The Journey of Journalism and History: How We Got Here
FYSEM-UA 772   Fall, 2019
Instructor: Charles J. Glasser, Jr., Esq.
Tuesdays, 12:30 to 3PM     Room TISC_LC5

Theme and goals: This course is more than a survey of important journalism of the 20th century. Reading and discussion intensive, we will explore how significant historical events affected journalism, and how journalism helps shape the occurrence of those events. If as they say, that journalism is “the first draft of history” then looking at significant cultural and political moments through the eyes of contemporaneous journalism sheds new insight on who we are as a nation for better or worse. Historical events and movements to be discussed include the robber barons of the Gilded Age and their antagonists the Muckrakers; the early Anarchist and labor movement; the coverage of World Wars and government censorship; the press’ role in the civil rights movement and the Golden Age of investigative journalism. We will read and discuss the work of a wide range of media notables including Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, H. L. Mencken, Walter Winchell, Edward R. Murrow, Sy Hirsch, Woodward and Bernstein, Tom Wolfe, Matt Taibbi, and Glenn Greenwald among others.

Grading Formula: An mid-term paper in essay form of three short answers, used primarily for diagnostic purposes (250-500 words) (25%); Classroom participation (15%) and five short essays (250-500 words) (35%); and a Final Exam Essay of 3500 to 5000 words, topic selection by assignment or approved request of students (25%).

Students are expected to read required material before that class in which that material will be discussed. Aside from required reading (listed below) a custom designed course pack will also be available for download for specific readings throughout the semester. Essay assignments are due in the next class after assignment, double spaced in 12 point typeface.

Link: Google Drive Folder “Journey of Journalism” at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JgT0no_UgK3fyNsHpiQiQnC66FuEzLa?usp=sharing
(Each class has a separate sub-folder within).
Please note that it’s recommended you download audio/video clips to your computer instead of trying to watch them directly from the cloud, as it is much faster and will allow you to refer to them for class notes, assignments and participation.
**Class 1: Tuesday, September 3**
- Introduction; Policies and Procedures;
- “Ten Events That Shaped Our World”
- “What is a Narrative”?
- “The Mission of Journalism”

*Reading:* Introduction in “Stories That Changed America” (Pgs. 17-25)
Review Video Clips and reading material in Google Drive Folder “Class 1” (27 pages and appx 5 mins of video)

*Essay Assignment #1: (250-500 words)* List three news stories in your lifetime that left the most impression on you and what that impression was.

**Class 2: Tuesday, September 10**
- Turn of the Century: Setting the Stage
- Peak Industrial Revolution: Robber Barons and the Gilded Age
- Birth of the Expose: Labor Rights, Public Health

*Reading:* Chapters and excerpts from Ida Mae Tarbell (Pgs. 27-40) and Upton Sinclair (Pgs. 53-65) (“Stories That Changed America”)
Review all video clips and reading material in Google Drive Folder “Class 2” (42 pages and appx 10 mins video)

**Class 3: Tuesday, September 17**
- World War I and Censorship
- The Anarchist’s Moment and The Palmer Raids
- Muckraking Continues: Public Interest Journalism

*Reading:* Lincoln Steffens and “The Shame of the Cities” (Pgs. 47-52) (“Stories That Changed America”)
Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “Class 3” (34 pgs., 10 mins Video)

*Essay Assignment #2: (250-500 words)* Looking at the world today, did the Muckrakers have impact on society and if so, how?

**Class 4: Tuesday, September 24**
- The Rise of the Curmudgeon (Mencken; Pegler)
- The Black Press Emerges

*Reading:* Articles in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 4” (40 pages, 10 mins A/V)

**Class 5: Tuesday, October 1**
- Radio Reigns Supreme
- Fireside Chats and Political Messaging: The First Media Stars
- Breaking News changes the dynamic: “Push vs. Pull”

*Reading:* No reading; Review Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 5” (30 mins A/V)
Class 6: Tuesday, October 8
- IN CLASS MID-TERM ESSAY: (Three short answers, 250-500 words total, Topic TBA.

Class 7: Tuesday, October 22
- REVIEW OF MID-TERM
- War: Propaganda and its Effect
- The Post-War Narrative and “Red Channels” and the Hollywood Ten
- Army/McCarthy Hearings


Class 8: Tuesday, October 29
- Early Television and Investigative Journalism
- In-Class viewing: “Harvest of Shame” (Edward R. Murrow, CBS)
- “MacArthur Resigns”
- “Nixon and Checkers”

Reading: Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 8” (30 pgs., 10 mins video)

Essay Assignment #3: (250-500 words) Are there similarities in the events then and now, and how is the coverage different?

Class 9: Tuesday, November 5
- Television Comes Alive: R.I.P. Afternoon Papers
- “JFK/Nixon Debate”
- “JFK Assassination”
- In-Class viewing: The Civil Rights Movement: “I Have a Dream” and the “March to Selma at the Pettis Bridge”

Reading: Michael Harrington’s “The Other America: Poverty in the United States” Pgs. 191-196 (“Stories That Changed America”) Review Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 9” (15 mins video)

Begin reading “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas” (50 pgs.)
**Class 10: Tuesday, November 12**

- The Turbulent 60’s: “Wild in The Streets”
- Vietnam
- RFK, MLK murdered, the Ghetto Burns
- “Something in the Air”: Chicago 1968 and the “Silent Majority” Pushback

**Reading:** Seymour Hirsch and “Excerpts from My Lai” (Pgs. 239-244) (“Stories That Changed America”)
Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 10” (20 pgs., 15 mins video).
*Continue reading “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas” (50 pgs.)*

**Class 11: Tuesday, November 19**

- Counterculture Re-emerges (“The Realist,” “Fuck You”, “Ramparts”)
- Women’s Media Reimagined: Ms. Magazine

**Reading:** Betty Friedan and “The Feminine Mystique” Pgs. 159-169 (“Stories That Changed America”)
Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 11” (25 pgs., 5 mins video).
*Continue reading “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas” (50 pgs.)*

**Essay Assignment #4:** (250-500 words) Did the new counterculture and women’s media platforms “stick” or are there remnants of them still alive today?

**Class 12: Tuesday, November 26**

- Peak of Investigative Journalism
- Kate Graham and The Pentagon Papers
- Watergate

**Reading:** Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, “GOP Security Aide Among Five Arrested” (Pgs. 245-251) (“Stories That Changed America”)
Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 12” (20 pgs., 10 mins video).
*Continue reading “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas” (50 pgs.)*

**Class 13: Tuesday, December 3**

- “New Journalism”: Tom Wolfe and Hunter S. Thompson
- Advent of Digital Media and the “Political Pundit Class”
- “Citizen Journalists” and “WikiLeaks”

**Reading:** Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 13” (25 pgs.)
*Complete “Fear and Loathing” (45pgs.)*

**Essay Assignment #5:** (250-500 words) Is anyone a journalist now? Compare Glenn Greenwald or Julian Assange to Ida Tarbell or Sy Hirsch.
Class 14: Tuesday, December 10 (LAST CLASS)
  • CLASS REVIEW/PIZZA LUNCH

Dec 17 FINAL EXAM (Final Essay “take-home”)
  • Topic TBA: 3500-5000 words

Required Reading:
“Stories that Changed America: Muckrakers of the 20th Century”, Carl Jensen
  Publisher: Seven Stories Press; Revised edition (October 1, 2002)
  ISBN-10: 158322517X

“Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”, Hunter S. Thompson
  Publisher: Vintage; 2nd edition
  ISBN-10: 9780679785897
  ASIN: 0679785892

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https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IgT0no_UgK3fyNsHpHohiQnC66FuEzLa?usp=sharing
(Each class has a separate sub-folder for each class within).

Suggested Reading:
“The Powers That Be”, David Halberstam
  Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf; Knopf edition (1979)
  ASIN: B004SHW5OA

“The Nightmare Years, 1930-1940”, William Shirer
  Publisher: Little, Brown (1984)
  ASIN: B000UE09U2

“The Social Media Upheaval”, Glenn Harlan Reynolds
  Publisher: Encounter Books (2019)

Disability Disclosure Statement: Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. The Moses Center website is www.nyu.edu/csd. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.
Contacting Professor Glasser: My email is cgj6159@nyu.edu. No question is too small, and I will usually respond within a few hours. If you wish to have a one-on-one conversation for any reason at all, I will accommodate your request, and all conversations would be held in strictest confidence if you wish. In emergencies, my mobile phone is 973-666-6270.