Spring 2014

The University of Texas at Austin School of Journalism

Course Title: J395 News for a Mobile Audience (08415)

A course developed by Paula Poindexter to create awareness of news in a mobile world.

Meets with J349T News for a Mobile Audience (08240)

TTh 11:00 -12:30 p.m.; CMA 6.174

Instructor: Dr. Paula Poindexter, Associate Professor

Office: BMC 3.310 Phone /Text: (512) 695-6879

E-Mail Address: paula.poindexter@austin.utexas.edu
Office Hours: TTh 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. or by Appointment

Course Description:

The description of an ONA (Online News Association) session at the 2013 conference provides insight into the importance of this course for today's journalism students: "Mobile traffic is beginning to surpass desktop metrics at newsrooms large and small, marking the beginning of a new era in journalism. Mobile is not just a new design or distribution channel, but a fundamentally different business with new competitors." This fundamentally different business requires fundamentally different thinking, not just in how journalism is practiced in a mobile world but also about the audience for a mobile news product that is competing for the time and attention of a consumer that has an abundance of mobile content choices. This course, which is designed as a seminar for journalism students, will address this mobile world and how journalism and the news audience fit in it.

After completing this course, students will (1) have a better understanding about the new mobile era of journalism; (2) have more awareness about the practice of journalism and formatting of news in a mobile world; (3) be more knowledgeable about the audience for mobile news.

Required course materials and equipment:

- Mobile device
- Millennials and News on Facebook at http://on.fb.me/Nlejee
- Articles/links and book chapters that will be distributed during class or through email
- CNBC's Documentary: "#Twitter Revolution" http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00ERUY7B2/ref=dv_dp_ep27

Grading. Plus and minus will be used in calculating course grades. The final course grade will based on the following formula:

1. Attendance	25%
2. Graded Assignments (General-10%; Graduate-15%)	25%
3. Final Group Project and Short Blog Essay	25%
4. Completion Assignments:	25%

- a. "Like" Millennials and News on Facebook
- b. Weekly Millennials and News activities
- c. Other assignments specified on syllabus

Attendance, which will be taken at the beginning of class, is calculated as a percentage of days attended by total number of class days. One excused absence is allowed without penalty. The grade for completion

assignments is calculated as a percentage of completed assignments by total number of completion assignments. Late completion assignments will not be accepted.

Expectations of Students.

- 1. Always come to class ready to learn and prepared to participate.
- 2. Listen, take notes and participate during class discussions.
- 3. Attend all classes and oral presentations.
- 4. Meet all assignment deadlines. Late completion assignments will not be accepted.
- 5. If an emergency prevents a student from meeting the deadline of an assignment, the student must notify the instructor prior to the deadline.
- 6. Always turn in professional-level written work. Points will be deducted for spelling, grammatical, punctuation, and capitalization errors.
- 7. Abide by the University of Texas at Austin Honor Code, which reads:
- "The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community."
- 8. Abide by the University of Texas at Austin Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty, which reads: The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor. By accepting this syllabus, you have agreed to these guidelines and must adhere to them. Scholastic dishonesty damages both the student's learning experience and readiness for the future demands of a work-career. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. See: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.
- 9. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Calendar of Assignments and Activities

Week of Jan. 13

First Day of Class, Tues., Jan. 14
Introductions, Course Goals and A

Introductions, Course Goals and Activities, Expectations

Introduction to "Millennials and News" on Facebook

Organize Groups

Completion Assignment #1; Due: By class time, Thurs. Jan. 16.

"Like" the "Millennials and News" page at http://on.fb.me/Nlejee . Find a story of interest posted on "Millennials and News" during the past three days and "like" the story.

Completion Assignment #2; Due: By class time, Thurs., Jan. 16: Find one statistic that provides insight on "Living in a Mobile World." Write out statistical finding on Completion Assignment Handout #2. In addition to statistic, include source and URL.

Week of Jan. 20

Living in a Mobile World (Games, Entertainment and Popular Culture, Communication, Photography, Social Media, Advertising, Shopping, Banking, Searching, Researching, News, Sports, Weather, Music, Books, Politics, Elections, Religion, Civic Engagement, Health, Exercise, etc.)
U.S. and Worldwide

Completion Assignment #3: Due at beginning of class, Tues., Jan. 21: Keep journal on mobile device activity from the time you awake Friday morning to the time you go to bed Monday night. Bring your journal to class on Tuesday and be prepared to complete a short questionnaire about your mobile activities.

Definitions: Mobile Device, Mobile Consumer, Mobile News Audience, Apps, etc.

Week of Jan. 27 Social Media and Mobile

Twitter documentary

Completion Assignment #3

Week of Feb. 3

Consumer/News Audience Trends

Mobile consumers: Smartphone vs. Tablet News Consumer vs. Mobile news audience

Uses, Lifestyle, attention, willingness to pay for mobile content, how and when mobile devices are used Attitudes including paying for news on a mobile device

Generations and mobile device use with special attention paid to Millennials and Post-Millennials, and Mobile

Future of engaging with news?

Week of Feb. 10

Journalism in a Mobile World

Is there a difference in purpose, principles, process?

What is the impact on doing journalism when there is 24/7 access by news consumers

Elements of Journalism

Ethics of Journalism

Journalist Routines and Influences

Impact of Online Comments and Twitter

Does the definition of news change in a mobile world?

((Planning meeting with graduate students for Skype interviews.)

Week of Feb. 17

Reporting News on Mobile

Reporting, writing, editing, photographing, formatting, headlines, photographs, links, video, interactives, breaking news with mobile: smartphone vs. tablet

Week of Feb. 24

Reporting News on Mobile cont.

Tweeting, blogging, political reporting, etc. in a mobile world Online commenting

Week of Mar. 3

News Apps

Assignment: Keep journal on using a specified news app. After using app for two days, develop criteria for evaluating the performance of the news app. Use the performance criteria to evaluate the app. Make recommendations to enhance the app's performance.

Week of March 10 Spring Break

Week of March 17

Emphasizing inclusion; avoiding gender, racial, generational stereotypes in mobile news Is there a mobile journalism ethics?

Should there be a mobile device news format?

Assignment: Analyze a news story for mobile device appeal and effectiveness. (Select a story below or a recent story posted on Millennials and News.) Write a different headline for delivery by a mobile device.

- Edit story for delivery by smartphone vs. tablet computer.
- What thumbprint photo would you include with the story?
- What links, if any, should be added? Why? Find content for at least one link.
- What multimedia, if any, would you add to illustrate or enhance the story? Discuss the variety of multimedia and the benefits and drawbacks of each on mobile devices.
- Make three specific recommendations for improving news story for a smartphone reading.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/07/business/economy/in-jobless-youth-nation-is-said-to-pay-high-price.html

"CNN analysis: Some college athletes play like adults, read like 5th-graders" http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/07/us/ncaa-athletes-reading-scores/index.html

"Cheerios says no to Monsanto" http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/markets/2014/01/08/cheerios-says-no-to-monsanto/4375617/

Week of March 24

Guest Lecture from Logan Molyneaux, Ph.D. Student and former newspaper editor: Research and Perspectives on Journalism, News, and Mobile

Skype Q&A with Journalists producing mobile news (To be organized by graduate students.) **Completion Assignment: TBA**

Week of March 31

Skype Q&A with Journalists producing mobile news (To be organized by graduate students.) **Completion Assignment: TBA**

Week of April 7

Connecting Mobile News Audience with Mobile News Product: Smartphone and Tablet

Week of April 14

Begin Work on Final Group Projects

Tentative Final Group Project: "Research and Ideas to Make Your Mobile News Better and Enhance News Engagement"

Week of April 21

Continue Work on Final Group Project

Week of April 28

Final Group Presentations Evaluations Last Class Day May 1

[&]quot;In jobless youth, U.S. is said to pay high price"

Spring 2014 J349T/J395 News for a Mobile Audience Groups

(Each group should complete and turn in one copy of this form by the end of the class.)

Group Number: ______

Group Name: _____

Group Members: (Please print names in alphabetical order. Circle the name of your group's liaison.)

Last name, First name Email or Text Contact

(1). ______

(2). _____

(3). _____

(4). _____

(5). _____

Group Operating Rules:

(Write three to five <u>specific</u> expectations that you have for each group member's performance. These operating rules will be used for your peer performance evaluation.)

Getting to Know You

1. Name:
2. Class:
3. What do you like to be called?
4. Classification?
5. What mobile device(s) do you own?
6. What do you mostly use your mobile device for?
7. How many <u>news</u> apps do you have on your mobile device?
8. Favorite news app?
9. Why?
10. Favorite social media app?

J349T/J395 Date:_____

*	ARMSTRONG; LAUREN ASHLEY	J	349T
	BILLINGSLEY; MELINDA R.	J	349T
	BOYLE; ALYSSA MARIE	J	349T
*	CHUKWU; CHARITY CHINYERE	J	349T
	DANIEL; FAITH LANEAL	J	349T
	DORRIS; BROOKE CAROLINE	J	349T
	DUONG; JESSICA LYNN	J	349T
	FONTENOT; CELINA GRACE	J	349T
	GIBSON; BRYCE RYAN	J	349T
*	HILL; RACHEL NICOLE	J	349T
	HOLMES; ELEANOR ROSE	J	349T
	KHEZRI; TIFFANY MIKU	J	349T
	KORZEKWA; KAINE MICHAEL	J	349T
	MCDOWALL; KATHERINE L.	J	395
	MORRIS; RISA ALEXANDRA	J	349T
*	SLOCUM; CHENEY LAUREN	J	349T
*	TORRES; NATALY	J	349T
	TURNER; LILLIAN PAIGE	J	395
*	VASQUEZ; INGRID	J	349T
	VINSON; JOAN KINCAID	J	349T
Тс	tal Number of Students: 20		

Name:	Date:
Class:	

Completion Assignment #2: Due: By class time, Thurs., Jan. 16: Find one statistic that provides insight on "Living in a Mobile World." Include statistic, source, URL.

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J395 Requirements:

Short paper: Mobile may represent a new era in journalism but is it a fundamentally different business? Or another approved topic

Additional assigned readings

Organize Skype interviews with journalists

Up to two outside planning meetings for Skype interviews with journalists

Mobile Readings and Links from Logan:

- <u>Smartphone entry</u> in Wikipedia. Whichever sections interest you, but at least History, Application stores, and Market share. Please also skim Operating systems.
- Pew Smartphone Ownership 2013
- Pew Tablet Ownership 2013

Assignment: Show and tell

Week 2 - Meet the mobile audience

Readings

- Pew The Demographics of Mobile News (2012)
- Pew Cell Internet Use 2013
- NetNewsCheck New insights on papers' mobile audience

Assignment: Field observation

Week 3 - Using mobile devices

Readings

- Pew The Future of Mobile News (2012)
- Pew 12 trends shaping digital news
- NJL The rise of mobile has nearly doubled time spent online
- iStockPhoto <u>Trends in mobile photography (2013)</u>
- Yola -6 mobile trends to watch and -5 more mobile trends
- Forbes Mobile gaming engagement doubles in 2013

Assignment: App presentations

Week 4 - More uses of mobile devices

Readings

- Pew Location-based services
- Poynter More people seeking location-based information on smartphones
- Google <u>How Mobile Is Transforming the Shopping Experience in Stores</u>
- IBM Cyber Monday Goes Mobile
- NJL ESPN's digital audience is now mostly mobile

Week 5 – The mobile user experience

Readings

- Poynter What journalists need to know about the difference between Web apps and native apps
- Smashing magazine The elements of the mobile user experience
- Microsoft <u>Building mobile user experience</u> (From "Best Practices" to "Development")
- NJL Nothing builds user rage quite like bad mobile usability

Assignment: gap analysis

Week 6 - Designing for mobile

Readings

- CJR Less is more with mobile visualizations
- Poynter What journalists need to know about responsive design: tips, takeaways & best practices
- Mahsable 10 Excellent Platforms for Building Mobile Apps

Assignment: Group design challenge

Week 7 - Aggregators and reading later

Readings

- Poynter How Flipboard just created 50 million magazine editors
- Nieman Lab The newsonomics of the mobile aggregator roundup

Assignment: Aggregation algorithm

Week 8 - Newsonomics

Readings

- Pew The Search for a New Business Model (2012)
- Shirky et al. <u>Post-Industrial Journalism: Adapting to the Present (2012)</u> (just the introduction
- CJR Those immobile newspaper companies

Week 9 - Making money on mobile

Readings

- Poynter Online ad revenues up, sponsored content revenues down in 2012
- Poynter What news organizations can learn from Facebook's remarkable mobile turnaround

- Poynter <u>PoynterVision: Mobile web is baseline for news</u>
- Mashable 4 Businesses Winning With Mobile Advertising
- Newsosaur <u>How publishers can win at mobile commerce</u>

Assignment: Business model

Week 10 – Engaging a mobile audience

Readings

- RJI <u>How do mobile and non-mobile media users perceive the news media and</u> journalists?
- PBS FrontlineSMS: Engaging the Audience to Transform the News
- Poynter 5 ways to engage more with your audience in person and online
- Advertising Week A Little More Conversation Key To Engaging A Mobile Audience
- Ad Age The Key to Engaging Today's Video Audiences: Respect Their Time

Week 11 - Social media and mobile

Readings

- Social Media Examiner Mobile social media exploding (2013)
- Mashable Why the Future of Social Is in the Palm of Your Hand (2012)
- Pew Twitter News Consumers: Young, Mobile and Educated (2013)

Week 12 - Producing news for mobile

Readings

- Poynter Tips on how newsrooms can develop a mobile-first strategy
- Mediashift Inside NPR's 'Mobile-First' Strategy

Week 13 - Using mobile in reporting

Readings

- Poynter How journalists can use location-based apps as a reporting tool
- Poynter What mobile journalists should have on their holiday shopping lists

Assignment: Breaking news coverage

Week 14 - The ethics of mobile

Readings

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- Journalist's Resource The state of Internet privacy in 2013: Research roundup

Week 15 - The future of mobile

Readings

- Poynter 5 reasons mobile will disrupt journalism like the Internet did a decade ago
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ONA Sessions

Thursday, Oct. 17

Mobile-Only: The Future's Here

While many traditional news organizations are trying to adopt a "mobile first" mentality, some are mobile first by default — because they are mobile only. Learn what it takes from global leaders to have a mobile-exclusive approach to news production, starting with mindset and moving into workflow and tools.

From ONA:

20 Tips to Turbocharge Your Mobile Efforts (Before It's Too Late)

Cory Bergman, breakingnews.com, Etan Horowitz, CNN, Fiona Spruill, New York Times, Damon Kiesow, The Boston Globe

Mobile traffic is beginning to surpass desktop metrics at newsrooms large and small, marking the beginning of a new era in journalism. Mobile is not just a new design or distribution channel, but a fundamentally different business with new competitors. Retrofit your news organization's mobile efforts right now, including coverage, social marketing, metrics, culture change and more.

In the summer, ONA will launch an Ethics and Standards Forum, led by AP's Tom Kent, to tackle the increasingly complex issues journalists face. Standards and ethics are crossing new borders all the time. Within the newsroom, they've gone beyond the world of traditional journalists to involve app developers, data wranglers and others who weren't born in the newsroom. Can new perspectives lead to new thinking? Across national borders, ethics vary from country to country. How transportable are ethics? A story or interactive may have been appropriate when it was created, but years later, should it still be online? We'll discuss a wide range of ethical issues like these and others.

Smart News, Dumb Phones: Reporting and Publishing for Mobile-Only Audiences Hundreds of millions of new mobile users come online every year, with a huge appetite for news. But they don't have iPads or high-bandwidth connections. Will they ever see your coverage? Join this group of innovators and out-of-the-box thinkers from a range of disciplines who are thinking differently about how to extend the reach of journalism.

Ideas for Assignments/Projects, etc.

- 1. Add question to first-day backgrounder: What news apps, if any, do you have on your mobile device?
- 2. Keep a mobile journal on your mobile device, Friday when you wake up to Monday night when you go to bed. On Tuesday, you'll complete a brief questionnaire, then break into groups and discuss.
- 3. Select one of the following articles and evaluate it for displaying on a mobile platform. Evaluate this article for posting on a mobile device. What, if anything, would you do to make it work for posting on a mobile device: "In jobless youth, U.S. is said to pay high price

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/07/business/economy/in-jobless-youth-nation-is-said-to-pay-high-price.html

Are older workers taking jobs from young?

http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/01/04/will-surge-of-older-workers-take-jobs-from-young/4305187/

 $CNN\ analysis:\ Some\ college\ athletes\ play\ like\ adults,\ read\ like\ 5th-gradershttp://www.cnn.com/2014/01/07/us/ncaa-athletes-reading-scores/index.html$

Cheerios says no to Monsanto http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/markets/2014/01/08/cheerios-says-no-to-monsanto/4375617/

4. Follow Consumer Electronics Show and relevant devices: http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/personal/2014/01/06/ces-day-one/4348987/ .

Course Description:

As a result of this class, students will be able to:

Requirements:

1. Bring mobile device to every class.

Grading: Plus and minus will be used in calculating course grades. The final course grade will based on the following formula:

Assignments will be given the following weights:

	1. Completion Assignments		15%
	2. Research Assignments		30%
3.	Group Final Project with peer evaluation	25%	
	4. Class attendance		30%

Attendance, which will be taken at the beginning of class, is calculated as a percentage of days attended by total number of class days. One excused absence is allowed without penalty. The grade for completion assignments is calculated as a percentage of completed assignments by total number of completion assignments. Late completion assignments will not be accepted.

Expectations of Students:

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- 9. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

J395 News for a Mobile Audience

Have graduate students interview editors/production people/reporters about their approach to mobile news

J 349T NEWS FOR A MOBILE AUDIENCE

08240 TTH

1100 to 1230p

CMA 4.150

POINDEXTER, P

Closed

J 395 NEWS FOR A MOBILE AUDIENCE

08415

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CMA 4.150

POINDEXTER, P

open; restricted

Fall 2013

The University of Texas at Austin

School of Journalism

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