



September 29, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

We write to enthusiastically submit our application to start a student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, located twenty miles from the vibrant New York City news media market.

We believe that an SPJ chapter would strengthen the growing journalism culture on our campus. Our journalism program is housed in William Paterson's Communication Department, which has an enrollment of approximately 1,000 students who sustain two campus newspapers, a student-run television network, and the 2017 Best College Radio Station as voted by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System. The members of our prospective SPJ chapter are interested in a range of news media, from newspapers and magazines to broadcast and social media, while our faculty include two full-time journalism professors who have reported for premiere newspapers such as the *Chicago Tribune*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Our prospective faculty adviser, Dr. Nicholas Hirshon, who holds a lifetime membership with SPJ, reported for six years for the *New York Daily News* and served several years ago as the assistant treasurer on the board of SPJ's New York City chapter, the Deadline Club. Dr. Hirshon was recently voted onto the board of the New Jersey SPJ chapter. Meanwhile, our department chairperson, Dr. Rob Quicke, has been extremely supportive of our prospective chapter, paying for SPJ memberships for our eleven founding members and helping coordinate our events.

As a chapter, we would like to help William Paterson students take advantage of their proximity to New York City by networking with media professionals who can help them land internships and jobs. To that end, we have already begun to promote our efforts to start a student chapter through a guest speaker series that will bring journalists to our campus for discussions to air on our student-produced television network. Our first speaker, former *New York Daily News* and *Newsday* reporter Sarah Armaghan, visited on September 6. We will host veteran *amNewYork* reporter Lisa L. Colangelo on October 4 and tabloid photographer Anthony DelMundo on November 1, and we have lined up potential speakers for the spring that include professionals at *Business Insider*, CBS New York, and the *Journal News*. On September 16, we were proud to host the monthly meeting of SPJ's New Jersey chapter on our campus. Four of our founding student members attended as did Dr. Hirshon and Dr. Quicke.

In addition to continuing the speaker series, we are planning activities such as regular screenings of movies with journalism themes and a trip to the press box at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, during a National Hockey League game. In the long term, we would like to reach out to our community by hosting a journalism workshop for area high school students and volunteering at charities such as the Wayne Food Pantry. Already, we have started a Twitter account (@WPSPJ) to promote our initiatives.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions through Dr. Hirshon at (646) 288-6803 or hirshonn@wpunj.edu.

Thank you for considering our application, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Maynor Castillo
Jacqueline Corton
Sara Douglass
Alexander Evans
John Fiorino
Gabriel Jorge
Jack Loennecker
Caroline Pierce
Daniel Popoloski
Christina Torres
Maria Zuniga
Founding Members

Nicholas Hirshon, Ph.D.
Prospective Faculty Adviser
Hobart Hall 112
William Paterson University
Wayne, NJ 07470

Faculty Adviser Biography

A former New York City journalist, Nicholas Hirshon is an assistant professor of communication at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, about twenty miles west of New York City. He holds a Bachelor's in journalism from St. John's University (2006), a Master's in journalism from Columbia University (2008), and a Ph.D. in mass communication from Ohio University (2016).

Hirshon was previously a reporter from 2005 to 2011 at the *New York Daily News*, where he amassed more than 1,000 bylines covering a mixture of breaking and community news. He also wrote three series that sparked efforts to save historic sites such as the former home of baseball player Jackie Robinson and the longest continuously operated movie theater in the United States. In 2010, Hirshon received an award from a prominent historic preservation group, the Historic Districts Council, for his coverage of forgotten sites in the borough of Queens. He has also freelanced for the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Hockey News*.

Hirshon has written two books, *Images of America: Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum* (2010), on the Long Island arena known for hosting the NHL's New York Islanders, and *Images of America: Forest Hills* (2013), about the New York City neighborhood that hosted the U.S. Open tennis tournament for six decades. He has been interviewed about his books by the CBS television affiliate in New York City and the radio station that airs Islanders games.

Hirshon has published in peer-reviewed journals such as *American Journalism*, *Case Studies in Sport Management*, *International Journal of Sport Communication*, and *Journalism History*. His research has also been recognized with awards and honors at several academic conferences. In 2015, his paper on the groundbreaking association between New York City Mayor John Lindsay and the 1969 New York Mets received the Outstanding Student Paper Award from the American Journalism Historians Association.

Before joining the faculty at William Paterson, Hirshon taught journalism at Ohio University (2013-2016), St. John's University (2010-2013), and LaGuardia Community College in the City University of New York (2009-2013). Hirshon has received several major awards for his teaching, including an AEJMC Promising Professors Award in 2014. In 2015, his Ohio University students nominated him for a Graduate Associate Outstanding Teaching Award, and he became the first journalism instructor to win the award in eight years. He is currently the faculty adviser for a group of students hoping to form the William Paterson chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.



COMMUNICATION
DEPARTMENT



MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
FALL 2015

JOURNALISM/PUBLIC RELATIONS MAJOR

REQUIREMENTS

(18 CREDITS)

- COMM 1200 Media and Society
COMM 2100 Media Writing **PREREQ ENG 1100 (WI)**
COMM 2220 Media Law and Ethics
COMM 2260 Video Production and Editing **(TI)**
(C) for PR only, COMM 3580 Digital and Social Media Communication
PREREQ COMM 2100 (TI)
COMM 2490 Research Methods and Applied Communication
COMM 2500 Journalism **PREREQ COMM 2100 (WI)**

A. JOURNALISM TRACK REQUIREMENTS

(9 CREDITS)

- COMM 3510 Advanced Reporting **PREREQ COMM 2500**
COMM 4540 News Editing **PREREQ COMM 2500**
COMM 4590 Journalism Field Studies **PREREQ COMM 2500 & PERMIT**

JOURNALISM TRACK ELECTIVES

(6 CREDITS)—CHOOSE TWO FROM THE LIST BELOW)

- COMM 2230 Press and the Presidency
COMM 2240 International Media
COMM 2550 Publication Design **PREREQ COMM 2100**
COMM 2880 News Literacy **(A2)**
COMM 330/ 3301 Communication Internship **PERMIT**
COMM 3480 Public Relations **PREREQ COMM 2100 (WI)**
COMM 3490 Radio News **PREREQ COMM 2100**
COMM 3540 Sports Writing **PREREQ COMM 3520**
COMM 3570 Broadcast Sports News **PREREQ COMM 3500**
COMM 4510 Freelance Writing **PREREQ COMM 2500**
COMM 4550 Electronic News Gathering **PREREQ COMM 2260 & COMM 3500**
COMM 4660 Corporate Social Responsibility **PREREQ COMM 3480 (A5)**
POL 1200 American Government & Politics
POL 2400 International Relations
POL 2750 Politics and the Media
MGT 2020 Introduction to Business
LAW 1200 Introduction to Law & Legal Systems

* And other courses by advisement.

Journalism Track TOTAL CREDITS: 39

REQUIRED COURSES (6 CREDITS)

-COMM 1190 Survey of Communication Studies & Practices

(Note: COMM 1190 should be the first course taken in the major.)

-COMM 445x Capstone (must be taken in declared major area)

- 4450 Communication Studies **(WI)**
4451 Broadcast Journalism
4452 Journalism
4453 Public Relations
4454 Media Studies
4455 Media Production
4456 Theatre & Comedy

B. BROADCAST JOURNALISM TRACK REQUIREMENTS

(12 CREDITS)

- COMM 2270 TV Production (11)
(or COMM 3210 Announcing **PREREQ COMM 2100**)
COMM 3500 TV News **PREREQ COMM 2100**
COMM 3550 Broadcast News Production **PREREQ COMM 3500**
COMM 4520 Advanced Broadcast Journalism **PREREQ COMM 2260 &**
COMM 3500 (or COMM 4550 Electronic News Gathering **PRE-REQ COMM 2260 & COMM 3500**)

BROADCAST JOURNALISM TRACK ELECTIVES

(3 CREDITS—CHOOSE ONE FROM THE LIST BELOW)

- COMM 2630 Public Speaking (A2)
COMM 2880 News Literacy (A2)
COMM 3240 Writing for Radio and TV **PREREQ COMM 2100**
COMM 3300/3301 Communication Internship **PERMIT**
COMM 3490 Radio News **PREREQ COMM 2100 & COMM 2250**
COMM 3570 Broadcast Sports News **PREREQ COMM 3500**
POL 2240 Political Parties
POL 2400 International Relations
POL 2750 Politics and the Media

* And other courses by advisement.

Broadcast Journalism Track TOTAL CREDITS: 39

C. PUBLIC RELATIONS TRACK REQUIREMENTS

(9 CREDITS)

- COMM 3480 Introduction to Public Relations **PREREQ COMM 2100** (WI)
COMM 4480 Public Relations Case Studies **PREREQ COMM 3480**
COMM 4490 Public Relations Workshop **PREREQ COMM 3480** (WI)

PUBLIC RELATIONS TRACK ELECTIVES

(6 CREDITS—CHOOSE TWO FROM THE LIST BELOW)

- COMM 2550 Publication Design **PREREQ COMM 2100**
COMM 2640 Voice and Speech Production
COMM 2880 News Literacy (A2)
COMM 3300/3301 Communication Internship **PERMIT**
COMM 3540 Sports Writing **PREREQ COMM 2500**
COMM 3580 Digital & Social Media Communication (11) **PREREQ COMM 2100**
COMM 3610 Successful Business & Professional Communication
COMM 4470 Strategic Writing **PREREQ COMM 2500** (WI/11)
COMM 4510 Freelance Writing **PREREQ COMM 2500**
COMM 4540 News Editing **PREREQ COMM 2500**
COMM 4590 Journalism Field Studies **PREREQ COMM 2500 & PERMIT**
COMM 4660 Corporate Social Responsibility **PREREQ COMM 3480** (A5)
MGT 2000 Principles of Management
MKT 2100 Principles of Marketing
POL 2400 International Relations

* And other courses by advisement.

Public Relations Track TOTAL CREDITS: 39

THEATRE & COMEDY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

(18 CREDITS)

Directed elective: Theatre & Comedy students must take COMM 1010 Experiencing Theatre as part of their UCC program. (A2)

COMM 1020 Acting 1

COMM 1150 Production Lab (1 Credit)

COMM 1170 Performance Lab (1 Credit) **PERMIT**

(COMM 1150 and COMM 1170 must be taken for a total of three credits in one of the following ways: COMM 1150 twice and COMM 1170 once, or COMM 1150 once and COMM 1170 twice.)

COMM 2740 Acting for the Camera **PREREQ COMM 1020**

COMM 2760 Sketch Comedy Writing and Performance

COMM 2830 Playscripts **PREREQ COMM 1010**

COMM 3770 Directing for Stage and Media **PREREQ COMM 1020**

THEATRE & COMEDY TRACK REQUIRED ELECTIVES

(15 CREDITS—CHOOSE FIVE FROM THE LIST BELOW)

COMM 2600 Oral Interpretation

COMM 2640 Voice and Speech Production

COMM 2700 Acting II **PREREQ COMM 1020**

COMM 2720 Acting III **PREREQ COMM 2700**

COMM 2730 Fundamentals of Comedy: Stand-up I

COMM 2780 Comedy: Improvisation in Performance

COMM 3720 Comedy Writing, Producing and Performing for Late Night TV

COMM 3730 Comedy Writing and Performing: Stand-up II **PREREQ COMM 2730**

COMM 3760 Comedy Writing for Prime Time TV: Situation Comedy

COMM 2170 Scenery Construction and Design

COMM 2800 Technical Theatre Workshop

COMM 2900 Technical Theatre Workshop II **PREREQ COMM 2800**

COMM 3300/3301 Communication Internship **PERMIT**

COMM 2850 Musical Theatre

COMM 3840 Golden Ages of Theatre

COMM 3880 American Theatre and Drama **PREREQ COMM 1010**

COMM 3890 Drama for Children

COMM 4560 Playwriting **PREREQ ENG 1100**

ENG 2140 Contemporary Drama **PREREQ ENG 1500**

AWS 2130 African, African American and Caribbean Theatre

* And other courses by advisement.

Theatre & Comedy Track TOTAL CREDITS: 39

COMMUNICATION STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

(18 CREDITS)

COMM 1210 Communication Theory: Building Competence

COMM 2440 Research Foundations **PREREQ COMM 1210**

COMM 2650 Foundations of Language

COMM 3400 Intercultural Communication (A6)

COMM 3600 Interpersonal Communication

COMM 4630 Seminar in Group and Team Development (11)

COMMUNICATION STUDIES TRACK REQUIRED ELECTIVES

(15 CREDITS—CHOOSE FIVE FROM THE LIST BELOW)

COMM 2310 Organizational Communication (W1)

COMM 2600 Oral Interpretation

(or COMM 2640 Voice and Speech Production)

COMM 2620 Communicating Food (A4)

COMM 2630 Public Speaking (A2)

COMM 3300/3301 Communication Internship **PERMIT**

COMM 3410 Asian and American Cross-Cultural Communication (A6)

COMM 3610 Successful Business and Professional Communication

COMM 3650 Persuasion and Social Change **PREREQ COMM 3600**

COMM 4200 Nonverbal Communication **PREREQ COMM 3600**

COMM 4430 Seminar in Communication Studies

COMM 4640 Technology and Society (11)

COMM 4650 Managing Interpersonal Conflict **PREREQ COMM 3600**

* And other courses by advisement.

Communication Studies Track

TOTAL CREDITS: 39

MEDIA STUDIES AND MEDIA PRODUCTION MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

(9 CREDITS)

- COMM 2100 Media Writing **PREREQ ENG 1100 (WI)**
- COMM 2200 Radio & Television Industries
- COMM 2340 Film as a Medium

A. MEDIA STUDIES TRACK REQUIREMENTS

(15 CREDITS)

COMM 1200 Media and Society (Must be taken before COMM 2200 by Media Studies majors)

And choose four (4) of the following:

- COMM 2220 Media Law and Ethics
- COMM 2240 International Media
- COMM 2490 Research Methods in Applied Communication
- COMM 3200 Media Criticism **PREREQ COMM 2100**
- COMM 3280 Media History

MEDIA STUDIES TRACK ELECTIVES

(9 CREDITS) — CHOOSE THREE FROM THE LIST BELOW)

- COMM 2230 The Press & the Presidency
- COMM 2350 Film as Cross-Cultural Communication (A6)
- COMM 2390 Filmmaking I **PREREQ COMM 2340 (TI)**
- COMM 2500 Journalism **PREREQ COMM 2100 (WI)**
- COMM 3200 Media Criticism **PREREQ COMM 2100**
- COMM 3300/3301 Communication Internship **PERMIT**
- COMM 3310 Filmmaking II **PREREQ COMM 2390**
- COMM 3320 Filmmaking III **PREREQ COMM 3310**
- COMM 3230 Film Aesthetics and Criticism
- COMM 3340 Documentary & Non-Fiction Film **PREREQ COMM 2340**
- COMM 3380 Media in Asia
- COMM 3480 Intro to Public Relations **PREREQ COMM 2100**
- COMM 4210 Broadcast Management **PREREQ COMM 2200**
- COMM 4230 Aesthetics and Criticism
- COMM 4310 Screenwriting **PREREQ COMM 2340 (WI)**
- COMM 4330 Film and Genre: National and International
- COMM 4340 Current Cinema **PREREQ COMM 2340**
- COMM 4350 Italian and Italian-American Cinema

* And other courses by advisement.

Media Studies Track TOTAL CREDITS: 39

B. MEDIA PRODUCTION TRACK REQUIREMENTS

(9 CREDITS)

- COMM 2250 Audio and Radio Production
- COMM 2270 TV Studio Production (TI)
- COMM 2390 Filmmaking I **PREREQ COMM 2340 (TI)**

MEDIA PRODUCTION TRACK REQUIRED ELECTIVES

(9 CREDITS) — CHOOSE THREE FROM THE LIST BELOW)

- COMM 2260 Video Production and Editing (TI)
- COMM 3260 Advanced TV Production **PREREQ COMM 2260 & 2270**
- COMM 3310 Filmmaking II **PREREQ COMM 2390**
- COMM 3320 Filmmaking III **PREREQ COMM 3310**
- COMM 3530 Advanced Audio Production **PREREQ COMM 2250**
- COMM 4240 Radio Production Workshop **PREREQ COMM 2250**
- COMM 4250 Television Workshop **PREREQ COMM 2260 & 2270**

MEDIA PRODUCTION TRACK REQUIRED ELECTIVES

(6 CREDITS) — CHOOSE TWO FROM THE LIST BELOW)

- COMM 2220 Media Law and Ethics
- COMM 2290 News Production Crew Practicum **PREREQ COMM 2270 (1cr)**
- COMM 2330 Sound as a Medium
- COMM 2350 Film as Cross-cultural Communication (A6)
- COMM 2360 Film and Civic Engagement (A5)
- COMM 2490 Research Methods in Applied Communication
- COMM 3200 Media Criticism **PREREQ COMM 2100**
- COMM 3330 Applied Techniques **PREREQ COMM 3310**
- COMM 3340 Documentary and Non-Fiction Film **PREREQ COMM 2340**
- COMM 3490 Radio News **PREREQ COMM 2100 & COMM 2250**
- COMM 4310 Screenwriting **PREREQ COMM 2340 (WI)**
- COMM 4340 Current Cinema **PREREQ COMM 2340**