

# Journalism Internship

JO 412 Spring 2023

Professor

**William McKeen**

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**Office hours**

Tuesdays, 11 am -  
12:30 pm;  
Wednesdays, 11 am -  
3:30 pm; and by  
appointment

**Home page**

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**Twitter**

@wmckeen



## About this course

This is a variable-credit course that awards credit for students doing internships. Most internships are for two- or four- credits.

The course requires that every student file a job description at the beginning of the semester. (See example that follows. A .pdf of this form is attached.)

Every Monday, send an email that briefly describes what you did in the last week.

You may include links to your work or offer attachments of your work. However, this is not required.

There is no special form for these reports. They're just somewhat

informal email updates.

A short (2-3 page) paper reflecting on the internship is due on the last day of the semester. These can be informal, like personal essays. These should be sent as attachments.

At the end of the semester, you will be evaluated by your supervisor. (See attachment that follows.)

Send all material – job description, weekly reports and reflection essay to [wmckeen@bu.edu](mailto:wmckeen@bu.edu).

We may meet remotely once or twice during the semester, for a checkin.

When you send in your reports, always include your last name as the

first wording the subject line of your emails –

- SNERD Job Description
- SNERD Weekly Report 1
- SNERD Essay

Please let us know if there are any workplace issues we should know about. If you find yourself to be harassed or in a hostile work environment, please let me know.

This is a pass-fail course.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

*Wm. McKeen*

This is the job description form. You will fill out this form. A .pdf of this form is sent along with this syllabus.

Boston University College of Communication

640 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
T 617-353-3484 F 617-353-1086



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Professor  
Department of Journalism

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Site of Internship \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Title \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's E-mail / Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Internship Period \_\_\_\_\_

Hours worked per week (average) \_\_\_\_\_

**JOB DUTIES**

*Two or three sentences describing your duties.*

Signature and Date \_\_\_\_\_

This is the evaluation form your supervisor will submit. This allows you to see how you will be evaluated.

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**INTERNSHIP EVALUATION FORM**

Thank you for providing this internship opportunity for a student in our journalism program. In order for us to grant course credit for this student, we ask you to complete this form and return it to me at the address above or at [wmckeen@bu.edu](mailto:wmckeen@bu.edu).

Thank you.

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Internship Period \_\_\_\_\_

Hours worked per week (average) \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle or highlight the appropriate rating:

<b>DEPENDABILITY</b>	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>ATTITUDE</b>	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>TASK ABILITY</b>	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>INITIATIVE</b>	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor

Signature / date \_\_\_\_\_

# Some words about journalism

Favorite fancy-pants or funny quotes

The purpose of journalism is to irritate, infuriate and inform.

**Jess Lewis Gardner III**

*student in the first class I ever taught*

The past actually happened, but history is only what somebody wrote down.

**A. Whitney Brown**

*author and former writer and performer on 'Saturday Night Live'*

Ninety percent of journalism is saying "Lord Jim Dies" to people who didn't know Lord Jim was alive.

**G.K. Chesterton**

*English novelist and essayist*

It is not death or torture or imprisonment that threatens us as American journalists. It is the trivialization of our industry.

**Ted Koppel**

*formerly of ABC News*

The job of the newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

**Finley Peter Dunne**

*early 20th century journalist*

The principal difference between a horse and a man

is that you cannot rely on a horse to gather news.

**Mark Twain**

*who needs no introduction*

I would be a journalist if for no other reason than I would rather drink with journalists than any other people on Earth.

**Hunter S. Thompson**

*gonzo journalist*

Reporters aren't very bright as a general rule. I mean, most of us learn to write when we're kids. Then we go on to other things.

**Bobby Knight**

*retired basketball coach*

History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.

**Maya Angelou,**

*speaking at President Clinton's first inauguration*

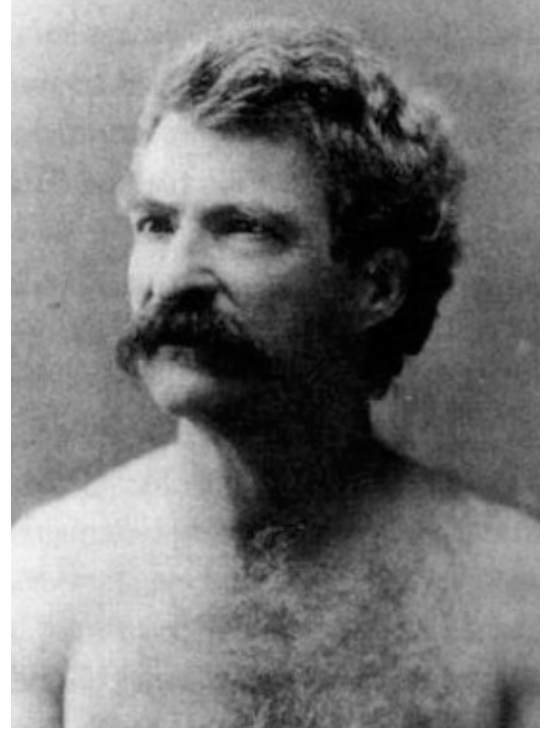
Journalism keeps you planted in the earth.

**Ray Bradbury**

*novelist and essayist*

If journalism is good, it is controversial by its nature.

**Julian Assange**



**Mark Twain** (above) near the beginning of his career as a journalist, when he wrote for the Virginia City (Nev.) Territorial Enterprise. His name was Samuel Clemens, but he wrote under a pseudonym, so as not to embarrass his brother, the territorial secretary. The name he chose came from the old river term "mark twain," which meant "safe water."