Outline of Instruction

Division:  Humanities  Area:  Journalism

Course Number:  161  Course Name:  Introduction to Journalism
Prerequisites:  NONE  Corequisite:  NONE
Hours Required:  Class:  45  Lab:  0  Credits:  3

Course Description/Purpose

Students in this course will learn how to determine what is newsworthy, as well as the basics of news and feature writing, journalistic style, copy editing and gathering of information with an emphasis on interviewing techniques. Students may hear presentations by professional journalists and/or visit a newspaper operation.

Major Units

- What is news? Evaluating/determining what has news value
- Writing news and feature stories
- The conventions of news writing
- Gathering information
- Covering speeches and meetings
- In-depth stories

Educational/Course Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, quizzes and tests, journals, essays, papers, projects, laboratory/clinical exercises and examinations, presentations, simulations, portfolios, homework assignments, and instructor observations.

Cognitive  Each student will be expected to Identify/Recognize . . .

- terms germane to journalism
- and label various types of leads
- the qualities of an effective interview
- various source materials used in writing stories
• correct journalistic format
• the difference between news and feature writing

Performance  
Each student will be expected to Demonstrate/Practice . . .
• the ability to evaluate subjects to determine which are newsworthy and which are not
• the ability to differentiate between news and feature writing
• the ability to write summary and alternative leads
• the ability to write news and feature stories
• the ability to evaluate quotations for their effectiveness or ineffectiveness in stories
• the ability to write effective quotations in stories
• the ability to evaluate good and bad leads
• the ability to critique various writing samples for objectivity, brevity, clarity, and accuracy
• the ability to produce an in-depth story at the end of the course (critical thinking capstone)

Attitudinal  
Each student will be expected to Believe/Feel/Think . . .
• or gain an appreciation for the craft of journalism
• that journalism is most important in a democratic system
• or consider the quality of thinking and writing they are exposed to in newspapers today, and be aware of the power and the responsibility of the press

AO/pf—6/04