# JOR 320: Public Affairs Reporting
## Course Goals

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<th>What It Means</th>
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<td>Be prepared to report on local government and understand the democratic process at the local level and the media's role in that process</td>
<td>Be able to explain how a journalist as democracy’s watchdog gathers information from this government entity.</td>
<td>Textbook and Sakai, internet and newspaper readings, class discussions, and covering meetings of government bodies.</td>
<td>Weekly student stories based on covering the government bodies; class discussions, tests on text readings.</td>
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<td>Be able to conduct a professional interview</td>
<td>Research the subject, prepare questions, understand how to elicit information, take accurate notes.</td>
<td>Mock interviewing in class; textbook readings, Sakai messages from instructor, and professional journalists as guest speakers</td>
<td>Live interviews with subjects and written stories. Individual meetings between student and professor.</td>
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<td>Be able to use basic public records (municipal, police, court)</td>
<td>Understand where to find necessary local documents and to be used in your story and interpret the information</td>
<td>Internet searches, professional journalists as guest speakers, textbook, class discussions and on-site examination of records</td>
<td>Individual meetings between student and professor; quizzes, and written stories</td>
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<td>Be familiar with news story forms beyond the inverted pyramid</td>
<td>Understand there’s more than one story format and be able to articulate them through writing assignments</td>
<td>Textbook readings, class discussions, lectures, and writing assignments</td>
<td>Graded stories and quizzes</td>
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<td>Be developing your own philosophical and ethical standards of performance</td>
<td>Understanding ethics and rules as they reply to day-to-day news reporting</td>
<td>Class discussions, journalists as guest speakers, textbook readings</td>
<td>Written stories and discussion of ethical issues, tests on readings.</td>
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