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NOTE: Please read this syllabus carefully and by accepting this document, you acknowledge that it serves a social contract regarding your expected obligations and responsibilities in this course.

Course Catalog Description for JMS Students Only:
Prerequisites: Journalism and Media Studies 300, 310W with grades of C (2.0) or better in each course. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript. Using the Web to publish media content and how to use text, graphics, sound, and video to effectively transmit information. Role and responsibilities of media professionals as they add online publication to already established print and broadcast platforms.

Course Overview
The course is designed to promote learning through working in interdisciplinary teams (journalism and geology) along with a nonprofit news organization, *inewsource* to examine air quality in San Diego using electronic, cutting-edge sensors. Students will work together to create a series of digital news stories on air quality in San Diego, which will be developed throughout the spring semester and published on the *inewsource* website.

Furthermore, this course will introduce you to various forms of online writing and the principles of online design. You will also be introduced to the new concept of sensor journalism and the impact this kind of journalism has on the field. Through class readings, lectures, guest speakers, and assignments you will learn about various online writing genres and the principles of design that are necessary skills to be a great communicator in today's digital media world.

Many aspects of environmental science impact our daily lives. Simple investigations and analyses can be "crowd sourced" to empower scientists, journalists and the general public. Students in JMS 430 will design studies, collect data, create data visualizations, observe patterns and trends, and communicate their findings. This type of action-based journalism is to be done with care and scientific discipline to ensure 1) reliable study design 2) accurate and precise data collection, 3) proper documentation, 4) in-context reporting 5) reliable and reproducible results. Science news of the day will be discussed and hot topics in geological sciences will be explored.

Course website: This course has a website on blackboard. Please visit it often as announcements and related course materials will be posted on the site throughout the semester: http://blackboard.sdsu.edu

Objectives
This course will help you:

- Decipher and know when to use digital media terminology;
- Articulate what is digital journalism and its various genres;
- How to critique the content you view online;
- Identify and apply the principles of design to online media;
- Define the principles and ethics of journalism and how they are applied in online media;
- Detect when to apply specific writing techniques to journalistic work;
- Write and produce digital news stories that encompass the principles discussed;
- Compare and contrast the influence of technology in journalism routines and practices;
- Learn and apply the basics of programming languages such as Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), CSS to online design and writing;

- Learn how to use web-authoring applications and other multimedia-related programs;
- Be able to distinguish when to use and how best to utilize these web and multimedia-related programs for journalistic work;
- Know what is a sensor and how sensors work;
- Learn what is sensor journalism and how it can it be implemented;
- Design a scientific study with sensors;
- Record environmental data and develop a data set;
- Learn how to work with data/datasets, how to visualize data and create it into compelling stories and animations;
- Analyze, describe and report results;
- Utilize existing Earth Science data sets to investigate and explore;

Required Materials (Available at the campus bookstore and online)

Castro, E. & Hyslop, B. (2014). *HTML5 and CSS3, 8th Edition (Visual Quickstart Guide).* Peachpit Press.

Gray, J. Chambers, L. & Bounegru, L. (2012). *The Data Journalism Handbook*. O'Reilly Media. (ebook available here: http://datajournalismhandbook.org/)

Readings on Blackboard as requested in course calendar

Supplies and Equipment

- **Students should have access to an email account and Blackboard** because communication and information about the course will be sent via these methods.
- **You should purchase a flash drive or have access to Google Drive or Dropbox for your classwork so you can save your work to it as a backup and in case you want to work on your class assignments outside of class and lab time.**
- **You will also be required to have a website through Wordpress** documenting your work in this class.
- During the semester you will be using mobile devices (e.g. tablet and/or smartphone) for some class activities. iPads will be provided to all students in class during those class sessions.
- Other supplies will be determined and discussed during the semester. Please see the course site on Blackboard frequently.

Optional Materials
The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law. (2014). Basic Books.
Or online version available via subscription: http://www.apstylebook.com/

Deadlines
In this class, deadlines are firm. There is the expectation that you will manage your time accordingly and complete all assignments on time. **No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances.** If an assignment is not turned in on time a zero will be assigned. Treat deadlines as you would in the real world as they have real world implications. You would not miss a business meeting you are leading or not to turn in a story to your editor when it is due or forget to turn in a report to your boss - would you? The same goes for this class – **all deadlines are strictly enforced.**

Lab Assignments (points vary for each)
Throughout the semester you will have a variety of lab activities that will help you learn how to write and design journalistic stories for presentation on the web. These assignments will be due usually at the end of the lab session unless otherwise noted. No late lab assignments will be accepted.

Weekly Blog Posts
On a weekly basis, you will be jotting down your impressions of the class topic for that week related to geology, sensors and journalism. These weekly blog posts will help to contribute to your final project blog essay that is due at the end of the semester.

Writing Assignments/Field Reports (points vary for each)
Throughout the semester you will have a variety of writing activities that will help you to learn how to write for the digital platform with a focus on the air quality project for the semester. These assignments will be due usually at the end of the class session unless otherwise noted.
No late writing assignments will be accepted.

Final Project Essay
Based on the class lectures, readings, your weekly blog posts and assignments, you will have the opportunity to put together a final project essay that is the culmination of your learning in this course – to demonstrate your abilities in this class. This final project essay will be tied into the work you created during the semester. Specifics of the final project will be discussed during the semester. Please see website examples from previous semesters under the Course Documents area on Blackboard.

Participation
In this class, participation will be counted based on your class activities. You may be called on in class, so always be prepared to talk and contribute thoughtfully and critically about the readings and class work. Attendance is important in this course and will be taken for each class and lab. Those who have perfect or near perfect attendance (less than three absences) will receive extra points toward their final grade. Excused absences will not be accepted, an absence is an absence. So it is to your benefit to come to all classes and labs.

Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated. If you have any form of learning, physical or other disability, please let the instructor know as soon as possible so that your learning needs can be discussed and met appropriately.

Academic Dishonesty - Plagiarism and Cheating
The University adheres to a strict policy regarding cheating and plagiarism. These activities will not be tolerated in this class. Become familiar with the policy (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html). Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failing this class and a disciplinary review by Student Affairs.

Examples of Plagiarism include but are not limited to:
- Using sources verbatim or paraphrasing without giving proper attribution (this can include phrases, sentences, paragraphs and/or pages of work)
- Copying and pasting work from a online or offline source directly and calling it your own
- Using information you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit
- Replacing words or phrases from another source and inserting your own words or phrases
- Submitting a piece of work you did for one class to another class

If you have questions on what is plagiarism, please consult the policy (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/cheating-plagiarism.html) and see the Understanding Plagiarism, Paraphrasing and Citing Sources Tutorial here: http://library.sdsu.edu/guides/tutorial.php?id=28

Time Management Tip
In this course, you will be asked to complete several assignments that may be done outside of the classroom, in lab or during class. It is in your best interest to stay on top of the readings and lectures as well as be aware of the class assignment due dates. No grievances will be made for late assignments. Give yourself plenty of time for your assignments.

JMS Policy on Student Use of Digital Labs and Equipment

San Diego State University and the School of Journalism & Media Studies provides computing devices, networks, and Internet services for educational purposes and research consistent with the university's educational mission, curriculum and instructional goals. Use is a privilege for JMS students, and compliance with the below policies and rules is mandatory.

1. Student-produced content of all kinds -- text documents, audio files, video files, etc. -- should not be saved to these computers. All content should be saved to an external drive provided by the student or a cloud account, again belonging to the student. JMS wipes all devices clean of all externally created content on a minimum of a semester basis and content wiped will not be retrievable.

2. No food or drinks are permitted in the labs, including all spaces in which a student may sit (tables, chairs and benches). That includes water. All food and drinks must be left by the door, and will be consumed by the student there.

3. Students must exercise common sense and good judgment in the use of these devices, and the following is prohibited: accessing, collecting or posting of inappropriate materials, violations of copyright, malicious use/vandalism and illegal activities of any kind.

4. Students must notify the instructor if a device is broken or damaged. Students responsible for damage will be asked to pay for repair or replacement.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

	MODULE 1: ASK & ACQUIRE	
Week of Jan 19	**Introduction: Basics of Storytelling and Earth Science**	**Lab Assignment**
Wednesday	**First Day of Class – Introduction to Syllabus Geographic Inquiry Process	Sensor Team**	Exploration Surveys
Week of Jan 26	**Basic Concepts: Sensor Journalism and Earth Science**	**Lab Assignment**
Monday	**Digital Journalism Structures & Sensor Journalism (BB-Gertz & Di Justo; BB-Sensors and Journalism First Section; BB-Foust)**	Innovation Lab with Steve Birch Constructing an environmental sensor package
Wednesday	**Earth Science Data and Methodology Introduction (BB)**	Innovation Lab with Steve Birch Constructing an environmental sensor package
Week of Feb 2	**Finding Stories, Finding Data**	**Lab Assignment**
Monday	**Getting Started - Finding Story Ideas & Evaluating Information (BB: Sensors and Journalism: Second Section; BB-Foust; BB-Reimold)**	Innovation Lab with Steve Birch- Data collection, inductive method **Blog & Blog Post Due.**
Wednesday	**Lab/Field Testing Methodology**	Innovation Lab with Steve Birch- Data collection, inductive method
Week of Feb 9	**Writing, Interviewing and GIS**	**Lab Assignment**
Monday	**Writing & Interviewing	Learning about GIS	Geographic Databases (BB-Writing; BB-Bedford)**	Innovation Lab with Steve Birch- Data collection, deductive method **Blog Post Due.**
Wednesday	**Learning about GIS	Geographic Databases (BB-Bedford)**	Innovation Lab with Steve Birch- Data collection, deductive method

Week of Feb 16	Digital Ethics & Geo-Storytelling	Lab Assignment
Monday	**Virtual Class: Digital Journalism Ethics & Geo-Storytelling (BB: Sensors and Journalism: Third Section)**	Innovation Lab – Geo databases and storytelling **Blog Post Due.** **Idea for Story 1/Field Report 1 Due.**
Wednesday	**Geo-Storytelling (BB-Sensors and Journalism: Second Section) Guest Speaker: John Keefe, WNYC**	Innovation Lab – Geo databases and storytelling
	MODULE 2: ACQUIRE & EXPLORE	
Week of Feb 23	Newsgathering Basics & GIS Sensor Integration 1	Lab Assignment
Monday	**Basics of Newsgathering & GIS Sensor Integration (BB-Sensors and Journalism: Second Section; H3-H4) Guest Speaker: Lise Olsen, Houston Chronicle**	Innovation Lab **Blog Post Due.** **Idea for Story 2/Field Paper 2 Due.**
Wednesday	**Science of Winds & GIS Sensor Integration (BB) Guest Speaker: Dr. Penelope (Jenny) Quintana, SDSU Public Health Professor**	Innovation Lab

Week of Mar 2	**Newsgathering Basics &** **GIS Sensor Integration 2**	**Lab Assignment**
Monday	**Basics of Newsgathering & GIS Sensor Integration (BB, H3-H4)** **Data 101 with Joe Yerardi, inewsource**	Innovation Lab **Blog Post Due.** **Fast Feedback**
Wednesday	**Science of Winds & GIS Sensor Integration (BB)**	Innovation Lab
Week of Mar 9	**Newsgathering Basics &** **GIS Sensor Integration 3**	**Lab Assignment**
Monday	**Basics of Newsgathering & GIS Sensor Integration (BB; H3-H4)** **Guest Speaker: Sean Bonner, Co-Founder & Director of Global Operations, SafeCast**	Innovation Lab **Blog Post Due.** **Story 1/Field Report 1 Due.**
Wednesday	**Science of Winds & GIS Sensor Integration (BB)**	**Innovation Lab**
	MODULE 3: ANALYZE & ACT	
Week of Mar 16	**Analyzing & Presenting Information**	**Lab Assignment**
Monday	**Analyzing & Presenting Information with Joe Yerardi, inewsource (BB, H5-H6)**	Innovation Lab **Blog Post Due.**
Wednesday	**Pollution Effects and the Environment/ Field Testing & Visualizations (BB)**	Innovation Lab
Week of Mar 23	**Analyzing & Presenting Information**	**Lab Assignment**
Monday	**Analyzing & Presenting Information with Joe Yerardi, inewsource (BB)**	Innovation Lab **Blog Post Due.** **Story 2/Field Report 2 Due.**
Wednesday	**Pollution Effects and the Environment/ Field Testing & Visualizations (BB)**	Innovation Lab
Week of Mar 30	**SPRING BREAK**	

Week of Apr 6	**Analyzing & Presenting Information**	**Lab Assignment**
Monday	**Virtual Class: Analyzing & Presenting Information with Joe Yerardi, inewsource (BB)**	Innovation Lab **Blog Post Due.**
Wednesday	**Pollution Effects and the Environment/ Field Testing & Visualizations (BB)**	Innovation Lab
Week of Apr 13	**Analyzing & Presenting Information**	**Lab Assignment**
Monday	**Analyzing & Presenting Information (BB) Guest Speaker: Lily Bui, MIT**	Innovation Lab **Blog Post Due.**
Wednesday	**Pollution Effects and the Environment/ Field Testing & Visualizations (BB)**	Innovation Lab
	MODULE 4: WRITING AND LAB WORK	
Week of Apr 20		
Monday	**Guest Speaker: Susan White, environmental journalist**	
Wednesday	**Writing and Lab Work**	
Week of Apr 27	**Writing Assignment Catch-Up Week**	
Monday	**Writing and Lab Work**	
Wednesday	**Writing and Lab Work**	
Week of May 4	**Writing Assignment Catch-Up Week**	
Monday	**Writing and Lab Work**	
Wednesday	**Writing and Lab Work**	**Final Projects Due.**
	FINALS WEEK	
Monday	**Final Presentations.**	