Degree Applicable | Glendale Community College
June, 2009

COURSE OUTLINE
Journalism 102
Reporting the News

I. Catalog Statement

Journalism 102 is an introductory course in the gathering and writing of news, features, and editorials. Emphasis on clear and concise written expression with laboratory drill in English fundamentals. Study of news sources, acceptable forms for stories, style and method of various media, elementary editing, and law and ethics of communication. Newspapers and other media at the local community level as well as the national metropolitan levels are utilized.

Units – 3.0
Lecture Hours – 3.0
Total Laboratory Hours – 1.0
(Faculty Laboratory Hours 1.0 + Student Laboratory Hours 0.0 = 1.0 Total Laboratory Hours)

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 101

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading: 5; Writing: 6; Speaking/Listening: 6; Math: 1

Prior to enrolling in this course, the student should be able to:
1. write thesis-based essays;
2. analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary ideas.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:
1. demonstrate knowledge of how to gather diverse and complex information for synthesis into news articles;
2. demonstrate an understanding of Associated Press news style, and incorporate that understanding into writing assignments;
3. write balanced and objective news stories;

4. demonstrate critical thinking skills when weighing the credibility of source information;
5. demonstrate knowledge of basic journalism law, particularly libel and privacy.

IV. **Course Content**

A. English fundamentals — 2 hours
   1. As a necessary element of good news writing, continual stress is placed on the following:
      a. Grammar
      b. Spelling
      c. Vocabulary building
      d. Semantics and use of words with precisely accurate intended meanings

B. Getting the news — 6 hours
   1. Sources for stories
   2. Access to news
   3. The right to know
   4. Actual operation of a newspaper beat

C. Elements of news — 6 hours
   1. Definition of “news”
   2. Timeliness, proximity, significance

D. The news story — 8 hours
   1. Usually should include all five “W’s” and the “H”
   2. Lead is the all-important factor in capturing the attention of readers and their continued interest
   3. Basic types of news story leads (rhetorical):
      a. Digest or summary
      b. Quote or statement
      c. Delayed or suspended interest
      d. Stunt, astonisher, or puzzler
   4. Basic types of news story leads (grammatical):
      a. Article lead
      b. Participle lead
      c. Infinitive lead
      d. Prepositional lead
      e. Gerund phrase lead
      f. Noun clause lead
      g. Adverbial clause lead
   5. Must find and play up the feature angle in your lead
   6. Skeletal construction of the story
      a. Inverted pyramid or AP lead construction
      b. Chronological construction
      c. Compromise construction – latest development

followed by the chronological narrative

7. The division of news and opinion is mandatory
   a. News must not editorialize or intrude opinion
   b. Editorial opinion must be labeled as such, or signed

E. The foundation of all reporting – interviewing — 4 hours
   1. Conducting the interview
   2. Taking note
   3. Guides to good interviewing

F. The feature story — 4 hours
   1. Definition and comparisons and contrasts with the straight news story
   2. Possible subjects for feature stories
   3. Mechanics of writing the feature

G. The editorial — 2 hours
   1. Definition and comparisons and contrasts with the straight news story and the feature
   2. As the heart of the newspaper and the expression of the paper's philosophy and attitudes
   3. Written more like an essay than a news story

H. Other types of specialized writing — 6 hours
   1. Sports
   2. Business
   3. Entertainment
   4. Obituaries
   5. The columns
   6. Science, education, labor, religion

I. Mechanics of story form and style — 2 hours
   1. Leave adequate space on first page for copy, head marks
   2. AP style
   3. Other widely used styles

J. Editing and headline writing — 2 hours
   1. Element of copy reading and editing
   2. Elements of headline writing

K. Law of the press
   1. Familiarity with libel, contempt, invasion of privacy, and such other dangers as confront the reporter in covering and writing the news — 2 hours
   2. Constitutional and statutory freedoms and responsibilities of the reporter

L. Ethics of communication — 2 hours
   1. A study of the commonly accepted ethical principles

of communication
2. Realization of the moral and ethical significance of the reporter's job and the integral part in maintaining and preserving the free, democratic society

M. Basic organization of the newspaper and other mass media — 2 hours
1. Community
2. Metropolitan
3. National and international wire services, syndicates, etc.

N. Career opportunities in reporting the news for the mass media — 2hours

V. Methods of Presentation

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:
1. class lecture and discussion;
2. group learning.

VI. Assignments and Methods of Evaluation

1. Student writes at least one article during each week of regular instruction. During the first half of the semester, these articles are strictly classroom exercises, drilling the students in the fundamentals of news writing. Over the latter half of the semester, students are expected to contribute articles to the student newspaper, El Vaquero.
2. A one-hour mid-term examination consisting of multiple choice and essay questions, as well as journalistic article writing.
3. A 2 ½ hour final examination consisting of multiple choice and essay questions, as well as journalistic article writing.

VII. Textbook

Mencher, News Reporting and Writing
New York:McGraw-Hill, 11th edition, 2008
12th Grade Textbook Reading Level — ISBN: 0-07-351193-5

Goldstein, Associated Press Stylebook
New York:Perseus Books Goldstein, 2007
12th Grade Textbook Reading Level — ISBN: 0-4650-0489-X

VIII. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:
1. demonstrate knowledge of how to gather diverse and complex information for synthesis into news articles;

2. demonstrate an understanding of Associated Press news style, and incorporate that understanding into writing assignments;
3. write balanced and objective news stories;
4. demonstrate critical thinking skills when weighing the credibility of source information;
5. demonstrate knowledge of basic journalism law, particularly libel and privacy.