

JOUR 302: Infomania, Spring 2020

Lecture: Mondays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Lindley 412

Discussion sections:

- Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Stauffer-Flint 202, Professor Bobkowski
- Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Stauffer-Flint 206, Professor Benson
- Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Stauffer-Flint 303, Professor Berendzen
- Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Stauffer-Flint 202, Professor Aromona
- Wednesdays, 3-4:15 p.m., Stauffer-Flint 303, Professor Berendzen
- Thursdays, 2:30-3:45 p.m., Stauffer-Flint 202, Professor Shayesteh

Instructors

[Professor Shola Aromona](#)

Email: shola.aromona@ku.edu

Office: Dole Human Development Center 2051

Office hours: Mondays, 1-3 p.m., or email to set up an appointment.

[Professor Kerry Benson](#)

Email: benson@ku.edu

Office: Stauffer-Flint 209C

Office hours: Monday from 2:00 - 3 p.m. and Wednesday from 3:30 - 4 p.m.

Appointments welcome, of course.

[Professor Gerri Berendzen](#)

Email: gberendzen@ku.edu

Office: Dole Human Development Center 2056

Office hours: 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 9-10 a.m. Wednesday; 2 to 4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday. At the Bremner Editing Center from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Wednesday. By appointment at other times.

[Professor Peter Bobkowski](#)

Email: bobkowski@ku.edu

Office: Dole Human Development Center 2071

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m., or email to set up an appointment.

[Professor Fatemeh Shayesteh](#)

Email: f.shayesteh@ku.edu

Office: Dole Human Development Center 2051

Office hours: Thursdays 12:30 -2:30 p.m.

Course rationale and objectives

Journalism and strategic communication practitioners must be information experts. Before communicating any information in news or strategic messages, these practitioners must be able to navigate, assess, and synthesize the vast quantities of information that are available to them. In this course, students develop information literacy skills and dispositions by learning to: (1) identify and access information sources; (2) retrieve information from these sources; (3) evaluate these sources and information critically; (4) question their own assumptions; and (5) summarize and synthesize the information they obtain. These skills and dispositions form the foundation of the information-intensive skills students go on to develop in subsequent courses.

KU Core: This course satisfies Goal 1 Outcome 1, Critical thinking

Learning objectives

1. Students will identify a topic of interest, articulate its significance, explain the necessity of researching it, and plan a research strategy.
2. Students will identify diverse information sources to advance their understanding of a topic. Students will use effective retrieval strategies, including search and interview techniques, to obtain information from these sources. Students will apply critical thinking to evaluate their information sources, the information they collect, and their own assumptions about the topic.
 - a. Students will use digital news databases, business records, public records, population/consumer research, and individuals, as essential sources of information.
 - b. Students will know about other conventional and emerging sources of information (e.g., big data), and will supplement the essential sources from (a) with other information sources as necessary.
3. Students will use effective retrieval strategies, including search and interview techniques, to obtain information from these sources.
4. Students will summarize and synthesize the information they collect, and will articulate the results of their critical thinking evaluations.
5. Students will attribute information completely and consistently to its sources.

Textbook

The textbook for this course is free and online, and written specifically for this class:

[Be Credible: Information Literacy for Journalism, Public Relations, Advertising, and Marketing Students](#), by Peter Bobkowski and Karna Younger, 2018.

Assignment categories

Instructions for all assignments are in their respective weekly folders on Blackboard. To do well in this class, look at Blackboard daily and follow all directions listed there.

Research Briefs

Instructions are posted in the left column on Blackboard.

- Research Brief 1: Local business search, due Feb. 16 (100 points)
- Research Brief 2: Public records, due March 1 (150 points)
- Research Brief 3: Issue, due April 5 (200 points)
- Research Brief 4: Product or brand, due May 3 (200 points)
- Research Brief 5: Final, due May 11 (200 points)

Credibility assessments

20 points (plus up to 20-30 extra credit). Completed during first & last week of class.

Reading quizzes

10 points each, 140 points total. Completed before the beginning of class for which the reading is assigned.

"I'm Extra!" initiative reports

25 points each, 75 points total. Due dates for reporting "I'm Extra!" Initiatives are:

- March 22
- April 19
- May 13

Grading

All assignments add to 960 points. Blackboard standards for determining letter grades will be used.

- 94-100 A; 90-93 A-
- 87-89 B+; 84-86 B; 80-83 B-
- 77-79 C+; 74-76 C; 70-73 C-
- 67-69 D+; 64-66 D; 60-63 D-
- < 60 F

Grades will not be rounded up.

Attendance

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each lecture and discussion. Students need to be signed in before class starts to be marked present. Late arrival or early departure will be recorded as an absence.

You are permitted two absences of any kind. After two absences, you will receive a 15-point grade deduction to your total points at the end of the semester. If you are absent, you may not make up what you missed in class, and must ask a classmate for notes. Exceptions include a note from a doctor, a funeral program or an excused note for a university activity.

In the grade book on Blackboard, there is an Absence tally column. This is not a grade; it's a tally of how many classes you have missed. The number in this column will not be averaged with the other numbers in the grade book.

Journalism School's policy on classroom attendance

No student may add a journalism class after the 20th day of a semester.

Students must attend their classes and laboratory periods. Instructors may take attendance into account in assessing a student's performance and may require a certain level of attendance for passing a course. Instructors may choose to drop students from a course, based on attendance, without consent.

The School of Journalism reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of students who fail to attend the first class or laboratory meeting.

Late work, grade concerns

Assignments are due at 11 p.m. on designated Sundays. Quizzes are due at the beginning of the class or discussion for which the quiz reading is assigned. Late work will receive a grade of 0. Deadlines exist in this professional field for a reason: The broadcast starts at 6 p.m., not at 6:01 p.m.

In case of a Blackboard submission malfunction, students must email their assignments to the instructor before the due date/time. Students are responsible for ensuring that their Blackboard submissions are successful and complete. Check this and double-check it, at the time of submission.

Although grades are not negotiable, the instructor will consider any concerns a student has about an assignment grade, as long as the concerns are identified promptly. Questions or disputes about a particular grade need to be taken care of within a week of receiving that grade. The only grades that will be discussed at the end of the semester are for assignments due at the end of the semester.

Academic misconduct

You are bound by the university rules on academic misconduct. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, please ask BEFORE your endeavor.

Policy on Plagiarism and Fabrication/Falsification

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications does not tolerate plagiarism, fabrication of evidence or falsification of evidence. Penalties for plagiarism, fabrication or falsification can include a failing grade for the course and expulsion from the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, please consult the professor of the course.

The following definitions are from Article II, Section 6, of the University Senate Rules and Regulations, revised FY98.

Plagiarism: Knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the information or ideas are common knowledge.

Fabrication and Falsification: Unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Email etiquette

We encourage you to communicate with your instructors about the course face-to-face during office hours, or through e-mail. If you choose the latter, please be mindful of email etiquette:

- Compose a brief yet informative subject line.
- Use a greeting, such as “Hello, Professor Benson,” at the beginning of your message.
- Write the body of your message using full sentences, proper capitalization and punctuation. Explain your question or concern as completely as possible.
- Sign your message using your full (first and last) name.

Major assignments are due on Sunday evenings. Your deadline for emailing your instructor with questions about these assignments is 5 p.m. on the preceding Friday. If you email after this deadline, do not expect to receive a response before the assignment is due.

Technology use

Laptops, tablets, smart watches, and phones may not be used during lectures or discussions unless specific accommodations are required and cleared with the instructor, or unless they are permitted for an in-class activity.

Should the instructor or a student use a personal communication device, application, or website for something other than a class-related research task, and this individual is called out for doing so, they will take their things and leave the class, and be marked absent for the day.

Copying or Recording Course Content

Course materials prepared by the instructor, as well as content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the instructor's property. Video and audio recording of lectures without instructor consent is prohibited. On request, the instructor usually will permit students to record lectures, on the condition that these recordings are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless the instructor gives explicit permission, recordings of lectures may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

Students with disabilities or special needs

Student Access Services, part of the Academic Achievement & Access Center, works with all units at the University to insure that every student has an equal opportunity to succeed at KU. The mission of Student Access Services is to facilitate appropriate resources, services and auxiliary aids to allow each qualified student with a disability to equitably access educational, social, and career opportunities at the University of Kansas. We are here to help you whether your disability is physical, medical, sensory, psychological, or related to attention or learning. Students who have special needs may require special accommodations to meet course requirements. Requests for accommodations should be made in advance. To find out more information, please contact [Student Access Services \(http://www.disability.ku.edu/\)](http://www.disability.ku.edu/) to acquire the proper documentation.

Student Access Services
1450 Jayhawk Boulevard
Strong Hall Room 22
Phone: 785-864-4064
Email: achieve@ku.edu

Academic Achievement and Access Center

This center offers many services and programs to assist students in their academic success and to enhance their collegiate experience at KU. Choose from learning strategy consultations, group workshops or general or course-specific academic assistance, by appointment or on a walk-in basis. Feel free to talk with us and ask for information or direction about academic and personal issues.

Blackboard and IT support

If you experience technical difficulties using Blackboard, contact Blackboard Support at 785-864-2600 or email blackboardsupport@ku.edu

For other technical issues, contact KU Information Technology 785-864-8080, or email itcsc@ku.edu

Ask a Librarian

Click on the link above to access library support. This link offers different ways to communicate with library support services.

Using the KU Libraries' How-to guides

The KU Libraries research guides serve to aid you in finding resources by subject or course. These Tutorial/Help guides explain how to use the research resources available to you. Click on the link above which will link you directly to a listing of tutorials.

Journalism Career and Outreach Office

The Career and Outreach Office at Stauffer-Flint, Room 120, provides services for all students at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. If you need assistance with resume and cover letter development, job search strategy, internships, mock interviews and LinkedIn profile, schedule an appointment with Steve Rottinghaus at steve_rottinghaus@ku.edu. Make sure to follow job and internship postings on Twitter at @Rhaus90.

Financial Aid Policy

The KU Office of Student Financial Aid is required by federal law to determine whether students who receive aid are attending each class in which they are enrolled. Instructors are required to report to that office absences of students who have stopped attending and names of those who have enrolled but never have attended. Students who do not attend classes may be required to repay federal and/or state financial aid.”

Students who receive any form of financial aid should learn all requirements including minimum hours of enrollment and grades to qualify for and retain that aid.

Weapons policy

Individuals who choose to carry concealed handguns **are solely responsible to do so in a safe and secure manner in strict conformity with [state and federal laws](#) and [KU weapons policy](#)**. Safety measures outlined in the KU weapons policy specify that a concealed handgun:

- Must be under the constant control of the carrier.
- Must be out of view, concealed either on the body of the carrier, or backpack, purse, or bag that remains under the carrier’s custody and control.
- Must be in a holster that covers the trigger area and secures any external hammer in an un-cocked position
- Must have the safety on, and have no round in the chamber.

This class will require students to visit areas where a variety of self-defense weapons may be legally restricted. Students will also be expected to leave belongings such as backpacks and purses away and unattended for prolonged periods. Students who choose to carry a concealed handgun or other means of self-defense should plan accordingly prior to beginning this class. The university does not provide appropriate secured storage for concealed handguns or any other weapons.

Individuals who violate the KU weapons policy may face disciplinary action under the appropriate university code of conduct, including dismissal from the course.