

MJS-2010: NEWS WRITING

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: MJS-2010 : News Writing

Board of Trustees:

May 2015

Academic Term:

Fall 2019

Subject Code

MJS - Media and Journalism Studies

Course Number:

2010

Title:

News Writing

Catalog Description:

News information gathering and writing for all media. An advanced look at structure of news stories and emphasis on writing against deadlines. Ethical, policy and legal questions confronting reporters, their newspapers and publishers. Completion of a professional portfolio of in-class clips. Survey of career opportunities in print, broadcast and internet journalism.

Credit Hour(s):

4

Lecture Hour(s):

4

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1020 College Composition II, or ENG-102H Honors College Composition.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

A. Apply writing styles to meet the needs of different media platforms including newspapers, broadcast outlets, the Internet and public relations.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. 1. Create multiple styles of leads.
2. 2. Create reports, using writing techniques for various newsworthy events with respect to anonymous sources.
3. 3. Demonstrate newswriting proficiency with advanced Associated Press style for different types of news events and stories on deadline.
4. 4. Demonstrate basic proficiency in writing human-interest stories, features, in-depth pieces, profiles and investigative reports.
5. 5. Organize news clips in a professional portfolio for in-class presentation.
6. 6. Discuss copy editing and its symbols.
7. 7. Evaluate Web sites and wire services for more accuracy in computer-assisted reporting.

Course Outcome(s):

B. Create news reports that are well-informed, ethical, and free of plagiarism and libelous statements.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. 3. Distinguish among the various legal issues involved in reporting.
 2. 1. Discuss ethical journalist behavior.
 3. 2. Identify current events in the media in order to become better informed journalists, accurately reflecting the news locally, nationally and globally with more precision.
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Methods of Evaluation:

1. Written news stories
2. Presentation of news for broadcast and the Internet
3. News test
4. Class discussions
5. Tests
6. Final exam

Course Content Outline:

1. Review of basic media writing
 - a. Grammar
 - b. Story organization
 - c. Simple leads
2. Creating reports with proficiency
 - a. Protecting sources
 - b. Using anonymous sources appropriately
3. Creating news stories and in depth analysis of current events
4. Multiple, complex leads
5. Special news writing situations
 - a. Advanced Associated Press style
 - b. Human-Interest pieces
 - c. Feature Stories
 - d. In-depth stories
 - e. Profiles
6. Deadline writing
7. Editing copy and basic copy editing symbols
8. Ground rules of reporting and problems of news gathering with legal issues
 - a. First Amendment
 - b. Freedom of Information Act
 - c. Credentialing
9. Ethics
 - a. Plagiarism
 - b. Libel
 - c. Accepting Gifts
10. Web-site, computer-assisted reporting
 - a. Source accuracy
 - b. Wire Services
11. In-class presentation of professional clips in portfolio
12. On-line writing and reporting
13. Public Relations (wire services and wholesalers of the news)

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Resources

The Missouri Group. *News Reporting and Writing*. 9th ed. Boston: Bedford St. Martins Press, 2008.

Rich, Carole. *Writing for and Reporting News: A Coaching Method*. 6th ed. Boston, MA: Wadsworth CENGAGE Learning, 2010.

Melton, Rob. *The News Writer's Handbook*. 3rd ed. Portland, OR: R. Melton, 2000.

Reavy, Mathew M. *Introduction to Computer-Assisted Reporting: a Journalist's Guide*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 2001.

Harrower, Tim. *Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism*. McGraw-Hill, 2007.

Houghton Mifflin Company. *The American Heritage College Dictionary*. 4th ed. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2007.

Goldstein, Norm, Ed. "The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law"

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