Syllabi

Course Syllabi

1-2014

# JRNL 411.80: Reporting Native News - Honors

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Recommended Citation

Lurgio, Jeremy J., "JRNL 411.80: Reporting Native News - Honors" (2014). *Syllabi*. 757.
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# Native News Honors Project J410/411

Spring 2013 • M 3:10-5 p.m. / W 3:10-4 p.m. • Rooms: DAH 301/210

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## INTRODUCTION

You have been selected to participate in Native News Honors Project because you are among the school's best students. As such, we expect you will be intelligent and aggressive in researching story ideas and proposing stories that are unique and that show or tell readers about people whose lives illustrate an important issue in the Native American community.

We're confident in your abilities to research, write, photograph, produce and design. This is your chance to put that to work in a project with major scope. We'll be your coaches and editors, as will your partner and peers.

## EXPECTATIONS

• *Attendance at each class*
We'll meet together twice a week to share story ideas, learn from experts and get progress reports. Many meetings outside class will take place with your partner, your editor and one or both of the professors. Later in the semester reporters/editors and photographers/designers will meet separately.
• *Solid research*
Know where your story is going. Know everything you can about the topic before you do your first interview. Document your facts. Share your ideas.
• *Consistent work*
Don't neglect your work and try to whip this story out in a week. Though you'll have only a few deadlines, you must work consistently to meet them.
• *Class participation*
You'll need to come to class each week prepared to discuss the status of your story idea or coverage. You'll also need to prepare yourself to make helpful suggestions about the projects other reporters and photographers are working on.
• *Teamwork*
You'll be assigned a partner (reporter or photographer) and an assigning editor. All members of the team are equally responsible for research, story ideas and coverage. Never move ahead on a story without consultation with the other member of your team and your assigning editor.
• *Adherence to deadlines*
This is *crucial*. The project must be completed by the last day of final exams. This project publishes in one of the state's newspapers and must be finished on deadline. That means reporters and photographers must have their stories and photographs in by the deadline. You must leave adequate time for the editors to line-edit or photo-edit, for the designers to design the pages and website. **If you don't meet deadlines, your grade will be severely affected.**

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Work as part of an editorial team that produces an in-depth project about issues in the Native American community.
- To collaborate with a writer or photographer in producing a compelling project.
- Research and analyze traditional and historical news coverage of Native American communities.
- Apply solid research skills to find, research and pitch innovative story topics.
- To learn apply crucial reporting skills for accurately and objectively covering stories in the Native American community.
- Hone your ability to produce publishable writing, photography and multimedia work on deadline.
- Refine your ability to shoot, write and produce concise, thorough and effective multimedia projects and print stories for the web.
- Refine your visual reporting and storytelling skills.
- Juggle the demands for producing content for both the print and web editions.

# THE PROJECT AND TOPIC
Innovations

Montana's Indians, like tribes throughout the nation, have been striving to develop a foothold in the grand American infrastructure while nourishing their individual roots in tribal culture. As a result, tribal leaders have had to adapt systems and programs using true innovation and creativity. What started out as the federal government mimicking its own system throughout Indian Country has led to tribes taking over, creating their own schools and curricula, governments, businesses, and even their own cultural revitalization efforts. This innovative methodology—combining tribal and contemporary influences to create unique solutions—can be found throughout Indian Country, from households to legislature; poetry to prayers.

This is an intentionally broad topic, which means this will allow each team to tap into their own innovations and creativity to find the most unique and intricate stories on their assigned reservations. This year's stories can examine politics, art, education, religion. Keep in mind that there are also plenty of great stories where innovation failed. However, with such a broad topic means teams risk losing themselves at sea. More than ever before, teams will be required to target tightly their ideas early in the semester, working very close with editors and professors. In addition, teams will need to become even more familiar with several layers of tribal life on their assigned reservations as opposed to limiting research to only one system. None of us is an expert in the issues, but we'll learn about them together by doing what journalists do.

# AD SALES
For the first time, the Native News Honors Project will be selling advertisement space in an effort to cover its operating costs. In order to do this, students are required to sell at least one advertisement. Ad sizes and prices will be determined later. With recent budget woes the project needs to create sources of revenue, not only for this year, but to continue the creation of this important project for years to come. This is just one of the avenues. Note that this is a requirement. Failure to secure an advertisement sale by semester's end will result in a grade of "Incomplete" until a sale is finalized.

# COURSE STRUCTURE

We will meet on Mondays from 3:10-5 in DAH 301 or 316. On some Wednesdays from 3:10-4 the reporters will meet together as a team, as will the photographers, photo editor, and designers. Many times we'll be together.

Share your contacts with one another.  This project stresses teamwork. Your work will be published in a newspaper tabloid and online.

Individual team meetings need to be arranged before you leave for the reservation and immediately upon your return. Travel to the reservations can take place anytime during the month of March but no earlier than the first of the month. Most teams end up traveling to the reservation during Spring break. Spring break is April 1-5, which is VERY late. That means you'll have to get stories, photos and multimedia done under deadline pressure because we must be ready for publication by the last day of finals week.  Make sure to be on assignment when public offices are open as well.

*Class Time:* Attendance during all class periods will be essential to the progress of the team and the project. Class will consist of lectures, discussions, student presentations and guest speakers. In addition the classroom will also serve as our newsroom and as such we will be doing budget meetings, story proposals, story editing and development, web and print design discussions. When teams return from their designated reservation we will be meeting in small teams and those editing sessions may occasionally run longer.

*Staff Responsibilities:* you will be working on a two-person reporting team or you will be working as a photo-editor, print designer or web designer. You are responsible for meeting all deadlines that pertain to your chosen role in the project. Those deadlines are essential to the project's completion.

*Student presentations:* You will be required to make presentations on your research, proposals and projects throughout the semester. Photographers will present and incorporate class feedback into your multimedia projects. Designers will present and incorporate class feedback into your final design packages.

# TEXTBOOKS (on reserve) and Web links

Unlike many classes the reading list for this class changes each semester to pertain to the topic at hand. Many of the readings are from selected texts, but throughout the semester there will be assigned readings from guest lecturers, newspapers, magazines, and online publications. Those readings will help you develop your understanding of reporting on Native American communities and about the topic. Your goal is to become an expert on the topic and on reporting in Indian country. There are many resources we will use.

*Books*

Bryan, William L. Jr. (1996). *Montana's Indians: yesterday and today*. Helena, MT: Farcountry Press.
- This book is a bit outdated, but there is good material about reservation history.

Barbican Art Gallery. *(1998). Native Nations*. London, England: Booth-Clibborn Editions.

Hubbard, Jim. (1994). *Shooting Back from the Reservation*. New York, NY: The New Press.

Modica, Andrea. (2003). *Real Indians: Portraits of Contemporary Native Americans and America's Tribal Colleges*. New York, NY: Melcher Media.

*Many good resources are available online.*
Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council, with links to all Montana reservations. It also has a feed for important stories relating to tribal issues, plus archives where you might find articles pertaining to your assigned reservation.
http://www.mtwytlc.com/
The Senate Indian Affairs Committee Website:
http://indian.senate.gov
Congress. Sen. Jon Tester is a member of that committee.  http://tester.senate.gov

Bureau of Indian Affairs, www.bia.gov   (Regional office is in Billings: 406-247-2976)

Good aggregation site for news stories about Indian issues:  www.Indianz.com

Reporting in Indigenous Communities – great new resource about reporting
http://www.riic.ca/teachings-2/

Reporting From Native America: http://www.reznetnews.org/

National Native News on NPR:  http://www.nativenews.net/  – on MTPR at 6:35 pm every weekday.

There will be copies of several years of Best Newspaper Writing that reporters might want to look at. You will also be expected to **read stories from your assigned reservations** in past Native News tabs. Several of those over the last 20 years will relate to this years topic.

## TRAVEL EXPENSES
You will pay for travel expenses and then be reimbursed. You will need to approve your travel dates with Jason and Jeremy and then you need to fill out forms with Kathleen Whetzel, the dean's assistant, before you travel. If you need an advance, a budget must be done at least a week before you leave. Receipts also have to be accounted for and any unused money returned. **You must keep lodging and gasoline receipts or you can't be reimbursed.**  Period. Turn in your expenses to Kathleen Whetzel in DAH 203 by any Friday afternoon for reimbursement the next week.
Here's the reimbursement schedule:
> • $70 plus tax (**must have receipt**) per day for lodging. * A*sk for the state rate when you reserve lodging.*
> • Gasoline receipts for actual use. (Fill up as you leave town and as you return.)

## GRADING
• Depth of research
• Teamwork
• Class participation and attendance
• How well you write/photograph/edit/design your stories
• Quality of your final product and your work during the revision process
• Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and fulfill requirements


## AFTER-HOURS ACCESS
Enrollment in this class will give you after-hours access. Your prior codes should continue to work this semester. Your griz card should also work to gain access to the building.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

All work turned in for this class must be your own.  Failure to comply with this and you will be assigned an F for your final grade. It is expected that you shoot all new work for this class. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in referral to the proper university authorities or disciplinary action. Students must be familiar with the conduct code.
http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php

*** read carefully
You may not submit for this course any assignment that has previously, or will be concurrently, submitted for another class, unless you receive prior approval from the professor for this course. To do so without permission will result in an F for the assignment.

## ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

This course is accessible to otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit
http://life.umt.edu/dss.

*Below are all of the deadlines for publication deadlines for all team members.*

**ASSIGNMENTS & DEADLINES**
**Reporters**
You will be expected to do research and come up with **two well-documented story ideas.** At every point, you should consult with the photojournalist. Teamwork is critical. You may write either one or two stories, but that will be decided after consultation. The edited versions of the stories from last year's tab came in around 2,000 to 3,500 words. *We expect the writing to be creative, insightful and authoritative.*

**Deadline for your completed story: ALL stories must be submitted by noon, April 11.**
**Group 1 critique of stories Monday, April 14.     Final version due Friday, April 18.**
**Group 2 critique of stories Wednesday, April 16.  Final version due Monday, April 21.**

**Photojournalists**
Native News is an opportunity for photojournalists to learn to work as a team with a reporter. Photojournalists in Native News will combine shooting skills with reporting skills and in the process, become experts on the subjects they will be covering. Each photojournalist will conduct research and contribute to their team's two story ideas. Photographers will shoot digitally and shoot in RAW. You will save all your RAW files and you will be submitting your RAW files along with a TIFF files saved at 12 inches on the long side at 300 DPI.
Each photographer will also be producing a four-minute multimedia story to accompany the article and photos on the website.
You will be given a workflow sheet that you will need to FOLLOW for your file specifications, captions, etc.
**A large project like this takes organization.**

**Deadline for photos and captions**
        **First edit(150 images – just RAW files):**    **2 p.m. Wed., April 9**
        **Second Edit (40 images Printed out on paper): 2 p.m. Mon., April 14**
        **Final TIFF files due:**    **2 p.m. Fri.., April 18**
**Deadlines for multimedia projects**
        **First Draft Rough Assembly Cut:**    **2 p.m. Wed., April 16**
        **Second draft of multimedia project :**    **2 p.m. Mon., April 21**
        **Final draft of multimedia project:**    **2 p.m. Mon., April 28**
        **Final Revised draft of multimedia project:**    **2 p.m. Mon., May 5**
**Designer(s)**
The designers will also participate in the story research and selection. This project is a collaborative effort. You will pay special attention during the research phase and look for story ideas that can be told graphically. You will be designing a project that will appear as a special insert in a tabloid format.
        **Deadline for design inspiration (clips)**    **2 p.m. Mon., Feb. 10**
        **Deadline for preliminary designs and font**
                **and headline styles:**    **2 p.m. Mon., March 3**
        **Deadline for the design template:**    **2 p.m. Mon., March 24**
        **Deadline for first draft design/cover options: 2 p.m. Mon., April 21**
        **Deadline for final design:**    **2 p.m. Mon., May 5**

**Deadline for changes to final design   12 p.m.Wed., May 14**

## Web designer
The web designer will participate in class research, lectures and discussions to become familiar with the theme and stories. Ideas and suggestions will be generated by the group and implemented into the website design, which will be posted on the School of Journalism website. The print and Web designers will work independently, but collaboratively.

   **Deadline for website design inspiration. (publications and ideas inspiring the Web design process.):     2 p.m. Mon., Feb. 10**

   **Deadline for website structure chart**
     **and preliminary designs:   2 p.m. Wed., March 3**
   **Deadline for design template:(old material) 2 p.m. Mon., April 14(earlier=better)**
   **Deadline for site draft 1:    2 p.m. Mon., May 5**
   **Deadline for final site design:   2 p.m. Wed., May 14**

## All students
We will continue to build our database of contacts and places to stay. **You must turn in an electronic list of contacts/sources, their titles, and phone numbers.** Also provide a list of places you stayed with phone numbers, addresses and a brief description of the place and include the cost of the room per night for one and two people. Also, please add any Websites that you discovered to be helpful. **YOU MUST ALSO GIVE US A LIST OF SOURCES YOU INTERVIEWED, ALONG WITH THEIR ADDRESSES, SO THAT WE CAN MAKE CERTAIN THEY ARE MAILED A TAB. Deadline: Mon. April 14.**

## Final Exam Period:
Our last class will be during the final exam period.
Monday May 12th at 1:10 – 3:10 – this class is mandatory. We will be editing our final proofs of the project. All work must be final.