

Journalism 2

News Gathering & News Writing

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Office: Maggini 2803
Office Hours: Tue & Thu 8:30a-9a or by appt.

Class Meeting Times & Location

Maggini 2803
CLASS: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30a-11:50a

Catalog Description

Advanced writing class for print and online media. Students will build skills in deadline news writing and learn to report, write and use multimedia for a variety of story types, including news, opinion, social issues, entertainment reviews and feature/investigative pieces.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Write different types of news stories on deadline for both print and web publishing.
2. Develop story ideas, conduct research and interviews, and write news and feature stories, opinion pieces and entertainment reviews.
3. Use different media (i.e. audio, video) to create multimedia news and feature stories.
4. Critically evaluate elements of effective journalism.

Course Objectives

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

1. Write a variety of news stories, such as police, fire, accident, meeting, speech and others on deadline.
2. Distinguish between techniques for writing for print versus the web.
3. Find and develop story ideas for news and feature stories.
4. Find, prepare for and conduct interviews with sources.
5. Conduct research on story topics.
6. Write, edit and refine news, feature, opinion and other types of stories.
7. Critically review a live entertainment performance, restaurant or product.
8. Create news or feature stories using audio, video or other digital media.
9. Identify effective journalism strategies and techniques in both professional and student stories in print, web and multimedia formats.

Required Books

1. [*Advanced News Reporting: Essential Skills for 21st Century Journalism*](#) (2014), by Miles Maguire
2. [*The Art and Craft of Feature Writing*](#) (1988), by William E. Blundell
3. [*The Elements of Journalism*](#) (2014), by Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel
4. Articles and other readings on Canvas
5. Subscription to *New York Times*, *LA Times*, or *Washington Post* (online ok)
(student discounts available)

Strongly Recommended

1. [*Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual*](#) (2016)
2. [*Beyond News: The Future of Journalism*](#) (2014), by Mitchell Stephens

Recommended Viewing & Listening:

All the President's Men
Spotlight
Truth
Shattered Glass
Citizen Four

The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg
Kill the Messenger
Serial (podcast)
Newsroom
The Making of a Murder

Recommended News Outlets to Follow (incomplete list)

Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)
Reveal (part of CIR)
The Marshall Project (criminal justice)
The New York Times
The Washington Post
The LA Times
AllSides News
California Forward (CA governance)
Business Insider
PBS NewsHour
Santa Rosa Press Democrat
Associated Press

Reuters
SRJC Oak Leaf
FiveThirtyEight (Data)
BBC News
Frontline
The Economist
The Atlantic
Buzzfeed
Teen Vogue
NPR
KQED

News Orgs and Resources (can follow in FB) (incomplete list)

The Poynter Institute
Columbia Journalism Review
Society of Professional Journalists
Committee to Protect Journalists
Knight Digital Media Center
Nieman Foundation
Project for Excellence in Journalism

American Society of News Editors
Grammar Girl
AP Stylebook
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Newseum
FactCheck.org
Snopes.com

LATE WORK POLICY

Late work will be docked 10 points per day *for up to five days*. **NO work will be accepted beyond five days after the due date. NO EXCEPTIONS (except a valid doctor's note).**

Attendance

Attendance is expected every day. Absences will result in lower participation grades. Students will be allowed to miss one class period without penalty. For each class period missed beyond the limit, a student's participation grade will be lowered by one half of a letter grade. A student arriving late or leaving early will only receive partial credit for the class session. Students are responsible for all lecture material presented in class regardless of attendance. High participation grades require **active participation** in class discussions.

According to SRJC District Policy, if you miss more than 10% of the total hours that the class meets (2 weeks), you may be dropped from the course. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible if an emergency situation develops that prevents attendance in class.

Cell phones and other mobile media devices must be turned off during class. Students should not text or web surf during class time.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic dishonesty is regarded as any act of deception, benign or malicious nature, in the completion of any academic exercise. Examples of academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, impersonation, misrepresentation of idea or fact for the purpose of defrauding, use of unauthorized aids or devices, falsifying attendance records, violation of testing protocol, inappropriate course assignment collaboration, and any other acts that are prohibited by the instructor of record.

Plagiarism

A student who plagiarizes an assignment, in part or in full, will receive no credit for the assignment. A 2nd offense will result in failure of the course. Plagiarism – from the Latin word for “kidnap” – involves using another’s work without giving proper credit, whether done accidentally or on purpose. This includes not only words and ideas, but also graphs, artwork, music, maps, statistics, diagrams, scientific data, software, films, videos, and the like. Plagiarism is plagiarism whether the material is from published or unpublished sources. It does not matter whether ideas are stolen, bought, downloaded from the Internet, or written for the student by someone else – it is still plagiarism. Even if only bits and pieces of other sources are used, or outside sources reworded, they must still be cited. To avoid problems, students should cite all sources and check with the instructor before submitting an assignment or project. Students are always responsible for any plagiarism in their work.

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

If you need disability related accommodation for this class, such as a note taker, test-taking services, special furniture, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. You may also speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly.

JOURNALISM 2 SCHEDULE: Spring 2017

ALL WORK IS DUE BY THE LAST DAY OF CLASS 05/18/17, NO EXCEPTIONS.

WEEK	TOPIC	READING	CLASS PLAN	ASSIGNMENT DUE
(1) 1/17 & 19	Intro; Course Overview & Goals; Revisit AP and inverted pyramid	**ARTICLES ON CANVAS**	Choose your beat; & collaborate with classmates	*IN CLASS: Deadline Writing
(2) 1/24 & 26	<i>Content & Ideas:</i> Beats, Story Ideas, Ethics, Libel Review	Ch. 1, Adv News Reporting Ch. 1, Elements Journalism Articles on Canvas	PRACTICE: Find a story	IN CLASS: Story Generation & Pitch
(3) 1/31 & 2/2	<i>News Writing #1:</i> Elements of good writing; Police, Fire, Disasters	Ch. 2, Adv News Reporting Ch. 2-3, Elements Journalism Articles on Canvas	PRACTICE: hard news writing	*IN CLASS: Deadline Writing of crime, fire, or disaster story
(4) 2/7 & 9	<i>News Writing #2:</i> Court reporting; Critique existing news stories	Ch. 3-4, 7, Adv News Reporting	FIELD TRIP to Courthouse (THU)	FIELD TRIP: Attend court case at Sonoma County Courthouse
(5) 2/14 & 16	<i>News Writing #3:</i> Review interviewing skills; obits	Ch. 5-6, Adv News Reporting Ch. 4, Elements Journalism Articles on Canvas	PRACTICE: Interview skills	*DUE: Article #1 Localize a national news story
(6) 2/21 & 23	<i>Multimedia Reporting #1</i> Interactive, visual tools	Ch 8, 11, Adv News Reporting Articles on Canvas	EXPLORE multimedia reporting tools	Due: Celebrity Obit
(7) 2/28 & 3/2	<i>Multimedia Reporting #2</i> Social media	Ch. 13, Adv News Reporting Articles on Canvas	PRACTICE: Social media writing	DUE: Article #2 Court story
(8) 3/7 & 9	<i>Social Issues Reporting:</i> Immersion Journalism; podcasting	Ch. 5-6, Elements Journalism Articles on Canvas	Guest Speaker: TBA	
(9) 3/14 & 16	MIDTERM TEST & PRESENTATION	Ch. 7-8, Elements Journalism	***	*Take test on Canvas *PRESENT BEAT & PORTFOLIO
(10) 3/21 & 23	***SPRING BREAK*** ((NO CLASS))	***	***	***
(11) 3/28 & 30	<i>Entertainment Reporting</i> Reviews, profiles, celebrity stories	Ch. 9, Adv News Reporting Ch. 8, Elements Journalism Articles on Canvas	Discuss fake news and sensationalism	*DUE: Article #3, Team Podcast
(12) 4/4 & 6	<i>Opinion & Editorials:</i> A journalistic approach	Ch. 12, Adv News Reporting Ch. 9, Elements Journalism Articles on Canvas	ATTEND: Editorial Board Meeting at Press Democrat	*DUE: Article #4, Entertainment Review
(13) 4/11 & 13	<i>Investigations #1</i> Story ideas & research	Ch. 1-2, Feature Writing Ch. 10, Elements Journalism	Interview guest speaker (TBD)	***
(14) 4/18 & 20	<i>Investigations #2</i> Public Records, FOIA	Ch. 10, Adv News Reporting Ch. 3-4, Feature Writing	PRACTICE: Write a FOIA request	*DUE: Article #5, Op-Ed
(15) 4/25 & 27	<i>Multimedia Elements</i> Explore interactive elements for story	Ch. 5, Feature Writing Ch. 11, Elements Journalism Articles on Canvas	PRACTICE: interactive story tools	***

(16) 5/2 & 4	<i>Data Journalism</i> Data visualizations, spreadsheets, credibility	Ch. 6, 9, Feature Writing Articles on Canvas	PRACTICE: working with data	***
(17) 5/9 & 11	<i>Story Editing</i> Peer review & edit drafts	Ch. 7, Feature Writing Articles on Canvas	Peer review edits of DRAFT feature	DUE: DRAFT of Team Feature Story
(18) 5/16 & 18	<i>Story & Portfolio Editing</i> Work with team to hone and finalize elements	Ch. 8, Feature Writing Articles on Canvas	PRACTICE: Edit & craft story elements	***
(19) 05/23/16	<i>FINAL TEST & PRESENTATION (10a-1p)</i>	***	***	*DUE: Article #6, Team Feature *Take test on Canvas *Present Team Feature Story

ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Points</u>
Portfolio Website	10%	100 points
Articles (6) (possibly for Oak Leaf) (50 pts each)	30%	300 points
In-Class & Short Assignments	20%	200 points
Midterm Test & Presentation of Portfolio Site	10%	100 points
Final Test & Presentation of Portfolio Site	10%	100 points
Attendance, Participation, Discussion, Collaboration	20%	200 points

Total Points = 1000 900-1000 = A; 800 -900 = B; 700-800 = C; 600-700 = D

ASSIGNMENT SUMMARIES

Portfolio Website (DUE: 02/02/17)

You will create your own simple website, where you will submit/post all of your articles. I will grade articles that are PUBLISHED on your site and give you feedback. I expect you to then revise your articles based on the feedback you receive. The following web pages are REQUIRED:

- *Home*: By looking at this page, user should be able to understand your beat/focus area
- *About*: This page is about YOU and why you chose your beat and are pursuing journalism.
- *Blog*: Where your assignment articles will be posted
- *Contact*: Should include email and relevant social media
- *Additional Pages* (optional): Any other content you would like to include or have represented on your site

Articles

You will write **SIX** articles for submission to the *Oak Leaf*. Please submit articles to professor for editing first by publishing to your portfolio website. **Articles must be turned in/published on deadline, both for class and *Oak Leaf*. Each subsequent class day will lower grade on assignment by one full letter grade.**

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|--|--------------|
| 1) Localizing a national story | Due 02/16/17 |
| 2) Court Reporting story | Due 03/09/17 |
| 3) Homeless Profile GROUP AUDIO PODCAST | Due 03/30/17 |
| 4) Entertainment Review | Due 04/20/17 |
| 5) Opinion Piece | Due 05/11/17 |
| 6) ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: | |
| a. Written Feature (for students who did NOT take J1) | |
| b. Team Multimedia Investigative Story (if already passed J1) | Due _____ |

Final Portfolio: an update of your portfolio website, including edits to articles and pages: **Due 05/25/17**

If a story has been revised, write REVISED. If you have added new info, write UPDATED. No late portfolios will be accepted. *NOTE: Extra stories will improve grade in class.

In-Class & Short Assignments

Several deadline writing & editing assignments covering all facets of news and feature writing. These will be started (and often completed) in class. Some may require additional time outside of class.

Oak Leaf Office Hours (Extra Credit)

Each student should try to spend at least two hours this semester at the *Oak Leaf*, preferably during a production week. The *Oak Leaf* staff will try to make use of your talents. Jobs may include fact checking, proofing pages, delivering newspapers, or writing a quick story. Office hours are typically 2-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, but those expand to Monday and Wednesday during production week. Story budget meetings are from 2:45 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Oak Leaf, Analy Village, Room 643.

Attendance, Participation, Discussion, Collaboration

Class attendance is critical to learning and advancement in this course. Each week, we will have discussions and take part in in-class projects. Your participation and communication will factor into this portion of your grade.

Grading of Writing Assignments:

Grading for written assignments will be based on the following:

- Deadlines and effort (meeting deadline, effort in research, interview sources, write and improve story)
- Lead and nut graph (correct focus? Compelling?)
- Sources (number and quality of quotes, attribution, fairness/balance)
- Background/context/completeness/accuracy
- Organization and transitions (story structure and flow)
- Use of correct grammar, punctuation, spelling and AP style

How to get a good grade in this class

1. Attendance is everything. Miss three classes and it will be difficult to get an A. Three unexcused absences will automatically lower your grade. To have an absence excused, please bring in doctor's note. Call or email me when absent, preferably before class.
2. We will be in a computer lab every Wednesday. **Please do not check email, surf the web (unless instructed) or do work for other classes during class time.** These activities will affect your class participation grade.
3. Keep up with the reading! Reading should be done each week as assigned. We will also be discussing articles in class. Class participation is a large part of your grade.
4. Keep criticism constructive. Part of learning to be a better writer is accepting comments, criticism and suggestions from others.
5. Meet your deadlines! Deadlines rule in journalism. Articles should be turned in on time, unless you've spoken to me first. Out-of-class assignments should be turned in on time (even if you are sick and miss class). Skipping class on assignment due dates is not advised; your assignment is still late.
6. Bring in clips! Read newspapers, watch news programs and bring in interesting items to discuss.
7. Attend a story budget meeting at the *Oak Leaf* (2:45 – 3 p.m. Tu/Th).
8. Contribute additional hours to the *Oak Leaf* or write an additional story.
9. If you have a problem, talk to me ASAP. Don't have parents call me unless it's an emergency.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the most serious ethical violation in journalism. Do not copy sentences, paragraphs or whole articles from the web, other newspapers or other sources. Do not falsify quotes or make up sources. If a student commits such an ethical violation, he or she will receive an F and may be dropped from the class.