Course ID
JOUR-UA 202.002

Albert Course Number
3078

New York University
Summer Journalism

Class Schedule
Tues. & Thurs: 5:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
May 22 to June 28, 2018

Instructor
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Office hours: Tuesdays: 11 a.m. to noon & 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Course Description
This course is designed for students with a serious interest in writing about movies for print and digital media. Students practice various forms of film journalism while developing a critical understanding of the art form through close readings of works by Brooks Barnes, Stephanie Zacharek, Roger Ebert, Pauline Kael, Molly Haskell, Joseph Gelmis, James Baldwin, Peter Biskind and Francois Truffaut. Planned class trips include a film festival, VFX house, press event and the office of Criterion, the iconic home theater company that introduced director commentaries and bonus material. In addition to discussing individual auteurs and film movements, we will cover the essential skills of journalism, with guest speakers offering guidance on specific topics like reporting and interviewing techniques. Classwork will include writing exercises, workshops and screenings. By the end of the course, students will have raised their cinema I.Q. and written a movie review, profile, box-office report and other assignments.

Grading System
This class uses letter grades, which will be based on the following criteria:
· 60% Papers and assignments
· 20% Class participation
· 20% Readings and exercises

Grades can be lowered for unmet deadlines, lateness or absence from class. Plagiarism, invented sources or other ethical breaches can result in an automatic F.

The following is a breakdown of numeric grade to letter grade:

A (100% to 94%) -- Outstanding work, publishable as is
A- (93% to 90%)
B+ (89% to 87%)
B (86% to 83%) -- Good work, in need of minor revision
B- (82% to 80%)
C+ (79% to 77%)
C (76% to 73%) -- Ordinary work, needs significant revision
C- (72% to 70%)
D (69% to 67%) -- Major problems with facts, reporting, writing
D- (66% to 65%)
F (64% to 0%) -- Issues with plagiarism, etc.
Class 1, The Meet Cute: Intros and Goals of the course
Instructor goals and recommendations followed by a class discussion on the film writing and a review of the year's big stories. Getting to know one another through an in-class writing exercise. Screen and analyze film clips. Syllabus review.
Homework: Read chapter on film history from “Looking at Movies.” Read “How to Take It All Seriously (From Antonioni to Andy).” Write a 250-word pocket reference to one major film period or movement.

Class 2, The Big Picture: How to Think & Write About Movies
Homework presentations followed by an overview of how the movie industry works and is covered in the media. A presentation on resources. An in-class exercise on hard news and feature writing. Screen and analyze film clips. Lessons from current Hollywood beat reporters. Discussion of box office reports.
Homework: Read selections of news clips from The Hollywood Reporter, New York Times and others. Read selections of box office reports and write one based on that weekend's results.

Class 3, Mise-en-scène: Ethics & Story Basics
Homework presentations. A discussion of journalism ethics and story fundamentals like sourcing and fact checking articles. Screen and analyze film clips. A breakdown of film coverage, from A to Z.
Homework: Read selections of festival coverage. Conduct research for upcoming coverage of the Brooklyn Film Festival. Prepare for guest speaker.

Class 4, Sparking a Dialogue: (Interviewing Subjects)
Guest speaker: TK. Homework presentations. Screen and analyze film clips. Class discussion on negotiating interviews, difficult subjects, and best practices.
Homework: Read “The Art of the Interview.” Attend and cover the Brooklyn Film Festival on Sat., June 2.

Class 5, On Location
Class trip: Attend press screening of TK film.
Homework: Read VFX clips and selections of movie writing, including an interview with director Stanley Kubrick.

Class 6, Now Playing:
Class trip to Mr. X, the visual effects house that worked on The Shape of Water, last year's best picture winner. Homework presentations. Screen and analyze film clips.
Class discussion of how technology is changing Hollywood. An introduction to obituary writing.
Homework: Write an advance obituary and come up with two ideas for your final profile paper.

Class 7, Reaction Shots (Criticism)
Screen and analyze film clips. Workshop pitches. A brief history of film criticism, the major figures and their influence. An in-class exercise on movie reviews.
Homework: Read selections of writing and prepare for guest speaker.

Class 8, Critical Perspective (Review Screening)
Guest speaker: TK. Screen review movie.
Homework: Research and write movie review.

Class 9, Close-up (Pitching & Profile Writing)
Homework: Report final profile paper and write outline.

Class 10, On Location
Class trip to a press event for TK movie.
Homework: Response paper for press event.

Class 11, The Rough Cut (Profile Workshop)
Screen and analyze film clips. Homework presentations. More class discussion on profile writing and interviewing subjects. Workshop profiles.
Homework: Read selections of movie writing. Write draft of final profile paper.

Class 12, Wrap Party
Closing statements and class screening. Celebrate!
Homework: Finish final profile paper.