

New York University

Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute

Syllabus JOUR-GA 1290 Sect. 1

Fieldwork in Journalism

Fall 2024

Professor: Sylvan Solloway Carrera and Craigh Barboza

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Course Description

Journalism internships are a way for students to extend their education beyond the classroom and gain valuable real-world experience that might lead to a career. Credit internships must involve journalistic training under proper supervision in the editorial or production department of an established news-based organization. If you are taking a credit internship, you must enroll in the Fieldwork in Journalism course offered by NYU Journalism. Most students have a maximum of 4 internship credits to use during their studies. The internship class is available for variable credit. At the time of registration, students can elect to earn 1, 2, 3 or 4 credits for the course.

We will communicate with you through NYU Brightspace throughout the semester, and it is your responsibility to read your NYU emails and upload your assignments on time. (Note the due dates in your calendar now.)

Call or email us if you need to discuss any situations at your internship. We want to know as soon as possible, and help you navigate any on-the-job challenges. Write “URGENT” in the subject line for urgent issues and make sure to email all of us.

Learning Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Demonstrate awareness of journalism’s core ethical values
- Gain experience navigating within a professional journalism organization.
- Demonstrate critical thinking, independence, and creativity appropriate to the role of journalism in a democratic society
- Interview subjects, conduct research, and evaluate information
- Work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness, and diverse perspectives
- Use technological tools and apply quantitative concepts as appropriate

Course Structure

Students taking a credit internship in the Fall should intern a minimum of 10 hours per week, but no more than 20 hours. Discuss start and end dates with the job-site supervisor and confirm with career services.

During the fall semester, you also must attend a mandatory class where students participate in a group discussion. Our office will contact you through NYU Brightspace once the semester starts with details on how to sign up for the class held virtually via Zoom.

Missing days at your internship: You’re expected to remain in contact with your supervisor via phone, email or Zoom on your scheduled days.

Contact Career Services immediately if you stop reporting to your internship. Taking time off is acceptable, but should be cleared with your employer first and discussed with career services. If you’re sick, you need to notify your internship supervisor by phone and email as soon as possible. (Don’t simply send an email and assume that’s okay.) Make sure you communicate with your internship supervisor about any assignments you’re working on and how they can be completed when taking time off. Let Career Services know if you ever miss more than two consecutive days of your internship.

Discussing problems at your internship:

Career Services is available to help you develop strategies for success, or sort through problems at your internship. Your communication is important. It's one of the best ways we have of monitoring student experiences inside the media organizations — so don't hesitate to contact Career Services — especially if you're being asked to do a disproportionate amount of administrative work, or experiencing any threatening or harassing behaviors from a supervisor or colleague. Please write "URGENT" in the subject heading of such an email and email all of us. Call us if you don't hear back from an urgent email within 24 to 48 hours.

Please note that the Title IX Office also has resources available should you have concerns with sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, or sexual misconduct: nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/equal-opportunity/title9.html

We can work with you regarding your credit and grade if you need to terminate an internship early.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to write two essay "log" assignments and turn them into Brightspace in a timely manner (instructions can be found at the end of this syllabus.)

(Note: Do not assume you will automatically pass this course because you show up for your internship everyday and hand in your assignments. To pass you need to do well in your internship, write thoughtful well-written essays and contribute to the mandatory class discussion.)

Grading

GRADUATE STUDENTS will receive a letter grade for the internship class. Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Essay assignment due dates, Fall 2024:

- Log 1 – Monday, October 14 – 30% of Grade
- Log 2 – Monday, November 18 – 20% of Grade

Make note of these deadlines and email sylvan.solloway@nyu.edu, craigh.barboza@nyu.edu, and careerservicesjournalism@nyu.edu if you need an extension for medical reasons or other special circumstances. (You can reply all to your Intern Record Sheet.)

- Supervisor Evaluation – 50% of Grade

We will reach out to your supervisors for evaluations towards the end of the semester. Students can ask for information about their evaluations, unless the supervisors request otherwise.

Your grade will be based on the quality/timeliness of your essays and your supervisor's evaluation.

(Note: Do not assume you will automatically pass this course because you report to your internship everyday and hand in your assignments. To pass you need to do well in your internship and write thoughtful, well-written essays.)

Submitting Your Work

For this course, you will need to upload your assignments via Brightspace. It is important that you save the assignment on your computer as a Microsoft Word document.

Log 1 should be called LastNameFirstName1.doc and Log 2 should be called EmployerYourLastName2.doc.

Headers

Include the following header on each of your assignments:

Last name, first name

Status: 2nd Semester Grad (CRC or whichever program you're in)

Employer: New York Magazine (The Cut)

Semester: Fall 2024

Word Count: 519 (please provide your exact word count and stay within guidelines!)

Writing Your Log 1 Essay

Your first assignment is a 500 to 600-word first-person reflection on your internship. This paper is an opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned about journalism from your experience so far and reflect on how it alters your outlook on the field.

Papers will be judged on the quality of writing:

- structure (How well is your paper organized?)
- content (What are the details of your internship?)
- style (Is your paper clear and concise?)
- transitions (Do you tie together different parts of your log?)
- and professionalism (Are there grammatical errors, misspellings, run-on or incomplete sentences? How closely did you stick to the assigned word count?)

Potential talking points for your Log 1:

- What insight or ideas do you have about journalism, based on your internship?
- How did you handle your assignments?
- What have you learned about the company — and the goals of your specific division?
- What particular challenge does the company face today or in years ahead?
- Describe examples of how you've shown initiative.
- How has your impression of the internship or your co-workers changed?
- In what ways have you shown initiative and what is your strategy to succeed for the remainder of your internship?
- How does this internship compare to your previous journalism experience?
- What particular skills are you learning, or do you wish you had learned prior to this internship?
- If you encountered any problems at your internship, how have you dealt with them?
- Success stories or bylines?
- Have you been given any positive or constructive feedback? Do you want more?
- Conclusion/Plans to succeed through the remainder of your internship?

Writing Your Log 2 Student Internship Review

Your final assignment is a brief review (less than 200 words) of your internship. It is written for other students interested in that internship, and tells them what to expect.

Log 2s will be available as a reference for students next semester. Once they are edited, all Log 2s will be anonymous (so please do not identify editors or other staff by name). And be honest.

In your review, include a description of what the publication/show does as well as your internship duties.

When writing your Log 2, it may be helpful to think about the following talking points:

- Do you recommend this internship to other students? Explain.
- How much time did you spend on various tasks, including grunt work?
- What is the potential for pitching and getting clips? (Do you have any advice on how to pitch this particular outlet or suggestions for how future interns can succeed?)
- How does this internship compare to others you may have done?

Accommodations

Students with disabilities that necessitate accommodations should contact and register with New York University's Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu. Information about the Moses Center can be found at www.nyu.edu/csd. The Moses Center is located at 726 Broadway on the 2nd floor.

Diversity & Inclusion

The Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute is committed to creating an anti-racist learning environment that embraces diversity, complexity, and honesty. We are an intellectual community enriched by diversity along a number of dimensions, including race, sex, gender identity, class, ethnicity, sexualities, abilities, religion, and culture. Our student body is excitingly international. We welcome a multiplicity of perspectives. We acknowledge that listening to other perspectives on some of these issues may be personally challenging, and we accept that challenge. We further acknowledge that our profession, journalism, and our home, New York University, have participated in the systemic racism that underpins U.S. history. We are committed to teaching and practicing fair, rigorous, and engaged journalism that helps all our communities move toward justice and equality.

Wellness

In a large, complex community like New York University, it's vital to reach out to others, particularly those who are isolated or engaged in self-destructive activities. Student wellness

<https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/academic-programs/student-wellness.html>) is the responsibility of us all. The NYU [Wellness Exchange](#) is the constellation of NYU's programs and services designed to address the overall health and mental health needs of its students. The Wellness Exchange is your greatest mental health resource at NYU. Call the 24-hour hotline at (212) 443-9999, chat via the Wellness Exchange app anytime, make an appointment, or arrange a same-day Urgent Counseling session to speak with a certified counselor about any day-to-day challenges or health concerns. If you need assistance, please call (212) 443-9999. Please do not visit in person.