

Journalism

Journalism is the art of storytelling. Journalism students should aspire to be critical thinkers and to have independent, inquiring minds and a breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding that St. Thomas University identifies as the goals of a liberal education.

At the same time, both print and broadcast media now use sophisticated digital technology. The St. Thomas Journalism Programme introduces students to this technology and the skills they need to tell stories in a professional setting. St. Thomas offers students the opportunity to acquire a range of skills in both print and broadcast media that will prepare them for the evolving multimedia world.

Students who Major in Journalism must fulfill 48 credit hours of required courses: 6 credit hours in Canadian Studies and 42 credit hours in Journalism. Students will study Journalism in all four years of the programme: 6 credit hours in first year, and at least 12 credit hours each year for the remaining three years, depending on the electives they choose.

Major in Journalism

Year 1

JOUR 1013	The Messenger: Journalism and Storytelling
JOUR 1023	The Message: Great Stories of Journalism

Year 2

JOUR 2023	Journalistic Writing: The Language of Storytelling
JOUR 2013	Broadcast Journalism: Stories in Pictures and Sound
JOUR 2033	Community Journalism: Reporting Political and Social Issues
JOUR 2063	Law and the Media in Canada

Year 3

Students must take two of the following courses in first semester:

JOUR 3013	Television Journalism I: Telling the Stories of Today
JOUR 3023	Radio Journalism I: Telling the Stories of Today
JOUR 3033	Print Journalism I: Telling the Stories of Today

Students must take two of the following courses in second semester:

JOUR 3043	Television Journalism II: Telling the Stories of Tomorrow
JOUR 3053	Radio Journalism II: Telling the Stories of Tomorrow
JOUR 3063	Print Journalism II: Telling the Stories of Tomorrow

Year 4

JOUR 4006	Free Speech and the Free Press
JOUR 4016	Editing, Publishing and Producing

Students majoring in Journalism may choose from the following electives, which are not requirements for graduation:

JOUR 2043	Photojournalism
JOUR 2053	Pictures at Eleven: Understanding Television News

Students in the BA with a Major in Journalism Programme must also fulfil a Canadian Studies requirement, which consists of 6 credit hours from among the following courses:

HIST 1813	Canada to Confederation
HIST 1823	Canada Since Confederation
POLS 1103	The Canadian Political System
POLS 2106	Canadian Politics
SOCI 2106	Canadian Society
SOCI 2116	Sociology of Atlantic Canada

1013. The Messenger: Journalism and Storytelling

Journalism is the art of storytelling. This course will explore the nature of stories, the ways journalists tell stories, and the role these storytellers play in open and closed societies. 3 credit hours.

1023. The Message: Great Stories of Journalism

This course will introduce students to a range of works of print and broadcast Journalism to allow them to understand the scope, purpose, and influence of stories in the journalistic tradition. Students will respond to these works in writing and post their responses in an online discussion forum. 3 credit hours.

2013. Broadcast Journalism: Stories in Pictures and Sound

This course will introduce students to storytelling in the broadcast medium. Topics include a critical examination of broadcast stories, story focus and structure, visual storytelling, an introduction to the camera and the manipulation of light, an introduction to gathering sound for stories, and the fundamentals of editing. Enrolment is normally restricted to students admitted to the Major in Journalism in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 1F of the University's calendar. 3 credit hours.

2023. Journalistic Writing: The Language of Storytelling

This course will introduce students to storytelling in Journalism through an intensive programme of writing instruction and workshops. Students will write news and feature stories, read and respond to literary non-fiction writing. They will develop stories through the process of generating ideas, conducting research, editing, and rewriting. Prerequisites: JOUR 1013, 1023. 3 credit hours.

2033. Community Journalism: Reporting Political and Social Issues

This course is the foundation reporting course for the Journalism Programme at St. Thomas. All stories of Journalism contain some relation to political and social issues in our communities. This course is designed to immerse students in current events, which they will be required to place in a broader historical context. Topics include finding and focusing story ideas in the community, exploring how journalists report on the agenda of governments and social groups, and how journalists set their own agendas. The class will require students to attend and report on public events in the community. Enrolment is normally restricted to students admitted to the Major in Journalism in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 1F of the University's calendar. 3 credit hours.

2043. Photojournalism (FNAR)

This course explores the art of still photography in Journalism, its history and influence on public affairs, and offers students an introduction to digital camera skills. Prerequisite: JOUR 2023. Limited enrolment. 3 credit hours.

2053. Pictures at Eleven: Understanding Television News

This course will examine television news programmes from the inside out, exploring how stories are prepared and presented. After students gain a level of media literacy, they will consider a wide range of media critics. The course will allow students to distinguish fact from fiction, story from spin, and in the process become smarter consumers of television news. 3 credit hours.

2063. Law and the Media in Canada

This course will introduce students to the freedoms and responsibilities of journalists in Canada. Topics include press freedom and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, publication bans, defamation, confidentiality of sources, investigative reporting and the law. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of court reporting. Prerequisites: JOUR 1013, JOUR 1023 and JOUR 2023. 3 credit hours.

3013. Television Journalism I: Telling the Stories of Today

All Journalism contains some element of news. Reporting the news of the day is at the heart of the journalistic tradition. This course will focus on reporting the news in the television medium. Topics include how decisions are made about the stories of the day, how to turn an announcement into a story, how to find pictures, how to write to pictures, how to tell stories on deadline. Enrolment is restricted to students admitted to the Major in Journalism in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 1F of the University's calendar. Prerequisites: JOUR 2013, 2023, 2033, 2063. 3 credit hours.

3023. Radio Journalism I: Telling the Stories of Today

All Journalism contains some element of news. Reporting the news of the day is at the heart of the journalistic tradition. This course will focus on reporting the news in the radio medium. Topics include how decisions are made about the stories that make a newscast, how to turn an announcement into a story, how to find and record sound for radio, how to write a story that incorporates sound, how to tell stories in concise radio language on deadline. Enrolment is normally restricted to students admitted to the Major in Journalism in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 1F of the University's calendar. Prerequisites: JOUR 2013, 2023, 2033, 2063. 3 credit hours.

3033. Print Journalism I: Telling the Stories of Today

All Journalism contains elements of news. Reporting the news of the day is at the heart of the journalistic tradition. This course will focus on reporting the news in the print medium. Topics include how decisions are made about what stories a newspaper will cover, how to turn an announcement into a story, how to find sources for stories, how to tell stories that both cover the news and tell a compelling story. Enrolment is normally restricted to students admitted to the Major in Journalism in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 1F of the University's calendar. Prerequisites: JOUR 2013, 2023, 2033, 2063. 3 credit hours.

3043. Television Journalism II: Telling the Stories of Tomorrow

This course will focus on enterprise reporting in the television medium. Topics include how to find original story ideas, how to develop sources, how to find the focus in stories, and how to explore universal ideas in particular stories. Enrolment is normally restricted to students admitted to the Major in Journalism in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 1F of the University's calendar. Prerequisites: two of either JOUR 3013, 3023, or 3033. 3 credit hours.

3053. Radio Journalism II: Telling the Stories of Tomorrow

This course will focus on enterprise reporting in the radio medium. Topics include how to find original story ideas, how to develop sources, how to find the focus in stories, and how to explore universal ideas in particular stories. Enrolment is normally restricted to students admitted to the Major in Journalism in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 1F of the University's calendar. Prerequisites: two of either JOUR 3013, 3023, or 3033. 3 credit hours.

3063. Print Journalism II: Telling the Stories of Tomorrow

This course will focus on enterprise reporting in the print medium. Topics include how to find original story ideas, how to develop sources, how to find the focus in stories, and how to explore universal ideas in particular stories. Enrolment is normally restricted to students admitted to the Major in Journalism in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 1F of the University's calendar. Prerequisites: two of either JOUR 3013, 3023, or 3033. 3 credit hours.

4006. Free Speech and the Free Press

This course examines the free press both in theory and in action in democratic societies. Specific areas of study include the emergence of the free press, the many faces of censorship, and free expression in contemporary society. Prerequisite: JOUR 2023. 6 credit hours

4016. Editing, Publishing and Producing

This course is a capstone course in storytelling for Journalism students. The course requires students to either pursue a publishing/producing project, or a special work of Journalism for a professional news organization. The publishing work can either involve an editing role at a student newspaper or work on the Journalism Programme's publishing website. Other special projects can be approved by the Director of Journalism. Enrolment is normally restricted to students admitted to the Major in Journalism in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 1F of the University's calendar. Prerequisites: two of either JOUR 3013, 3023, or 3033; and two of either JOUR 3043, 3053, or 3063. 3 credit hours.