**Journalism 495—Senior Seminar**

**Description:**
Prerequisite: Senior status; consent of the instructor. Analysis of issues and problems in journalism and mass communication. This seminar for journalism seniors will examine theoretical and applied issues related to the media. The material discussed will center around a general theme selected by the instructor. Discussion topics might include media globalization, journalistic research, copyrights, social responsibility, ethics, free speech, and media convergence, among others. The course may be organized as a directed research seminar. Letter grade only (A-F).

**Goals**
Some of the course’s goals are:
- To enhance the students’ critical thinking and reasoning skills;
- To enhance the students’ ability to conduct meaningful, relevant research;
- To prepare students to deal with some of the applied, practical issues they will encounter as journalism and public relations professionals.

**Journalism 495—Standard Course Outline**

Because of the topical nature of this course, there is no fixed standard course outline. Instead, instructors are encouraged to meet the above described goals by:
- Providing course readings and other materials that are stimulating, current and academically sound;
- Devising learning strategies (including class discussions, field trips, service learning, hands-on projects) that are inclusive and encourage student involvement and participation;
- Adopting essays, response papers, research term papers, group projects, and other assignments that encourage students to read, research and produce outputs that are original, relevant and thought-provoking;
- Providing an open forum for the discussion of professional or applied issues that are relevant to the students’ future careers.