



COURSE NAME: Basic Newswriting

COURSE NUMBER: COM*222

CREDITS: 3

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Instruction and practice in developing news articles, including defining news, gathering information from credible sources, recognizing and writing in basic news story structures and styles, and making ethical choices as a reporter. Assignments are completed using computers. This course satisfies the computer literacy requirement of the college, but it may not be used to satisfy the English requirement.

Prerequisite: English 101

General Education Competencies Satisfied:

HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):

None

Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:

None

Embedded Competency(ies):

None

Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):

None

Course objectives:

General Education Goals and Outcomes:

None

Course Specific:

1. Critically examine and analyze the media.
2. Define news qualities and apply this knowledge to choosing topics for news stories.
3. Formulate effective interview questions and conduct effective interviews.

4. Identify and analyze elements of basic news stories.
5. Identify and analyze news story structure.
6. Use news style.
7. Write basic news articles.
8. Develop other types of news stories, including speech and meeting stories.

COURSE CONTENT

Introduction

What is News? Qualities of News
Basics of Reporting

Basic News Story Organization

Headline
Lead
Backup for the Lead
Lead quotation
Nut Graph
Impact Sentence or paragraph
Inverted pyramid
Direct versus Indirect Quotation and Summary
Attribution
Endings

Developing a Story and Gathering Information

Coming up with Story Ideas
Finding Sources
Interviewing Techniques for Primary Sources
Using Secondary Sources

Writing a Basic News Story

Developing a Focus
Headlines
Choosing and writing a lead
Selecting what to include
Creating the Inverted Pyramid
Quotation: Direct vs. Indirect
Attribution
Effectively Ending a News Story

Preparation of News Copy

News Style (Associated Press)
Grammatical and Syntactical Concerns
Editing and Revision

Other Common News Stories

Writing the Speech or Meeting Story

Adapting the Basic News Story for Broadcast
Writing a Profile

Journalistic Ethics

Recognizing Ethical Dilemmas
Strategies for Making Ethical Choices
Multicultural Sensitivity
Balance and Fairness