COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to look beyond the stereotypes and examine broadcast news and find out how and why decisions are made in the newsroom, what television news does particularly well or particularly poorly (and why), and why news consumers should or should not believe what they see on television news. Particular emphasis will be placed on current major local, national and international news stories. Students are required to watch television news as well as follow news stories in print and online and be prepared to discuss news stories in class.

COURSE GOALS
• Improve critical thinking by developing evaluative, problem-solving, and expressive skills.
• Enhance group communication skills through discussions, small-group work, presentations or debates.
• Develop intellectual curiosity and better understand the role of a student in an academic community.
• Develop an awareness and appreciation of current local, national and international news.
• Understand the strengths and weaknesses of broadcast news.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. **Class Attendance & Participation:** *Attendance is mandatory.* Since the class only meets seven times, any unexcused absence will result in a half-grade penalty (an A to an A- for example). Only absences with documentation (a doctors note, for example) will be considered excused absences.
2. **HDV Program Attendance Requirement:** HDV Students are required to attend at least one (1) **HDV Academic Event** and one (1) **HDV Social Event** during the Spring Semester. Reminders about upcoming events will be sent via email and posted on the
HDV Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/hdvcares Students can also check the HDV website for event updates and information: http://ucolleges.stonybrook.edu/hdv. HDV Students are also required to attend the Spring Commons Day Event being held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 and The HDV End of Year Celebration on Thursday, May 1, 2014.

** University Scholar students and Athletes are strongly encouraged to attend HDV programs, but are not required. Scholars have their own event requirement, which includes at least one Scholar (for-credit) event and one HDV (for-credit) event per semester, or two Scholars (for-credit) events.**

3. **Required Viewing:** Students must watch at least three television news programs (either local, national or international) each week.

4. **Assignments:** For each class, students must come prepared to discuss a news story that they have watched on a television newscast. They must understand enough about the story and the specific newsworthy issues to be able to present the story to the class and be able to answer questions from other students.

5. **Spring Commons Day**- All students in a Freshman 102 Seminar are required to attend a Spring Commons Day Event on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. For more information about this day visit: http://ucolleges.stonybrook.edu/spring-commons-day

6. **Computer use:** Students are expected to regularly check Blackboard and their e-mail account for information and correspondence with the instructor and Undergraduate Colleges.

**EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES**
Each Freshman 102 Seminar is a 1-credit course. Students may receive a grade between A-C or a U (Unsatisfactory). Grades will be based on:
Class Participation 45%
Weekly News Story Assignment Preparation 45%
Written Assignment 10%

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including
categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**
If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

**CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT**
Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

**COURSE EVALUATIONS**
Stony Brook University values student feedback in maintaining the high quality education it provides and is committed to the course evaluation process, which includes a mid-semester assessment as well as an end-of-the-semester assessment, giving students a chance to provide information and feedback to an instructor which allows for development and improvement of courses. Please click the following link to access the course evaluation system: [http://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/courseeval/](http://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/courseeval/)

**HDV 102: UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE SEMINAR**
**7-WEEK SCHEDULE**
**SPRING 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>Class introduction. What is television news? What does it do well, what does it do poorly?</td>
<td>Weekly News Story Agenda Setting Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>The Business Side of News</td>
<td>Present Paper on Agenda Setting Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly News Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Local News</td>
<td>Weekly News Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>National News</td>
<td>Weekly News Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/24</td>
<td>The Editorial Meeting.</td>
<td>Weekly News Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>International news</td>
<td>Weekly News Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Paper Assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>Comedy and Satire News</td>
<td>Weekly News Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Paper Presentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>