, LGBTQ, or politics.

Required Multimedia Equipment:
A 500GB to 1 TB portable hard drive. (I suggest a Lacie rugged or G Drive. Get one that
you don’t have to plug into an outlet.)
At least one 16 GB SD Card
*Insurance is purchased through NYU to cover lost and damaged equipment.

Optional equipment:

A mac laptop
A DSLR Camera (I suggest the Canon Rebel) – provided by NYU if you don’t want to buy one
A Zoom H4N (professional audio recorder) – provided by NYU if you don’t want to buy one.
Adobe Premiere. There are one-month free trials online and monthly subscriptions.

**Grading**

NEWSCHECK / PARTICIPATION - 25%
ASSIGNMENTS 50%
FINAL  25%

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism or fabricating sources, quotes, sentences from any print, broadcast or online source is strictly forbidden. Any incidents of plagiarism will be punished with an automatic F and the Institute director chair will be notified.

**Assistance**

If you're having a problem, if you don't understand something, just let me know. We can set up a private meeting, you can stop by my office during office hours or you can call me or e-mail me. It's good journalism to try and understand everything and asking questions just makes you a better reporter.