

COURSE NUMBER	COMM 4303
SECTION	001
CLASS NAME	History of Journalism
CLASSROOM	CLASS 110
MEETING DAYS/TIMES	TR 2-3:15 PM
INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Brian Brantley
EMAIL	brian.brantley@tamusa.edu
OFFICE	CAB 319C
OFFICE PHONE	210-784-2214
OFFICE HOURS	MW 8-9 AM, 1-3 PM TR 8-9 AM, 1230-130 PM

WHAT THIS CLASS ACTUALLY IS

Catalog Description – Development of the newspaper in England and the United States with attention to the social, economic and political forces which brought about changes in journalistic techniques and in basic ideas as to newspaper functions. Study of the careers of noted journalists.

Course Objectives – By the end of this course, students should be able to do each of the following: By the end of the course, students should be able to do the following: (1) **Arrange and assemble** media history in a worldwide context, and (2) **assess and evaluate** the role of media history in the formation of the world in which we live today.

GETTING/KEEPING IN TOUCH

The best ways to get in touch with me are (1) talk to me in person during office hours and (2) through email (listed at the top of the page). DO NOT (repeat, DO NOT) try to get in touch with me through Blackboard Messaging. I don't ever check that, so let's just avoid that altogether.

REQUIRED TEXT

The Media in America, 12th edition, by Wm. David Sloan, Tracy Lucht, & Erika Pribanic-Smith. Published by Vision Press (ISBN 978-1-885219-94-7). Available [from the publisher](#) and through [Amazon](#).

HOW THIS CLASS IS GOING TO WORK

This semester, we'll be discussing the historical practices of the American news media, and how those practices have changed to become what they are today (as often as possible, we will be directly comparing then to now).

Each or the chapters is relatively short, so you should (unless specifically instructed otherwise) expect to read two chapters every week. The chapters will largely be presented to you in a basically chronological order.

WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING THIS SEMESTER

Short Response Paper Assignments (15%)

- 3 responses
- 1-2 pages each
- You will be given prompts to answer, demonstrating your ability to make connections

Primary Source Analysis (10%)

- You will pick a historical newspaper and analyze audience, design, tone, and news priorities
- We will discuss available resources when the analysis is assigned

Concept Map Project (25%)

- You will create a visual map tracing the development of journalism across themes (for example, technology, politics, economics, press freedom)
- Includes a 2-3 page written explanation of why you made the connections you did

Exams (50%)

- Midterm Exam (25%) – Covers origins through Civil War
- Final Exam (25%) – Covers post-Civil War through contemporary media, with some cumulative elements

For all of your non-exam assignments, you will be allowed to use [Grammarly for Education](#) in order to guide you in the writing process (but NOT as a substitute for doing the actual writing yourself). I will require you to submit each of these assignments as a Google Doc, so that I can look at your edit history and make sure you didn't (a) get some robot to do the writing for you and then (b) use the copy and paste functions to pretend like you did the writing yourself. You will also need to submit a list of the prompts that you used in your Grammarly interactions. Any violation of any of these terms on any assignment will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

I would advise you very strongly to prioritize your various commitments so that you can submit all of your assigned work on time. Zeroes have a destructive impact on your overall grade.

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for this class and all others in the Communication program. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to check Blackboard, find out about any assignments/due dates/handouts/announcements that were covered in the class(es) you missed, and make up any work you missed.

Absences: Missing the equivalent of two weeks of class due to unexcused absences will reduce your final grade for the course by one full letter grade. Missing the equivalent of three weeks of class due to unexcused absences means that you cannot pass the course. Should this happen, you will (a) need to drop the course or (b) receive a failing grade. In a course like this one, six absences is the equivalent of missing three weeks of class.

- An excused absence is one in which you miss class either for a required activity or because of illness (excessive excused absences can also result in you not passing the class).
- An unexcused absence is any other absence.

Arriving on time: This course begins at 2 pm every Monday and Wednesday. If you arrive after attendance has been recorded, then you will be counted late for that class session.

Accumulated lates: Three lates equals one absence. These add up more quickly than you'd think.

Classroom distractions: If you're doing something in class that has nothing to do with what we're covering that day, then I'm likely to be distracted by what you're doing. If you distract me, I will ask you as politely as possible to stop. If you persist in the distracting behavior, then you will be removed from class for the remainder of that day's class.

Use of Generative AI: Your instructor assumes that all work submitted by COMM 1307 students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

IMPORTANT A&M-SAN ANTONIO POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/DisabilitySupport-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

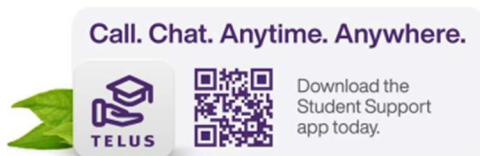
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com>

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. NonEmergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/StudentRights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Office Hours: All faculty with teaching assignments should include regularly scheduled office hours on each syllabus in addition to "by appointment." Please review your appointment letter for the number of weekly office hours you are expected to set. Regularly scheduled office hours should also be posted outside your office door (where applicable).

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX

Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars: can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade.
youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or

ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academicintegrity.html>).

USE OF AI: The only artificial intelligence (AI) tool permitted in this course (for students who wish to use it) is Grammarly for Education. You may use this to improve your writing in general and to correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and style errors. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must include a list of the prompts that they used to produce the work that they submit. Using an AI tool simply to generate content qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Important Dates: Fall 2025 Regular 16-Week Session

August 25	First day of class
September 1	Labor Day Holiday – No classes
September 10	Census Date
November 14	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Last day to withdraw from the University
November 26	Study Day – No classes
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5	Study Day – No classes
December 6-12	Final exams
December 16	Commencement

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academiccalendar/index.html>

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR – FALL 2025

WEEK	DATE	CLASSROOM TOPIC	IMPORTANT DATES
	UNIT 1	FOUNDATIONS OF JOURNALISM	
1	8/26	Intro to course & syllabus	
1	8/28	Chapter 1 – Origins of Mass Communication	
2	9/2	Chapter 2 – Printing in America, 1600-1690	
2	9/4	Chapter 3 – The Colonial Press, 1690-1765	Short Response Paper #1 assigned
	UNIT 2	JOURNALISM & NATION-BUILDING	
3	9/9	Chapter 4 – The Revolutionary Press, 1765-1783	Short Response Paper #1 due by 2 PM
3	9/11	Chapter 5 – The Party Press, 1783-1833	
4	9/16	Chapter 6 – Freedom of the Press, 1500-1804	
4	9/18	Activity/Discussion: Free Press Debates	Primary Source Analysis assigned
	UNIT 3	JOURNALISM IN A GROWING NATION	
5	9/23	Chapter 7 – The Penny Press, 1833-1861	
5	9/25	Chapter 8 – The Antebellum Press, 1820-1861	Primary Source Analysis due by 11:59 PM
6	9/30	Chapter 9 – The Press and the Civil War, 1861-1865	
6	10/2	Chapter 10 – 1800-1900	Review for Midterm Exam
7	10/7	MIDTERM EXAM (bring a Blue Book)	
	UNIT 4	INDUSTRIALIZATION & NEW JOURNALISM	
7	10/9	Chapter 11 – The Press and Industrial America, 1865-1883	
8	10/14	Chapter 12 – The Age of New Journalism, 1883-1900	
8	10/16	Chapter 13 – American Magazines, 1740-1900	Short Response Paper #2 assigned
9	10/21	Chapter 14 – The Development of Advertising, 1700-1900	Short Response Paper #2 due by 2 PM
	UNIT 5	EARLY 20TH-CENTURY MEDIA	
9	10/23	Chapter 15 – The Emergence of Modern Media, 1900-1945	
10	10/28	Chapter 16 – The Media and Reform, 1900-1917	

10	10/30	Chapter 17 – The Media and National Crises, 1917-1945	Concept Map Project assigned
	UNIT 6	BROADCASTING AND MASS CULTURE	
11	11/3	Chapter 18 – Radio Comes of Age	
11	11/5	Chapter 19 – The Entertainment Media, 1900-present	Concept Map Proposal due by 11:59 PM
12	11/10	Chapter 20 – The Age of Mass Magazines, 1900-present	
12	11/12	Chapter 21 – Modern Advertising Chapter 22 – Public Relations	Short Response Paper #3 assigned
	UNIT 7	POSTWAR TO DIGITAL TRANSITION	
13	11/17	Chapter 23 – The Media in Transition, 1945-1974	Short Response Paper #3 due by 2 PM
13	11/19	Chapter 24 – The News Media, 1974-2000	
14	11/24	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	
14	11/26	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	
	UNIT 8	THE CONTEMPORARY MEDIA LANDSCAPE	
15	12/2	Chapter 25 – The Contemporary Media, 2000-present	Concept Map Project due by 11:59 PM
15	12/4	Final Exam Review	
16	12/9 2-3:50 PM	FINAL EXAM (bring a Blue Book)	