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:

1. Write news stories according to professional journalistic standards
2. Use standards of the Associated Press stylebook
3. Articulate ethical and legal principles that influence journalistic practice
4. Demonstrate competence in using various information-gathering techniques for journalistic research
5. Analyze the effectiveness of various types of news stories
6. Write stories dealing with topics of diversity
7. Demonstrate competence in effectively applying elements of mathematics and geography in news reporting

Course Content References:

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<th>Student Learning Outcomes:</th>
<th>Course Content References:</th>
<th>Assessment:</th>
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<td>On completion of this course, students will be able to:</td>
<td>I, II, IV</td>
<td>1. Exams, applied projects, presentations</td>
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<td>2. Use standards of the Associated Press stylebook</td>
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<td>III, VII</td>
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<td>5. Analyze the effectiveness of various types of news stories</td>
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<td>6. Write stories dealing with topics of diversity</td>
<td>VII, IX</td>
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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.

Current Scholarship in the Field.

Periodicals:
Washington Journalism Review
Columbia Journalism Review
Editor & Publisher