

Journalism 1

Introduction to Journalism

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Office: online
Office Hours: Mon 2p-3p or by appt.

Class Meeting Times & Location: Online

Catalog Description

An introduction to news writing and reporting with an emphasis on print and web journalism. Students will learn to write publishable news and feature stories for *The Oak Leaf*, SRJC's award-winning newspaper and website: theoakleafnews.com. This course will provide information that working journalists need to know about journalistic standards, the First Amendment, privacy and libel laws. It also covers the function of the news media in society, including media ethics, media concentration, the news business and current issues confronting journalists. Students will receive extensive practical instruction in reporting and editing.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Apply reporting and writing skills to create a portfolio of news and feature articles.
2. Analyze and discuss objectivity, ethics, libel and other judgments in news stories and news selection.
3. Critically evaluate the role of the news media in American society.

Course Objectives

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

1. Develop story ideas, identify sources, conduct interviews and research and write different types of news and feature articles.
2. Distinguish between news and feature articles in terms of lead, content, sources and story structure.
3. Use copyediting skills and knowledge of AP style to edit, refine and improve articles.
4. Apply ethical philosophies to the evaluation of news judgments regarding use of controversial photos, conflicts of interest, withholding information and other ethical dilemmas.
5. Analyze libel and invasion of privacy case studies and determine potential outcomes based on knowledge of media law.
6. Discuss and critically analyze the dynamic status of news media in America, including objectivity, framing and bias, media consolidation, the democratizing role of the Internet and other issues.

Required Books

1. [*Writing & Reporting the News for the 21st Century: The Speed at Which We Travel*](#), by Yumi Wilson, Gina Baleria, & Grace Provenzano
2. Subscription to *New York Times* or *Washington Post* (Student discounts available)
3. Articles and other readings on Canvas

Strongly Recommended

1. [*Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual \(2016\)*](#)

Recommended Viewing:

All the President's Men
Spotlight
Truth
Shattered Glass

Citizen Four
The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg
Kill the Messenger

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.**

Attendance

Attendance is expected every week through completion of discussions and exercises. Absences will result in lower participation grades. For each class period missed, a student's participation grade will be lowered by one half of a letter grade. Students are responsible for all lecture material presented in class regardless of attendance. High participation grades require **active participation** in class discussions and exercises. 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.

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.

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.

JOURNALISM 1 SCHEDULE: Fall 2018

ALL WORK IS DUE BY THE LAST DAY OF CLASS 12/21/18, NO EXCEPTIONS.

| WEEK | TOPIC | READING | CLASS PLAN | ASSIGNMENT DUE |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| (1) 8/20/18 | Intro; Course Overview; The Media Landscape; Beats; Ledes | *** | Choose your beat; collaborate with & intv. classmates | *IN CLASS: Beat & story ideas |
| (2) 8/27/18 | <i>Story Writing:</i> Inverted Pyramid, Story Structure, AP Style | Ch 4, <i>News for 21st Century</i> | PRACTICE: Inverted Pyramid | *IN CLASS: Inverted Pyramid Story |
| (3) 9/3/18 | <i>Sources & Story Ideas:</i> Finding story ideas, identifying sources | Ch 6, <i>News for 21st Century</i> | Research story ideas. Identify event story | *DUE: Portfolio Website |
| (4) 9/10/18 | <i>Interviewing Skills:</i> Prepping, listening, accuracy, attribution | Ch 7 & 9, <i>News for 21st Century</i> | Guest Speaker: SRPD Officer | *** |
| (5) 9/17/18 | <i>Attribution & Quoting Sources</i> | Ch. 1 | PRACTICE: Image Rights | *DUE: Article #1 w/image (PD write ups) |
| (6) 9/24/18 | <i>Attribution & Image Use:</i> Copyright & CC | Ch. 3 (section on copyright) & 10 | | |
| (7) 10/1/18 | <i>What is Newsworthy?</i> Coverage, Angles, & Ownership | Intro & Ch 11, <i>News for 21st Century</i> | Guest Speaker: Journalist from Press Democrat | *** |
| (8) 10/8/18 | <i>Story Editing, Pt. 1</i> | Ch 12 | PRACTICE: Edit | *IN CLASS: AP/Editing Quiz |
| (9) 10/15/18 | <i>Story Editing, Pt. 2</i> | Ch 15 | *** | *DUE: Article #2 (speaker) |
| (10) 10/22/18 | MIDTERM TEST & PRESENTATION | *** | PRACTICE: Brainstorm feature ideas | *Take test on Canvas *Present your portfolio |
| (11) 10/29/18 | <i>Media Law:</i> First Amendment, FOIA, Defamation, Privacy | Ch 3, <i>News for 21st Century</i> (REMAINING SECTIONS) | *** | *** |
| (12) 11/5/18 | <i>Media Ethics:</i> Plagiarism, Conflicts of | Ch. 2 | *** | *** |
| (13) 11/12/18 | <i>Feature Writing</i> Types of features, Story organization | Ch 5 | *** | *DUE: Article #3 (meeting/event) |
| (14) 11/19/18 | <i>Feature Writing (pt. 2)</i> | Ch. 14 | | |
| (15) 11/26/18 | <i>Numbers & Data:</i> Polls, studies, statistics | Ch 8 & 13 | Create an infographic | |
| (16) 12/03/18 | <i>Objectivity & Fairness:</i> Bias, Framing, & Angles | Ch 16 | PRACTICE: Edit | *DUE: Profile Interview Prep Questions & Background |
| (17) 12/10/18 | <i>Story Promotion</i> Digital and social media | | PRACTICE: Ledes & Social Media | *DUE: Article #4 (profile) |
| (18) 12/15-21 | FINAL TEST & PORTFOLIO | *** | *** | *** |

ASSIGNMENTS

| <u>Assignment</u> | <u>Weight</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Portfolio Website | 10% | 100 points |
| Articles (4) (possibly for Oak Leaf) (100 pts each) | 40% | 400 points |
| Weekly Exercises | 20% | 200 points |
| Midterm Test | 5% | 50 points |
| Final Test | 5% | 50 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

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 **four** articles for submission to the *Oak Leaf*. Please submit articles to professor for editing first by posting in the appropriate Google Drive folder. **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.**

- 1) **Police story** (not for Oak Leaf)
- 2) **Speaker story**
- 3) **News/meeting or event** (choose one type)
- 4) **Feature or profile**

Final Portfolio: an update of your portfolio website, including edits to articles and pages:

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.

Weekly Exercises

There will be weekly short assignments and exercises to help you develop your writing skills. 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.