

Journalism 3101

Reporting

Summer 2017

Tuesdays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., G108 McCarty Hall B

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Office hours: After class Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment

The goal

To learn all facets of basic news gathering and writing with an eye toward readability and to instill habits of accuracy and responsibility in handling news. To take this course, you must have earned a grade of C or better in Journalism 3109C.

The work

Endure lectures twice a week in scenic McCarty Hall and attend a once-a-week lab. A significant amount of work away from the classroom is required.

The lectures

Each lecture will cover a topic designed to help you become a better reporter and writer. Attendance is expected. There will be three exams spread throughout the semester that will test your comprehension of the lectures, the reading and Associated Press style. In addition, current events quizzes will magically pop into your hands eight times during the semester. Makeup tests will be given only for documented catastrophes. Current event quizzes cannot be made up.

The grade

Your grade is 25 percent from the lectures and 75 percent from the labs. Three tests and eight quizzes will make up the lecture grade. An A indicates superior performance; B, highly competent, above-average work; C, average; D, below average; E, unsatisfactory. There are no minus grades.

Lab grades are based upon the quality of your reporting, writing and editing. You are evaluated for your work, not the amount of time or effort you spend. This means you have to use your time efficiently.

The reading

Required: *How I Got That Story*, Foley, 2004 (follows syllabus in this course pak); *AP Stylebook*, latest edition; a daily newspaper that covers local, national and international news.

Recommended: *Inside Reporting*, 3rd Edition, Harrower; *When Words Collide*, Kessler-McDonald.

You are encouraged to read ahead. The more you can absorb early in the course, the better your work will be. Since you are expected to start reporting and writing immediately, some early reading can be especially helpful. In Harrower, the sections on news gathering, interviewing, leads, story organization and features will be quite useful. Also, as you are reading the newspaper, pay attention not only to the news itself but also to how each story presents it.

The cautions

Journalism 3101 is a professional course. Journalism 3101 is a time-consuming course. You must learn how to perform a specific skill and do it acceptably, within a limited time. Grades on stories can be lowered as the result of students misrepresenting themselves or otherwise being unprofessional while working on story assignments. Do not tell sources that you are working for the Alligator or any other publication. Students often find sources are more willing to talk if the students are dressed appropriately.

One of the best ways to ensure your stories are fair, accurate and complete is to gather information from a variety of sources. In selecting potential sources for your stories, keep in mind that we live in a diverse, multicultural world. You should make every effort to have your stories reflect that. Talk to a variety of people from different backgrounds, educational levels, etc. to get a complete story.

Students enrolled in this course should not be used as sources in your stories unless they are involved directly in the story. Relatives, friends, roommates, etc. usually posed a conflict of interest when used as sources.

The plagiarism

Using someone else's work and presenting it as your own in stealing and lying rolled into one. This includes any press release and information found on the Internet. Your work will be consistently checked for plagiarism and you will receive a failing grade if it is found. Attribute every piece of information, except

known facts, in all of your outside stories. See the college policy on academic honesty at <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/academic/jou/honesty>.

The honor code

The University of Florida honor code was voted on and passed by the student body in the fall 1995 semester.

The preamble: In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual whom becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run honor court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the honor code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledges is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

For more information about academic honesty, contact, Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 391-1261.

Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must register with the Dean of Students Office. The dean will provide documentation to the student who must provide documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Class Schedule

WEEK 1

May 9, 11 (Pay attention to the small stuff)

Discussion: Course introduction, style

Reading: Course pak, “AP Style,” “Commas” and “Newspaper Terms”

WEEK 2

May 16, 18 (How do they come up with these things?)

Discussion: News judgment, story ideas, truth

Reading: Course pak, "Truth," Healy story and interview; Harrower, Ch. 2

WEEK 3

May 23, 25 (Ledes, glorious ledes)

Discussion: Lede writing

Reading: Harrower, Ch. 3; Course pak, "Spelling," "Commonly Confused Words," Talcott story and interview

WEEK 4

May 30, June 1 (All hail Colombo!)

Discussion: Interviewing, who to talk to

Test: Yes, you read right. First exam will be **June 1**

Reading: Harrower, Ch. 4; Course pak, "Sourcery"

WEEK 5

June 6, 8 (You always need a plan)

Discussion: Interviewing II, reporting plans, research

Reading: Course pak, Poole story and interview, French story and interview story

WEEK 6

June 13, 15 (How to create a story stew)

Discussion: Story structures, quotes, nut grafs

Reading: Harrower, Ch. 5

WEEK 7

June 20, 22

Summer Break!! Don't even think about showing up

WEEK 8

June 27, 29 (Turning talk into tales)

Discussion: Speeches, meetings

Test: Oh dear, pressure's on (and we just got back from vacation). Second exam is

June 29

Reading: Harrower, Ch. 8

WEEK 9

July 4, 6

No lectures

(Holiday on the 4th; obligatory family commitment that I cannot escape on the 6th)

WEEK 10

July 11, 13 (Tease me, you fool)

Discussion: Obituaries, delayed ledes

Reading: Harrower, Ch. 6; Course pak, Smith story and interview, Benham story and interview

WEEK 11

July 20 (When in doubt, do it again)

Discussion: Delayed ledes, rewrites, the writing process

Reading: Course pak, "Useless words" and brevity section

WEEK 12

July 25, 27 (Rules of the road)

Discussion: Ethics, libel/privacy

Reading: Harrower, Ch. 7; Course pak, "Newspaper Ethics" and "Libel"

WEEK 13

Aug. 1, 3 (Putting a bow on it)

Discussion: Libel/privacy II

Test: Phew, last one. Third test is **Aug. 3**