

COURSE OUTLINE

Journalism 210

Advanced News Writing

I. Catalog Statement

Journalism 210 emphasizes public affairs reporting. Students will cover public meetings both on and off campus, including trials, school board meetings, and city council meetings. They will also contribute to the college newspaper, *El Vaquero*. The emphasis is on print journalism, but students will also be exposed to broadcasting, the Internet, and podcasting. Emphasis will be given to journalistic law and ethics.

Units - 3.0

Lecture Hours - 3.0

Total Laboratory/Studio Hours - 1 hour

Prerequisite: Journalism 102 or equivalent.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 6; Speaking/Listening 6; Math 2

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student will be able to:

1. develop the critical faculties necessary to distinguish fact from opinion in order to write objective and balanced analysis;
2. gather diverse, often conflicting and complex information, for synthesis into news articles;
3. write journalistic opinion articles, a format in which the author critiques a specific situation;
4. learn strategies for non-sexist and non-racist writing.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate competency in covering public affairs news stories;
2. demonstrate sophisticated proficiency in library and Internet research;
3. focus on ethical issues in varied journalistic situations;
4. write a variety of news stories with facility and adherence to Associated Press style.

IV. **Course Content**

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|----|---|---------|
| A. | Generating Story Ideas | 3 hours |
| 1. | Ways of finding ideas | |
| 2. | Developing Beats | |
| 3. | Reading widely, including the Internet | |
| B. | Improving Interviewing Skills | 3 hours |
| 1. | Role playing in class | |
| 2. | Looking at interviewing techniques of the pro's (videos) | |
| C. | Writing Strong Leads | 3 hours |
| 1. | Improving lead writing through in-class exercises | |
| 2. | Discussing Leads that work well | |
| 3. | Determining the best Lead for a story | |
| D. | The Library and Internet as Tools for Reporters | 6 hours |
| 1. | Learning how reporters use the resources | |
| 2. | Using the Internet to search government documents | |
| 3. | Using the Internet to conduct interviews | |
| E. | Police and Court Reporting | 6 hours |
| 1. | Developing Beats | |
| 2. | Developing sources | |
| 3. | Determining what to report | |
| 4. | Ethical issues in reporting | |
| F. | Local Government Reporting | 9 hours |
| 1. | Developing Beats | |
| 2. | Developing sources | |
| 3. | Determining what to report | |
| 4. | Ethical issues in reporting | |
| G. | Reporting and Writing Broadcast News and Online Journalism | 3 hours |
| 1. | Writing for different media | |
| 2. | Working with 24-hour news cycles | |
| 3. | Ethics | |
| H. | Public Relations | 3 hours |
| 1. | How public relations writers and journalists interact | |
| 2. | How journalists use public relations writers and how public relations writers use journalists | |

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| I. | Feature Writing | 6 hours |
| 1. | Covering human interest stories | |
| 2. | The difference between newspaper and magazine writing | |
| 3. | Profiles | |
| 4. | Ethical issues | |
| J. | Statistical Journalism | 6 hours |
| 1. | Using numbers in news stories | |
| 2. | Interpreting quantitative data | |
| 3. | Finding reliable sources for quantitative data | |
| K. | Laboratory | 16 hours |

V. **Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture;
2. discussion;
3. group learning;
4. video presentations.

VI. **Methods of Assessment**

The Instructor will assess student performance through objective and subjective written performance including:

1. Writing assignments
2. Six articles for publication in *El Vaquero*.
3. Midterm exam.
4. Final exam.

VII. **Textbooks**

Scanlan, C. Reporting and Writing: Basics for the 21st Century.

Oxford University Press, 2005

12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0195155238

Goldstein, Ed. Associated Press Style Book.

Perseus Publishing, 2007

12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0915035626

VIII. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate competency in covering public affairs news stories;
2. demonstrate sophisticated proficiency in library and Internet research;
3. focus on ethical issues in varied journalistic situations;
4. write a variety of news stories with facility and adherence to Associated Press style.