

TERM: Fall 2026

COURSE CATEGORY: ENGL 36XX: Race, Intersectionality, and Power

COURSE NUMBER & TITLE: ENGL 3603/JOUR 4300 Race and Ethnicity in Journalism

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR 1:45-3:25 pm

INSTRUCTOR: JULIA LEE

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

This course encourages students to understand media production as an act of social justice that crosses disciplinary boundaries of journalism, creative writing, literary studies, history, and rhetoric. We analyze how American journalism as a professional practice and news media viewership as cultural consumption can function to produce or reiterate ideas about race and ethnicity. Students will learn the role journalism has played in both perpetuating and challenging racist ideologies alongside contemporary issues of race and representation in newsrooms

Topics covered in the class include: the trajectories of independent newspapers geared toward Black, Chicana/o, Asian, Indigenous, and other ethnic communities in the U.S.; how ideologies of race flow through and from health reporting, audio storytelling, and visual journalism, among other formats of news media; the role of news media in civil rights and racial justice movements; and efforts to confront racism in the American newsroom from the 1990s to 2026.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will understand media histories through the perspectives of communities ignored or misrepresented by mainstream media.
- Students will recognize journalism's power to both promote racist ideology and expose racial injustice.
- Students will be able to analyze the journalist's ethical responsibility when covering communities of color.

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Junior/Senior Only

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

Reading and Writing Genres

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

- DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (LD)
- HISTORY OF LIT, MEDIA, AND CULTURE (LD)
- READING AND WRITING GENRES (LD)
- THEORY, POWER, AND RHETORIC (LD)
- PRE-1800 (UD)
- CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)
- RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POWER (UD)
- UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVE (UD)
- 5000-LEVEL SEMINAR (UD)

CORE ATTRIBUTES:

N/A