

Revised by: G. Graupman  
Reviewed by: S. Swenson  
Date Reviewed: October 1, 2014  
C&GE approved: November 12, 2014  
Textbook updated: February 5, 2015

Journalism (JRNL) 1605 Reporting and News Writing (3 Units) CSU:UC  
[formerly Journalism 8A]

Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 1500

Prerequisite knowledge/skills: Before entering the course the student should be able to

1. use correct grammar, syntax, and punctuation,
2. develop the ability to organize written expression in formal, clear language,
3. demonstrate correct mechanics of sentence structure and punctuation,
4. develop an awareness of levels of language,
5. demonstrate concrete evidence of an increased vocabulary,
6. demonstrate the ability to interpret and analyze written passages of increasing difficulty,
7. effectively self-evaluate written work,
8. compose coherent essays,
9. analyze the fundamentals of term paper techniques and library use.
10. interpret meaning of vocabulary in context,
11. recognize main ideas, determine implied main ideas, and the central point,
12. identify supporting details,
13. discriminate among transitions that involve addition, cause and effect, comparison and/or contrast, examples, and time,
14. distinguish between facts and opinions,
15. determine logical inferences by drawing conclusions,
16. identify an author's purpose and tone,
17. evaluate arguments,
18. apply reading strategies to other academic courses, and
19. analyze and synthesize appropriate information in the library for a basic research assignment.

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This introductory course focuses on news sources, news gathering techniques, and several approaches to handling news combined with practice in writing different types of news stories for multiple platforms. C-ID: JOUR 110

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Examples of appropriate Texts:

Brooks, Bria, et al. *News Reporting and Writing*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford, 2011. Print.

Mencher, Melvin. *Melvin Mencher's News Reporting and Writing*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011. Print.

Scanlan, Chip and Richard Craig. *News Writing and Reporting: The Complete Guide for Today's Journalist*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Oxford P, 2014. Print.



*The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law*. 48<sup>th</sup> ed. Associate P. 2013. Print.

California Newspaper Publishers Association. *The Right to Know: A Guide to Access and Media Law*. Sacramento: CNPA, 2009. Print.

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student should be able to

1. demonstrate skills in news writing for multiple platforms including print, online, broadcast, and social media
2. evaluate assigned news stories to determine the best approach to completing the task,
3. be introduced to AP style,
4. identify and solve problems that arise during news-gathering,
5. demonstrate sound interviewing techniques as well as demonstrate the ability to cover speeches/meetings/other events,
6. demonstrate the ability to meet story deadlines,
7. construct effective story leads,
8. demonstrate skill in editing copy,
9. write effective headlines,
10. demonstrate skill in editing copy,
11. be aware of ethical issues involved with reporting, and
12. be able to use journalistic writing forms including the inverted pyramid

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I            Introduction to Journalism
- A.     History of Journalism in the United States
  - B.     Operational Definition of Journalism
  - C.     Journalism's Role in our Society
    1.     freedom of the press
    2.     responsibility of the press
  - D.     Opportunities in Journalism
    1.     training and experiences
    2.     special abilities and duties
    3.     fields of opportunity

- Unit II            Journalistic Production
- A.     The News Story
    1.     identifying news
    2.     finding news information
    3.     preparing the news story
  - B.     Interviewing
    1.     arranging the interview
    2.     preparing for the interview
    3.     conducting a successful interview
    4.     ethics related to using interview

5. preparing interview information for publication
- C. **Headline Composition**
  1. headlines as "eye catchers"
  2. substance of the headline
  3. basic requirements of an acceptable headline
  4. types of headlines and specific characteristics of these
  5. unit values used in counting headlines
- D. **Copy Preparation**
  1. special instructions
  2. importance of style
  3. instructions to printer
  4. necessity for individual proof-reading
- E. **Copy Reading**
  1. responsibilities of copyreader
  2. specific duties and authority

- Unit III Journalistic Platforms for Writing**
- A. Print
  - B. Broadcast
  - C. Multi-media

**Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:**

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Answering questions
3. Skill practice
4. Completing required reading
5. Problem solving activity or exercise
6. Written work
7. Observation of or participation in an activity related to course

**Methods of Instruction:**

1. Lectures
2. Class discussions and projects
3. News writing assignments
4. Audiovisual presentations
5. Guest speakers
6. Field trips

**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Substantial writing assignments, including:
  - a. essay exams
  - b. reading reports
  - c. term or other papers
  - d. written homework
2. Skill demonstrations, including:



West Kern Community College District

- a. news, feature story assignments
- 3. Other examinations, including:
  - a. multiple choice
  - b. matching items

Supplemental Data:

T.O.P. Code:	060200 Journalism
Sam Priority Code:	D Possibly Occupational
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Not Applicable
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not Applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Course is not a part of a cooperative education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	No
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	Yes