Changes in Your Journalism Courses: READ Carefully

Dear Journalism and Public Relations Students—

As you get ready to register for fall 2016 classes, you might have noticed some changes—changes such as new course names, different prerequisites and several new courses. These changes are part of an exciting new curriculum that will be available to students starting in fall 2016.

We’re writing to let you know that these changes do not affect your current program plan. In other words, you’ll continue to meet requirements spelled out in your Academic Requirements Report on MyCSULB, if you have already declared journalism (or public relations) as a major or minor. For example, if JOUR 101: English for Media Writers and JOUR 495: Senior Seminar are requirements listed in your Academic Requirements Report, then you have to take those courses. In addition, all current journalism and public relations majors must complete a minor. Nonetheless, we wanted to give you a heads up and more information about key changes, so you understand what is happening with some course names and prerequisites as you plan for fall 2016:

**New Name, Same Course**

We changed the names of many of our courses to better reflect the purpose of each course and trends in journalism and public relations. For example, JOUR 311 in the 2016-2017 catalog is “News Reporting and Ethics” (instead of Reporting and Information Gathering) and JOUR 495 is now called “Enterprise Reporting in Diverse Communities” (instead of Senior Seminar). What is important as you register is the course NUMBER: if you had to take JOUR 495 in order to graduate, you should still take JOUR 495, despite its new name.

**JOUR 270/370: Principles of Public Relations (same course but different number)**

The only exception is the introductory public relations course, “Principles of Public Relations.” We have changed the number for this course from JOUR 370 to JOUR 270 so future students from community colleges can transfer it to CSULB. What this means for current students is that JOUR 270 and JOUR 370 are the *same* course in your Academic Requirements Report. In other words, if you’ve already taken JOUR 370, you do not need to take JOUR 270 as part of your program and/or to get into courses that list JOUR 270 as a prerequisite. If you still need to take JOUR 370 as part of the public relations specialization or you’d like to take it as an elective, then you now register for JOUR 270.

**New Courses: JOUR 104, JOUR 240, JOUR 360, JOUR 375 and JOUR 470**

To reflect trends in the field, we’ve created several interesting new courses. These courses include: JOUR 104: Social Media Communication, JOUR 240: Multimedia Storytelling, JOUR 360: Culture and Politics of the Internet, JOUR 375: Strategic Communication for Public Relations and JOUR 470: The Digital Public Relations Toolbox. These courses are not part of your program, so you are not required to take any of them. However, if you’re interested in taking one or two of the aforementioned new courses, meet with an advisor to discuss substitution possibilities.
Different Prerequisites
You might also notice that we made changes to prerequisites. One significant change is the addition of JOUR 240: Multimedia Storytelling (a new course) as a prerequisite for many senior classes. We’ve worked with system administrators so you should not have any problems registering for courses with JOUR 240 listed as a prerequisite, or any other prerequisite changes from your current catalog. If you any issues, however, contact or meet with a department advisor.

Shorter Classes (“Lab/Activity” removed)
As most of you know, many of our “skills” classes are a lot longer than other three unit classes at CSULB. More specifically, you are required to go to class for an hour and 50 minutes twice a week instead of the typical hour and 15 minutes. Well, starting in fall 2016, that will change. We’ve removed the lab/activity (and extra time) requirement for all applicable classes. That means you no longer need to sign up for two sections (one lecture and one lab/activity) for the same class, and all of our classes will be an hour and 15 minutes twice a week or two hours and 30 minutes once a week, with the exception of hybrid and online offerings.

Need Help? Contact Professors Jennifer Fleming or Danny Paskin
We are working hard to make this curriculum transition as smooth as possible. Even so, there might be some bumps in the road that we did not anticipate. For example, if you have difficulty registering for a course that you have the prerequisites for or you think it might be advantageous for you to go under the new (2016-2017) curriculum plan, please visit with a departmental advisor during their advising hours:

Dr. Jennifer Fleming, Office: LA4--206E, Email: Jennifer.Fleming@csulb.edu
Advising Hours: Mondays, 12-4 p.m.; Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Dr. Danny Paskin, Office: LA4--101A, Email: Danny.Paskin@csulb.edu
Advising Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Thanks for your patience and cooperation.

Go Beach!
Dr. Emma Daugherty
Chair, Department of Journalism & Mass Communication