Taught fall semester by Dr. Ross F. Collins, Ph.D., of the North Dakota State University Communication Department, Fargo.

OFFICE: 202 Ehly Hall.

HOURS: in which the professor will receive students.

Nine-thirty to eleven, Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment.

Members of this class are behooved to rely on the TELEPHONE at 1-7295, or ELECTRONIC MAIL at ross.collins@ndsu.edu for expedient facilitation of communication with the professor.

TO THE PUBLIC.

A few words of introduction.

WE PRESENT TO the student public a COURSE covering the history of mass media which we intend to be unexamined in point of depth and breadth, and, we trust, to be pronounced of the highest order of merit. Our arrangements have been made without regard to expense, based on the admirable facilities afforded us by the noble people of the great state of NORTH DAKOTA. We trust that those students who are now reading these words will find this course to be of first class rank, able to meet nearly all expectations and varying demands expected of such an undertaking.

EXPLANATION OF PRINCIPLES.

FROM ONE OF our own Correspondents recently returned from an extended journey to the south end of campus, we are pleased to provide an authoritative report on the objectives of this course, the particulars of which are COMM 421/621, History of Journalism.

Education being an object of the highest importance to the welfare of society, we shall endeavor to present just and adequate knowledge in order to form our students into useful members of society. Our Correspondent informs us that the course objectives to be implemented are as presented in the list below. The student who successfully completes this program should:

- Understand how the development of mass media shaped the philosophy and operation of mass communication today, technically, legally, and philosophically.
- Recognize the major events of communication history, and understand why they are important.
- Recognize the major historical names and dates significant to media history.
- Understand how historians research and write history, and be able to actually produce historical writing of acceptable quality.

**Bulletin description:** The history and development of journalism as shaped by the political and social environment. Prereq: COMM 310. Restricted to communication professional majors and minors.

**The matter of grades.**

**A WONDER OF FAIR DEALING.**

WE MOST POSITIVELY and distinctly state that upon no account shall any alteration be made in the fair-grading policy as set out below. Grading will be based on a standare point-count. Grades received by individuals will not be discussed in class, to preserve confidentiality.

Students whose benevolence is momentarily at issue with respect to a grade received are asked to meet privately with the instructor during office hours.

We intend, and are resolved, that two examinations will be presented during the semester, one at mid-semester time, and the other during the final examination period. In addition, students will be assigned a historical term paper based on resources to be explained in the fullness of time, and sundry weekly assignments. Work presented late will be accepted, but grades will suffer accordingly to the length of tardiness.

Grading weights may be broken into the numbers presented below, reflecting highest possible points.

- Mid-semester exam, 150 pts.
- Final exam, 300 pts.
- Historical research paper, 200 pts.
- Seminar paper, 100 pts.
- Other assignments, 100 pts.

Total points: 850.

The total number may change slightly. Standard grade percentages: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; below 60=F.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS** will be expected to submit additional materials at a higher level of competence, to be explained by the instructor in the fullness of time.

**AUTHOR**

Won. David Sloan being expert in the field of mass media history, is pleased to present: The Media in America (8th ed., Vision Press, 2011) as required textbook for the course. The university bookstore is prepared to execute orders for the above text.


The second set of books is recommended for students who need to refresh their memory of Chicago style and historical writing standards.

Note: Other readings may be assigned.

**DISABILITIES NOTE.**

STUDENTS WHO need special accommodations for learning or have special needs are asked to let the instructor know as soon as possible.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION, comprising professors of the highest integrity and educational preparation, propose to the public the presentation of useful knowledge of every kind, and every thing that relates to communication in our American Union.**

The students of North Dakota State University shall occupy our classes, and these important subjects still in the iron fetters of ignorance shall be nevertheless our kindred spirits. And though but little can be effected by us, still it will be our task to admonish our younger brethren to the greatest value of wisdom attained through hardy application of diligence.

(Author ______________)

(Schedule follows.)

☞ Note: Design and writing of this syllabus are based on actual material published in 19th century American and British newspapers.
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<td>Week Two (Aug. 27–31)</td>
<td>Development of the Internet, and contemporary media.</td>
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<td>Week Four (Sept. 10–14)</td>
<td>World War II, propaganda, news values. Read chapter 17 and online reading two.</td>
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<td>Week Five (Sept. 17–21)</td>
<td>Historical research methods, entertainment, jazz journalism, photojournalism. Read chapters 19–20, and “A Brief History of Photojournalism” (online reading) part one.</td>
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<td>Week Seven (Oct. 2–5)</td>
<td>Muckraking, yellow journalism. Read chapters 15 and 16.</td>
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<td>Week Eleven (Oct. 29–Nov. 2)</td>
<td>Civil War and the frontier press. Read chapters 9 and 10.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Twelve (Nov. 5–9)</td>
<td>News for cheap: the Penny Press and technology. Read chapters 7 and 8.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Sixteen (Dec. 3–7)</td>
<td>Roots and beginnings, international journalism. Read chapter 1 and online reading five. Research paper due Thursday, Dec. 4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>1-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10.</td>
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**Official Notice from the University.**

The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. NDSU Policy 335, Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct, applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the Office of Registration and Records. Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty.

**Further Reading.**


Jacques Barzun and Henry Graff, *The Modern Researcher*, 1977. A classic for historians and others who sometimes rely on historical research methods, such as working journalists.


**Instructor’s website.**

In addition to BlackBoard, class materials are available at [www.rossfcollins.com](http://www.rossfcollins.com); choose Classes and Media History. The site offers this syllabus, student work, stories, photos and other resources.