

COURSE OUTLINE

Revision: Betsy Berger, August 2009

DEPARTMENT:	Academic Programs
CURRICULUM:	Humanities/Journalism
COURSE TITLE:	News Writing
COURSE NUMBER:	JRN 101
TYPE OF COURSE:	Academic Transfer
Special Requirement Met:	None
AREA(S) OF KNOWLEDGE:	Language and Speech
COURSE LENGTH:	1 quarter
CREDIT HOURS:	5
LECTURE HOURS:	55
LAB HOURS:	0
CLASS SIZE:	25
PREREQUISITES:	ENG 101 or current enrollment in ENG 101 or permission of the instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to methods of story structuring and information gathering. Practice in the basic skills of news writing.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED:

1. Communication – Read and listen actively to learn and communicate. Speak and write effectively for personal, academic and career purposes.
2. Human Relations – Use social interactive skills to work in groups effectively. Recognize the diversity of cultural influences and values.

3. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving – Think critically in evaluating information, solving problems and making decisions.
4. Technology – Select and use appropriate technological tools for personal, academic and career tasks.
5. Personal Responsibility – Be motivated and able to continue learning and adapt to change. Value one's own skills, abilities, ideas and art. Take pride in one's work. Manage personal health and safety. Be aware of civic and environmental issues.
6. Information Literacy – Access and evaluate information from a variety of sources and contexts, including technology. Use information to achieve personal, academic, and career goals, as well as to participate in a democratic society.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the completion of this course, the student will:

1. Write standard news stories in the descending mode, including press release rewrites, police reports, stories from documents, court reports, and using information researched from the Internet—with appropriate paragraph transitions, headlines, sub-headlines, pull quotes, photo captions, and lead/introduction styles;
2. Identify various types of news stories including the straight news story, interview (question and answer), oral history, press conference coverage, feature stories, reviews, columns, opposite editorial, ad writing, polling and survey writing, photo essays, analysis or interpretive article writing, and others;
3. Apply the Associated Press Style Book in their writing;
4. Analyze information received and re-configure that into a publishable news story;
5. Deal with missing facts, libelous information, unconfirmed date, rumor vs. fact, and correcting gaps in information, and differentiate between objective and subjective approaches in mass media writing;
6. Practice information-gathering through live sources (interviews), events, films, restaurants (reviews), plays, first-hand objective observation, Internet research, press releases, phone calls, surveys, other newspapers (secondary sources), and others;
7. Know a brief history of American journalism (overview) and its traditions;
8. Know, uphold and practice the principles and ethics of mass media/news coverage;
9. Show a multicultural sensitivity and fairness in news coverage;
10. Brainstorm news story ideas; use computers for the composing/writing and editing of news stories; consider the graphics (photos, drawings, clip art, or others) for stories; deal with the campus community in covering it (on a beat

or story-by-story); work with editors on their own writing, and see a story through to publication.

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

APPROX. HOURS: 55

1. Topics to be examined in lecture and handouts (and out-of-class readings) including the following: 17 hours
 - a. What is Journalistic or (print) mass media writing? (an overview)
 - b. What is News: Generating news story ideas
 - c. Glossary of contemporary journalism terminology
 - d. Handling quotes; Citing sources in a news story
 - e. A brief history of U.S. Journalism
 - f. Four theories of the Press: The Authoritarian, Libertarian, Social Responsibility and Soviet-Totalitarian models
 - g. Press law: Libel issues, copyright, publications release form
 - h. Conducting interviews
 - i. Graphics & layout
 - j. Sections of a newspaper
 - k. Writing reviews
 - l. Becoming a reporter (professional issues)
 - m. Graphics in print mass media
 - n. Understanding and writing headlines
 - o. Print vs other media
 - p. Business and advertising in print journalism
 - q. Ethics and Journalism: A brief overview
 - r. Writing editorials
2. Hands-on writing, story brainstorming, editing & revising, information gathering and reportage 33 hours
3. Critique of newspaper 5 hours

REVISED BY: Betsy Berger
DATE: August 2009

Course Prefix and Number:
Course Title: JRN 101

SLO #	Included in Course Objective Number	SSCC Student Learning Outcomes
SLO 1.1	1	Communication - Read and listen actively
SLO 1.2	1	Communication - Speak and write effectively
SLO 2.1		Computation - Use mathematical operations
SLO 2.2		Computation - Apply quantitative skills
SLO 2.3		Computation - Identify, interpret, and utilize higher level mathematical and cognitive skills
SLO 3.1	2	Human Relations - Use social interactive skills to work in groups effectively
SLO 3.2	2	Human Relations - Recognize the diversity of cultural influences and values
SLO 4.1	3	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving -
SLO 5.1	4	Technology - Select and use appropriate technological tools
SLO 6.1	5	Personal Responsibility - Be motivated and able to continue learning and adapt to change
SLO 6.2	5	Personal Responsibility - Value one's own skills, abilities, ideas and art
SLO 6.3	5	Personal Responsibility - Take pride in one's work
SLO 6.4	5	Personal Responsibility - Manage personal health and safety
SLO 6.5	5	Personal Responsibility - Be aware of civic and environmental issues
SLO 7.1	6	Information Literacy - Access and evaluate information
SLO 7.2	6	Information Literacy - Use information to achieve personal, academic, and career goals, as well as to participate in a democratic society

PREPARED BY: Betsy Berger
DATE: August 19, 2009