

JOUR 4893 - Journalism Senior Project

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 42492,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Michele Gatts

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Adam Earnhardt

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor

Michele Gatts

Professional Qualifications:

MA English, Youngstown State University, 1996

AB Speech Communication/Telecom (Broadcast Journalism), YSU, 1989

Lecturer

Email: mmgatts@ysu.edu

Office: Bliss Hall 2011

Fall 2026 Office Hours:

TBA; by appointment recommended.

Office Phone: (330) 941-3631

Preferred Contact Method: email

Communication Expectations:

Monitor your university email frequently; email will be answered by instructor within 48 hours.

How to Refer to me:

Professor

Course Description

4893. Journalism Senior Project. Capstone experience for journalism major. Individualized reporting projects with demonstration of advanced newsgathering and storytelling techniques. Prereq.: JOUR 3731L AND senior standing. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Associated Press Style Book 2024-2026 (56th edition acceptable)	The Associated Press	ISBN-13: 978-1541647572
Optional	The Elements of Style	Strunk & White	978-0205309023

Additional reading/video viewing may be required.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of topics and assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24		Review syllabus and course expectations. Brainstorm Capstone concepts.	
8/31		Project pitches to faculty panel.	
9/7		Legal Holiday-UNIVERSITY CLOSED IN HONOR OF LABOR DAY. Proposals due. Guest speaker: Sara Fugett, dir. of YSU Office of Career Exploration & Dev.	
9/14		Senior project reviewers secured. Contact sources and begin interviews.	
9/21		Progress report 1 due. Complete interviews. Write story. Submit draft to SP Reviewer.	
9/28		Secure supporting visuals. Continue writing and making edits.	
10/5		Continue writing and making edits. Send SP Reviewer 2nd draft.	
10/12		Meet for peer reviews. Make edits based on SP Reviewer and peer feedback.	
10/19		Work on pkg.	
10/26		Edit pkg. Progress report 2 due. Peer review of videos. Gain feedback from SP Reviewer or instructor.	
11/2		Begin PowerPoint. Work on outside submission portion of assignment.	
11/9		Begin work on website. UNIVERSITY CLOSED IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY	
11/16		Peer reviews of PPs and websites. Work on outside solicitation for your project.	
11/23		Make any necessary edits to website and PP based on SP Reviewer and peer feedback. NO CLASS/YSU CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING BREAK	
11/30		Complete exit intv. in BB. Final Project presentations to peers..	
12/7		Senior Showcase Fri., Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., location TBA.	

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.