HNRS 2920 Workshop Proposal

Making Sense of the News: Reading and Discussing the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*

Workshop Outline

**Introduction:** This workshop provides an opportunity for students to gather and discuss the news as covered in two different news sources: the *New York Times*, currently available to all members of the WSU community via a digital subscription (15 paper copies are delivered daily to the Honors Center during the week); and the *Wall Street Journal*, 10 copies of which will be delivered to the Honors Center beginning January 7, 2019 (possibly earlier).

The workshop is envisioned as a magnet for any and all interested persons, including faculty and staff, to engage in conversations about the major events of the day--and potentially to examine the issue (or non-issue) of media bias.

**Meeting time:** The workshop will meet weekly for 75 minutes.

**Workshop activities:** Each weekly meeting will involve workshop participants gathering in the Honors Center (LI 324), and taking the first half hour or so to read the newspapers (or read the pixels, at least). The remainder of the time will be spent discussing the articles that workshop participants have read. The precise content of any given meeting is therefore impossible to plan in advance, but will depend on the contents of the newspapers that day (and, likely, in preceding days between class meetings). However, comparison of which topics the two newspapers choose to cover, the priority given to different news stories by the two newspapers, and how the coverage of the same story differs between the two newspapers, will be one common element of each meeting.

The workshop is intended to catalyze discussions, beyond just the workshop participants, of major news events, and how the news media covers them. These discussions may occur at the workshop itself (non-participants, such as interested faculty, are welcome to attend the discussions), and/or in other campus settings as student participants take the content of the discussions with them into other settings (e.g. classes, social interactions).

**Assignments:** the workshop will be offered as credit/no credit only, and there will be no assignments outside of participation in the weekly discussions. Participation will be limited to 10 students, allowing the instructor to monitor quality of participation.