



College of Arts and Science
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CERTIFICATE IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING

The certificate program in Political and Public Affairs Reporting provides undergraduate students with a specialty interest in these coverage areas fundamental knowledge and skills for entry into the profession as a political reporter (including as an MMJ) and/or news producer.

Educational Requirements

To receive the Certificate in Political and Public Affairs Reporting, students will be required to do the following:

- (1) Declare officially and enroll electronically in the certificate either through the web portal in A&S;
- (2) Complete a minimum of 21 credit hours as prescribed below;
- (3) Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA in courses offered for the certificate.

Student Learning Outcomes

Completing an Undergraduate Certificate in Political and Public Affairs Reporting provides students the conceptual knowledge and professional skills for entry into the news industry as a reporter (including MMJ) or producer. Through coursework and practical experience(s), students will be able to do the following:

- Utilize political and historical knowledge to make judgments about news worthiness on political and related topics.
- Demonstrate fundamental knowledge of the history and function of news media in American society.
- Understand U.S. media law and its impact on the broadcast industry and journalistic practice, including freedom of expression, defamation, privacy, and intellectual property.
- Demonstrate fundamental skills in news writing, reporting and production. This will include video recording and editing several news packages and features using digital video cameras, and digital nonlinear editing equipment for distribution through digital outlets for a specified audience.
- Understand and perform each of production and talent roles required to produce a television newscast, focusing on the role of teamwork.

Note that these core student learning outcomes are integrated across the required certificate courses, thereby enabling student exposure to the outcomes irrespective of the sequence of electives taken.

COURSES

Required: ALL of the following (12 hours)

JOUR 2010: Reporting & Writing (3)

POL 2023 (JOUR 3035): Political Reporting/Media and Politics in the United States (3) **OR** JOUR 4010: Public Affairs Reporting (3)

JOUR 3010: Advanced Reporting Topic—Race and Reporting (3)

JOUR 4020: Multimedia Fundamentals (3)

Plus TWO from the following (6 hours):

POL 2010: Public Opinion and American Politics (3)

POL 2011: Elections in America (3)

POL 2012: Political Parties in America (3)

POL 2013: Democratic Citizenship (3)

POL 2016: State and Local Government (3)

POL 2019: The American Presidency (3)

POL 2020: The American Congress (3)

POL 2021: American Courts (3)

POL 2022: American Courts and Judicial Process (3)

POL 2037: Conflict in Cyberspace (3)

POL 2045: American Political Thought (3)

POL 2063: Politics of China (3)

POL 2065: Politics of Latin America (3)

POL 2071: Politics of the Middle East (3)

POL 2074: Politics of Russia (3)

POL 2077: Politics of Europe (3)

POL 2088: America and the World (3)

POL 2082: US Foreign Policy (3)

POL 2088: International Law and Organization (3)

POL 2082: US Foreign Policy (3)

POL 2089: International Human Rights (3)

POL 3016: Polls, Elections, and American Politics (3)

POL 3022: Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties (3)

POL 4044: Feminist Methods and Methodologies (3)

Plus ONE from the following (3 hours):

JOUR 1030: Principles of American Journalism (3)

JOUR 2020: Media Law and Ethics (3)

JOUR 2040: Editing (3)

JOUR 3010: Advanced Reporting: Topic (3)

JOUR 3040: Environmental Reporting (3)

JOUR 3060: Business and Economic Reporting (3)

JOUR 3070: Photojournalism (3)

JOUR 4080: Practicum (1-3)

JOUR 5050: Internship (1-3)

JOUR 5010: Independent Study (3-4)

JOUR 5060: International Field Study in Journalism (3)

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Admission to the certificate program in Political and Public Affairs Reporting is open to all students accepted and enrolled at the University of Cincinnati.

CONTACT AND ADVISING

Brian Calfano, Associate Professor of Political Science and Journalism, is the certificate coordinator. briancalfano@uc.edu

CORE FACULTY

Brian Calfano, Associate Professor of Political Science and Journalism/Coordinator, Political and Public Affairs Reporting Certificate (Ph.D., University of North Texas, Political Science)

Dr. Calfano has a joint appointment in the Departments of Political Science and Journalism, and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in experimental design, research methods, political reporting, and politics and media. He conducts research on marginalized groups, political information use, religion and politics, and journalistic coverage of political events. He is also a political reporter and producer for Nexstar Media Group, political analyst for Spectrum News 1, and appears regularly on international media, including CTV News Channel, Global News Toronto, and Sky News. The Broadcast Educator Association and the Missouri Broadcasters Association have awarded him for his media research and television work. He is represented by CBK Media Management and is a member of the Radio Television Digital News Association.

Dr. Calfano is the author or co-author of (among other monographs) God Talk: Experimenting with the Religious Causes of Public Opinion (Temple University Press, 2013) and A Matter of Discretion: The Political Behavior of Catholic Priests in the U.S. and Ireland (Rowman and Littlefield, 2017), and Human Relations Commissions (Columbia University Press, 2020), and The American Professor Pundit: Academics in the World of Political Media (Palgrave, 2021). He has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles in numerous academic journals including Political Research Quarterly, Urban Affairs Review, Political Communication, Electronic News, Political Behavior, Social Science Quarterly, State Politics and Policy Quarterly, Journalism and Mass Communication Educator and PS: Political Science and Politics, and has over 80 academic publications (including book chapters in numerous edited volumes).

He is co-coordinator of the American Political Science Association's religion and politics mentoring program. Dr. Calfano's experience in applied politics includes serving as policy advisor for the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission. He works with the Cincinnati Black United Front on its community relations surveys and outreach, and has performed similar research work for the City of Pittsburgh Human Relations Commission and the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati.

Jeffrey Layne Blevins, Professor & Head, Department of Journalism (Ph.D., Ohio University, Telecommunication)

Dr. Blevins is an Associate Professor and Head of the Journalism Department. Tenured in the Department of English & Comparative Literature, he also holds courtesy appointments in the Department of Communication, and Department of Political Science. His Scholarship is grounded in U.S. telecommunication law and policy and engages critical political economy theory. Dr. Blevins' published research has examined media ownership regulation, First Amendment jurisprudence on media ownership regulation, Internet media policy and the politics of the telecommunication policymaking process. He has provided expertise on electronic media regulation and Federal Communications Commission policymaking to international, national, regional and local news media. In 2009 Dr. Blevins served as a federal grant reviewer for the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program administered by the National Telecommunication and Information Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce. He is a frequent opinion-editorial columnist for major news outlets, including USA Today, The Cincinnati Enquirer, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and other venues.

Alfred Cotton, Assistant Professor of Journalism (Ph.D., University of Kentucky, Communication)

Dr. Cotton is an Assistant Professor in the Journalism Department. A critical media scholar, his research focuses broadly on ethics in mass communication both through practice and theory. He has published and presented research exploring race and representation in news media, media framing, and organizational crisis communication. He has taught courses on diversity in the media, journalism and media ethics, media literacy, social media, popular culture, and interpersonal communication.

Sean Hughes, Professor—Educator, Department of Journalism (M.A., Ball State University, Journalism)

Professor Hughes has over 25 years of professional documentary, photojournalism and design experience. He is currently a full-time Associate Professor, Educator of Photojournalism and Media Design in the Department of Journalism at the University of Cincinnati, as well as a working documentary director, videographer, photojournalist, and publication art director for Everything Sondheim. Prior to that, Hughes was the Art Director for both CityBeat newspaper and The Sondheim Review national magazine. While at CityBeat he won over 20 local, state and national awards for photography, web and graphic design from Ohio and Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists, Cleveland Press Club, Association of Alternative Newspapers (AAN) and AWN, including two-time Ohio SPJ's Designer of the Year (2004 and 2006).

*Professor Hughes' photojournalism and documentary work runs the gamut: from NCAA basketball finals to extensive documentary studies in Cuba and India; coverage of medical teams in Oaxaca, Mexico; an official photographer for the Bunbury Music Festival; and numerous magazine features. He also served as the director of photography for the first-ever U.S.-held World Choir Games in 2012. Hughes was also one of six photographers chosen state-wide to create a "re-photographic" survey of Ohio sites documented as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s, through the Farm Security Administration (FSA). The project was organized by the Ohio Humanities Council with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The photo survey is now a touring exhibit, with a featured exhibit as part of the FotoFocus Biennial in 2012: Images of the Great Depression: A Documentary Portrait of Ohio 1935-2010. Recently, Professor Hughes' cinematography, editing and co-directing role in the award-winning documentary *The Intimate Realities of Water* led to ten film festival awards including Best Documentary and Best Overall Film awards at the Los Angeles International Film Festival.*

Bob Jonason, Associate Professor—Educator, Department of Journalism (B.S. Ball State University, Journalism and Business)

Professor Jonason teaches convergent media classes, including the News Collaborative, a journalism capstone class that produces multimedia stories in partnership with local news outlets. Stories by Jonason's students have been honored by the Associated Collegiate Press, the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Society of Professional Journalists. Student-produced videos have been recognized with Emmy Awards. A 2017 recipient of a [Scripps Howard Journalism Entrepreneurship Institute fellowship](#), he teaches a class on media entrepreneurship. In addition, he is the department's internship director, the business manager of [The News Record](#), and adviser to UC's student chapter of the [Online News Association](#).

Professor Jonason's background includes more than three decades of experience in professional journalism. For a decade he was a leader in digital media at [The Indianapolis Star](#). He directed The Indianapolis Star's Online Services department, leading all digital media operations and initiatives and serving on the company's executive committee. During this time The Star achieved tremendous growth in digital traffic and revenue and won various national awards for its digital efforts, including a [national award for community service](#). For six consecutive years The Star's website [IndyStar.com](#), was named Indiana's top news site by the [Hoosier State Press Association](#). Jonason also was an editor for 12 years at Philadelphia Newspapers, first in the newsroom of [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) and then as a founding editor of [Philly.com](#). Early in his career he was a reporter and editor on [The \(Fort Wayne\) News-Sentinel](#) staff that was honored with a [Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting](#).

Professor Jonason has taught journalism classes as an adjunct professor at Indiana University and as an instructor at Ball State University. He is a member of the Online News Association, [College Media Business and Advertising Managers](#) and the [Associated Collegiate Press](#).

