

COURSE OUTLINE

Revision: Betsy Berger, May 2008

DEPARTMENT: Academic Programs

CURRICULUM: Humanities/Journalism

COURSE TITLE: News Writing

COURSE NUMBER: JRN 106

TYPE OF COURSE: Academic Transfer
Special Requirement Met: None

AREA(S) OF KNOWLEDGE: None

COURSE LENGTH: 1 quarter

CREDIT HOURS: 3

LECTURE HOURS: 22

LAB HOURS: 11

CLASS SIZE: 25

PREREQUISITES: JRN 104 or instructor permission

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Advanced practicum on the student newspaper, *The Sentinel*, arranged by contract. Focus on skills and responsibilities required of an editorial or management position (editor-in-chief, associate editor, copy editor, business manager, etc.) for the college newspaper.

JRN 106 News Writing
May 2008

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 end of the course the student will:

1. Promote The Sentinel as a well-informed newspaper serving the campus
2. Put into place the office mechanisms to promote open communications, professional business hours, efficiency and productivity among the staff.
3. Understand the role of the various staff members at the newspaper; the Public Information Office (PIO) on campus; off-campus news agencies/providers, and the public
4. Apply basic journalism concepts and practices in the campus newsroom
5. Liaison with other staff and provide support to them on their endeavors and jobs
6. Make suggestions for material improvements of The Sentinel office in terms of high technology, office purchases, etc.
7. Provide a sense of vision and a mission statement for the newspaper, and provide suggestions for methodology in how to achieve those goals and objectives.
8. Brainstorm assign, support and revise/edit stories and support them to press
9. Plan the layout of the newspaper on the whiteboard (e.g. which stories go on which pages?) as well as the sections of the newspaper

JRN 104 News Writing
May 2008

10. Ensure there is back-up information in the filler file, public service announcements in the PSA file, accurately-labeled and up-to-date photos in the photo file, and so on
11. Support the on-line version of *The Sentinel* and the webmaster
12. Conceptualize themes for *The Sentinel* and the webmaster
13. Work with the publishing house to get the paper to press
14. Support distribution
15. Provide ideas on how to streamline the newspaper and increase accuracy, productivity and readership on campus
16. Develop publicity campaigns to raise the enrollment in journalism and the paid student staff
17. Liaison with the community groups (e.g. field trips, scholarships, local newspaper internships, etc) to promote *The Sentinel* and its student staff
18. Work with the staff advisor on the newspaper budget in order to promote growth and future productivity in *The Sentinel*

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

APPROX. HOURS: 22 - 44

I.	Definition of <i>The Sentinel's</i> Role on campus and its readership	2
II.	Office Mechanisms	2
III.	Role of staff members and campus entities	2
IV.	Journalism ethics and practices in the newsroom	2
V.	The Sentinel supplies and purchases	2
VI.	Vision and Mission statements, methodology, setting editorial standards	2
VII.	Editorial support for writers	2
VIII.	Newspaper layout on the White Board and InDesign	2
IX.	Filler file, public service announcements, photo file	2
X.	On-line <i>The Sentinel</i> support and Webmaster work	2
XI.	Newspaper themes, Contests	2
XII.	Publisher liaison work and field trip visit	2
XIII.	On-campus distribution support	2
XIV.	Streamlining the Newspaper operations, publicity campaigns	2
XV.	Working with community groups	2
XVI.	Annual budget work and development with Staff Advisor	3

REVISED BY: Betsy Berger
DATE: May 2008