

COURSE OUTLINE

**Journalism 102 (C-ID Number: JOUR 110)
Reporting the News (C-ID Title: Introduction to Reporting and Newswriting)**

I. Catalog Statement

Journalism 102 is an introductory course in the gathering and writing of news, features, and editorials. Students learn to write clearly and concisely via laboratory drills in English fundamentals. Topics of study include: 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.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 16.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 64.0

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 101

II. Course Entry Expectations

Prior to enrolling in this course, the student should be able to:

1. organize and write thesis-based essays;
2. use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements;
3. critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues;
4. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions;
5. gather and organize information through library research;
6. demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work: control of standard English at the sentence level, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of how to gather diverse and complex information for synthesis into balanced and objective news articles in the following ways:

- a. using the Internet where applicable to assist in fact gathering;
- b. effectively incorporating quotes from interviews into news stories;
- c. recognizing the newsworthiness of events;
2. write simple leads and basic news stories that demonstrate an understanding of Associated Press news style;
3. demonstrate critical thinking skills when weighing the credibility of source information by:
 - a. showing an understanding of what makes a source useful, rather than self-serving;
 - b. showing effective use of quotes from sources;
4. demonstrate knowledge of basic journalism law (and specific laws pertaining to public educational institutions), particularly libel and privacy; and
5. demonstrate facility in locating valid factual information on the Web for background to news stories and composing stories using an industry recognized computer editing program.

IV. <u>Course Content</u>	Total Faculty Contact Hours = 64
A. English Fundamentals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grammar 2. Spelling 3. Vocabulary building 4. Semantics and use of words with precisely accurate intended meanings 	Lecture 2 hours
B. Getting the News <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sources for stories 2. Access to news 3. The right to know 4. Actual operation of a newspaper beat 	Lecture 6 hours
C. Elements of News <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Definition of “news” 2. Timeliness, proximity, significance 	Lecture 6 hours
D. The News Story <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five “W’s” and the “H” 2. Constructing a lead 3. Basic types of news story leads (rhetorical) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Article lead b. Participle lead c. Infinitive lead d. Prepositional lead 	Lecture 8 hours Laboratory 4 hours

- e. Gerund phrase lead
- f. Noun clause lead
- g. Adverbial clause lead
5. Skeletal construction of the story
 - a. Inverted pyramid or Associated Press lead construction
 - b. Chronological construction
 - c. Compromise construction – latest development followed by the chronological narrative
6. Differentiating between news reporting and editorials

E.	The Foundation of Reporting – Research	Lecture	4 hours
	1. Interviewing	Laboratory	3 hours
	a. conducting the interview;		
	b. taking notes;		
	c. guides to good interviewing.		
	2. Searching the Internet and library subscription databases		
F.	The Feature Story	Lecture	3 hours
	1. Definition and comparisons and contrasts with the straight news story	Laboratory	3 hours
	2. Possible subjects for feature stories		
	3. Mechanics of writing the feature		
G.	The Editorial	Lecture	2 hours
	1. Definition and comparisons and contrasts with straight news story and the feature	Laboratory	2 hours
	2. Editorials as representative of the papers		
H.	Other Types of Specialized Writing and Additional Writing Platforms	Lecture	3 hours
		Laboratory	2 hours
	1. Sports		
	2. Business		
	3. Entertainment		
	4. Obituaries		
	5. The columns		
	6. Science, education, labor, religion		
	7. Writing for multimedia—different platforms		
I.	Mechanics of Story Form and Style	Lecture	2 hours
	1. Spacing		
	2. AP style		
	3. Other widely used styles		
	4. The inverted pyramid and other methods of story construction.		
J.	Editing and Headline Writing	Lecture	2 hours
	1. Elements of copy reading and editing	Laboratory	2 hours
	2. Elements of headline writing		

- K. Law of the Press
1. Libel, contempt, and invasion of privacy Lecture 2 hours
 2. Constitutional and statutory freedoms and responsibilities of the reporter
- Suggested film:
Absence of Malice (1997)
- L. Ethics of Journalism Lecture 2 hours
1. Ethical principles of journalism
 2. Moral and ethical significance of the reporter's job
- Suggested films:
All the President's Men (1976)
Outfoxed (2004)
- M. Basic Organization of the Newspaper and Other Mass Media Lecture 2 hours
1. Community
 2. Metropolitan
 3. National and international wire services, syndicates, etc.
- Suggested films
Citizen Hearst (2012)
Frontline Reporting (2008)
The Paper (1994)
- N. Career Opportunities in Reporting the News for the Mass Media Lecture 2 hours
- O. Introduction to Search Engine Optimization Lecture 2 hours

V. **Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. class lecture and discussion;
2. online research;
3. group activities such as creating a team feature or multimedia package;
4. guest speakers from local community and mass media outlets;
5. laboratory practice in writing and copyediting skills.

VI. **Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. writing assignments:
 - a. a minimum of 22 news leads
 - b. two 500-word news articles, features or profiles to be submitted to *El Vaquero* for publication
 - c. research and report an opinion

- d. research and report a sports feature
- e. research and report a profile
- f. research and report an obituary;
2. field activities, including interviewing community members;
3. individual projects:
 - a. follow a story throughout the semester
 - b. present “follow-the-story” summaries;
4. group activity:
 - a. team feature
 - b. man-on-the-street team interviews

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. a minimum of 22 news leads and three (300-500 word) articles;
2. quizzes on AP Style practices;
3. instructor and peer critiques of student work;
4. instructor and peer critiques of online forums;
5. small group case study analyses followed by presentation of analyses to the class;
6. class presentations;
7. a midterm examination consisting of multiple choice and essay questions, as well as journalistic article writing;
8. a final examination consisting of multiple choice and essay questions, as well as journalistic article writing.

VIII. Textbooks

Harrower, Tim. *Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism*.
3rd ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2013. Print.
12th Grade Textbook Reading Level ISBN: 978-0-07-352617-1

The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law. New York:
Associated Press, 2013. Print.
12th Grade Textbook Reading Level ISBN: 978-0-917360-57-2

IX. Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate knowledge of how to gather diverse and complex information from credible sources, using quotes effectively, for synthesis into balanced and objective news articles;
2. demonstrate an understanding of Associated Press news style, and incorporate that understanding into writing assignments.