

COM 303 Print News I: Reporting

Credit Hours: 3

In-Class Instructional Hours: 2

Labs: 2

Field Work: 0

Catalog Description:

Prerequisite. SPC 205, COM 210, COM 215

Practice in news writing for print and online publications; theory, form and techniques in writing news; focus on leads and various types of reporting scenarios; experience in writing under deadline pressure.

Reasons for Revision:

(2007) This course, formerly called Writing for News Publications, was last revised in 1997. This revision is part of a general program review, through which Communication seeks to update its courses in light of departmental experience with the previous program version, evolving departmental needs, and expanding scholarship in the field. Additionally, the department is undertaking this revision to position itself for accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Student Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course, students will be able to:	Course Content References:	Assessment:
1. Write news stories according to professional journalistic standards	I, II, IV	1. Exams, applied projects, presentations
2. Use standards of the Associated Press stylebook	I	2. Exams, applied projects, presentations
3. Articulate ethical and legal principles that influence journalistic practice	I, II	3. Exams, applied projects, presentations
4. Demonstrate competence in using various information-gathering techniques for journalistic research	III, VII	4. Exams, applied projects, presentations
5. Analyze the effectiveness of various types of news stories	V	5. Exams, applied projects, presentations
6. Write stories dealing with topics of diversity	VI	6. Exams, applied projects, presentations
7. Demonstrate competence in effectively applying elements of mathematics and geography in news reporting	VII, IX	7. Exams, applied projects, presentations

Course Content:

- I. Reporting and Writing
 - A. Multiple sources
 - B. Leads
 - C. News-writing style
 - D. Associated Press Stylebook
- II. Headlines, Cutlines/Captions and Graphics
 - A. Types
 - B. Writing principles
- III. News Sources
 - A. Public officials
 - B. Organizational officials
 - C. Private citizens
 - D. Public relations sources
 - E. Surveys and polls
 - F. Advocacy groups and think tanks as news sources
- IV. Reporting Topics
 - A. Accidents and disasters
 - B. War and conflict
 - C. Politics and government
 - D. Business and economics
 - E. Service and charitable organizations
 - F. Crime and courts
- V. Types of News Stories
 - A. Single-event stories
 - B. Multi-event stories
 - C. Speech-based and news conference-based stories
 - D. Interview-based stories
 - E. In-depth reporting
- VI. Diversity and Reporting
 - A. Race and ethnicity
 - B. Religion and culture
 - C. Lifestyle
- VII. Computer-Assisted Reporting
 - A. Internet information sources
 - B. Databases (example: Lexis-Nexis)
 - C. Government information sources
 - D. Corporate/organizational information sources
- VIII. Media Math
 - A. Use of statistics in reporting
 - B. Financial information
 - C. Polls and surveys
- IX. Media Geography
 - A. Basic information
 - B. Map reading

Resources:

Classic Scholarship in the Field.

- Lanson, G., & Stephens, M. (1994). *Writing and reporting the news* (2nd ed.). New York: Oxford.
- Strunk, Jr., W., White, E.B., & Angell, R. (2000). *The elements of style* (4th ed). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Current Scholarship in the Field.

- Bloom, S.G. (2002). *Inside the writer's mind: Writing narrative journalism*. Ames IA: Iowa State.
- Brooks, B.C., Kennedy, G., Moen, D.R., & Ranly, D. (2004). *News reporting and writing* (8th ed.). Boston: Bedford/St.Martins.
- Fox, W. (2001). *Writing the news: A guide for print journalists* (3rd ed.). Ames IA: Iowa State.
- Kershner, J.W. (2004). *The elements of news writing*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Kessler, L., & McDonald, D. (2003). *When words collide: A media writer's guide to grammar and style* (6th ed.). Belmont CA: Wadsworth.
- Kolodzy, J. (2006). *Convergence journalism: Writing and reporting across the news media*. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Lederer, R., & Dowis, R. (2001). *Sleeping dogs don't lay: Practical advice for the grammatically challenged*. Torrance CA: Griffin.
- Mencher, M. (2005). *News reporting and writing* (10th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- O'Connor, P.T. (2004). *Woe is I: The grammarphobe's guide to better English in plain English* (2nd ed.). New York: Riverhead.
- Rich, C. (2002). *Writing and reporting news: A coaching method*. Belmont CA: Wadsworth.
- Stephens, M., & Lanson, G. (1997). *Writing and reporting the news*. Washington DC: Thompson.
- Stovall, J.G. (2005). *Writing for the mass media* (6th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Walsh, B. (2000). *Lapsing into a comma: A curmudgeon's guide to the many things that can go wrong in print – and how to avoid them*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Whitaker, W.R., Ramsey, J.E., & Smith, R.D. (in press). *MediaWriting* (3rd ed.). Mahwah NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Yoop, J.J., & Haller, B.A. (2004). *An introduction to news reporting: A beginning journalist's guide*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Periodicals:

Washington Journalism Review
Columbia Journalism Review
Editor & Publisher