

HESSER COLLEGE



Location: Portsmouth, New Hampshire
COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: COMM200 - Introduction to Journalism

ACADEMIC CREDITS AWARDED: 3 Semester Credit Hours
COURSE PREREQUISITE(S): ENGL101

INSTRUCTOR NAME: Andrew J. Manuse
INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFO:
Phone#1: 603-703-8857
Phone#2: n.a.
E-mail: amanuse@gmail.com

Availability/Office Hours: **By appointment, during class breaks and after class.**
START DATE OF COURSE: January 11, 2010 **End Date:** February 24, 2010
INSTRUCTIONAL CONTACT HOURS: 40 clock hours are provided.
Class Starts At: 5:30p **Ends At:** 8:00p **on** Mon/Wed

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This introductory-level course, which is open and useful to all majors, teaches and practices techniques of news writing, with an emphasis on developing, writing, and editing the news story. Students also practice gathering information and interviewing sources. This course sometimes meets in a computer lab, so some of class time is spent writing and revising.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

"News Reporting and Writing: Ninth Edition" by The Missouri Group: Brian S. Brooks, George Kennedy, Daryl R. Moen, Don Ranly	ISBN	978-0-312-464-19-6
"Workbook for News Reporting and Writing: Ninth Edition" by The Missouri Group: Brian S. Brooks, George Kennedy, Daryl R. Moen, Don Ranly	ISBN	978-0-312-474-12-6
"2009 AP Stylebook" Edited by Darrell Christian, Sally Jacobsen and David Minthorn.	ISBN	978-0-917360-53-4

COURSE OUTCOMES/LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Build cornerstone-level journalistic skills, on which all other such skills can be built; namely, observation, interviewing, analysis, verbal and written communication, attention to detail and the ability to judge accuracy and fairness.
- 2) Be able to work effectively in subsequent journalism courses with a sharpened sense of news judgment, with improved skills as a reporter and writer.
- 3) Be able to work with other people (sources) and superiors (your editors) to improve your work so that it is publication-level quality.
- 4) Get acquainted with the Associated Press style of writing, the concepts of journalistic reporting and editing, and the use of computers and the Internet for research, communications and publication.

TEACHING STRATEGIES AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

1. **Lecture:** All but two class sessions include a presentation on the textbook material in order to summarize and clarify concepts as well as to highlight essential points.
2. **Reporting/Writing:** You will be reporting, writing or editing and revising stories throughout the semester. You will produce at least four stories and will have the opportunity to publish two of them in a newspaper for extra credit. You will suggest topics for the stories as reporters are expected to do in daily journalism. You also will produce news photos for your stories (as applicable) and will suggest content for info graphics.
3. **Team learning:** We might occasionally use a special technique to evaluate and suggest improvements in the first drafts of your stories and for the approval of some story proposals. If that occurs, you will work with two or three other students to review each other's work and suggest ways in which the stories can be improved. Journalism is an increasingly collaborative effort among writers, editors, designers, directors and producers. We will practice working together as a group of mutually supportive journalists with high standards for one another's work.
4. **Exams:** We will have four exams about elements of style from the AP style manual, grammar and concepts in the text. These tests are intended to acquaint you with the discipline of style and grammar rules, to improve your attention to accuracy and detail and to test your knowledge.
5. **Using computers:** You will use computers at school and at home for writing and editing stories, searching for information for stories and storing the records of the course. You will have to have access to e-mail and may have to submit assignments in that way. You should expect to communicate with the professor using computers on a regular basis.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE COURSE:

To pass this course, students must receive a final grade of a D or better.

Assignment	% of Final Grade
In-Class Exercises	10
In-Class Police	10
News Report	
In-Class	10
Sports/Business/Social Sciences story or Celebrity Obit	
Authentic City Hall Report	10
Extra Credit	5
Advanced Reporting & Writing Exercise	15
Extra Credit	5
Grammar Exam	10
Style Exam	10
Midterm Exam	10
Final Exam	15
Total	110 %

METHOD OF EVALUATING STUDENTS:

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Quality Points
A	95-100	4
A -	90-94.9	3.7
B+	87-89.9	3.3
B	84-86.9	3
B -	80-83.9	2.7
C+	77-79.9	2.3
C	74-76.9	2
C -	70-73.9	1.7
D+	67-69.9	1.3
D	60-66.9	1
F	0-59.9	0

GRADING SCALE: See page 32 of the College Catalog for full grading policy.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: See page 27 of the College Catalog for the full policy.

DATE SYLLABUS WAS LAST REVIEWED, EDITED, OR UPDATED:

January 10, 2010

Class Outline

Welcome to COMM 200, Introduction to Journalism. This course will provide foundation skills for all future studies of journalism. This addendum to the syllabus is designed to provide some general information and outline the lecture and assignments schedule. This schedule is subject to change if needed by your professor.

- Week 1 *1/11 Monday* – What is News?
 Class Introduction
 Presentation about yourself and your interests
 Review of Chapters 1 & 2
 Read entire AP Stylebook ASAP
- 1/13 Wednesday* – Finding Information & Basic Story Structure
 Have read chapters 1, 2, 5 & 7
 Review of Chapter 5 & 7
 In-Class Exercise
- Week 2 *1/18 Monday* – NO CLASS, HOLIDAY
- 1/20 Wednesday* – Interviewing and Reporting
 Have read Chapters 3 & 4
 Review of the same
 In-Class Exercise
- Week 3 *1/25 Monday* – Basic Story Writing
 Have read Chapters 11 & 13
 Review of the same
Take Home Grammar Exam Assigned
- 1/27 Wednesday* – Civics for Journalists & Beat Reporting
 Have read Chapters 12 & 14
 Review of the same
In-Class Police News Report
Assign City Hall Report
Take Home Grammar Exam Due
- Week 4 *2/1 Monday* – Investigative Reporting
 Have read Chapters 6 & 18, Review of the same
 In-Class Exercise
- 2/3 Wednesday* – Advanced Story Structure
 Have read Chapters 8 & 9, Review of the Same
One-Hour Mid-term Exam on Text Content Through 2/1 Lecture

Week 5 *2/8 Monday – Advanced Reporting & Writing Exercise*
This is an all-class exercise. You will have the entire class period to come up with an idea, go out and do your reporting on the idea, keep me up to date on what you've found and how you're coming, include all of the concepts I suggest, come back to class and write the idea and turn it in to me, then make corrections before handing a final copy in for a grade before class ends. The end of class is your deadline.

2/10 Wednesday – Specialty Reporting One
Have read Chapters 10 & 17
Review of the same
Take Home AP Style Exam Assigned

Week 6 *2/15 Monday – Specialty Reporting Two*
Have read Chapters 15 & 16
Review of the same
In-class sports, business or social sciences issue story or celebrity obit
Take Home AP Style Exam Due

2/17 Wednesday – Media Law and Ethics
Have read Chapters 22 & 23
Review of the same
In-Class Exercise

Week 7 *2/22 Monday – Visual Thinking & Public Relations*
Have read Chapters 19, 20 & 21
Review of the same
In-Class Exercise
City Hall Report Final version due

2/24 Wednesday – Final Course Day
Class Evaluations
Wrap-Up/Review
Final Exam on Textbook Content, Style and Grammar

Dear student:

I promise to teach you the materials in this class and to help you get the most out of the class, but only if you promise to do all the assignments, participate in class and otherwise work hard to learn.

Sign: _____
Print: _____

Andrew J. Manuse, professor