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Journalism (JRNL) 1610 Reporting and Feature Writing (3 Units) CSU:UC
[formerly Journalism 8B]

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Journalism 1605 with a grade of “C” or higher

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

1. evaluate assigned stories to determine the appropriate approach to completing journalistic pieces,
2. compose effective headlines and stories, and
3. construct news writing for the newspaper.

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course focuses on feature writing and approaches to handling different types of feature stories such as profiles, human interest, consumer, and interpretive news features. Participation in the preparation of the college newspaper is required.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text:

The Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual. Print.

California Newspaper Publishers Association. *Reporters Handbook on Media Law*.
Sacramento, CA: CNPA, 2004. Print.

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

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

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

1. demonstrate skills in feature writing,
2. evaluate assigned feature stories to determine the best approach to completing the task,
3. differentiate between hard and soft news and opinion pieces in feature writing,
4. identify and solve problems that arise during news-gathering for feature stories,
5. deduce valid conclusions based on information gathered from sources for feature stories,
6. demonstrate sound interviewing techniques for feature stories,
7. justify news judgments made during completion of assignments for feature stories,

8. evaluate information gathered for feature stories,
9. apply principles of sound news judgment for feature stories,
10. demonstrate the ability to meet feature story deadlines,
11. construct effective feature_story leads,
12. demonstrate skill in editing copy for feature stories,
13. write effective headlines for feature stories, and
14. demonstrate skill in editing copy for feature stories,

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Journalistic Production

- A. Feature Writing
 1. Characteristics of the feature story
 2. Feature sources
 3. Special abilities in feature writing
 4. Style variations in feature writing
- B. Newspaper make-up
 1. Introduction to make-up
 2. Guiding principles
 3. Specific make-up
 4. Attractiveness in make-up
- C. The Editorial
 1. Definition and characteristics
 2. Types of editorials
 3. Editorial purpose
 4. Editorial sources
 5. Responsibilities of the editorial writer
- D. The Column
 1. Special characteristics
 2. Selection of materials
 3. Reader interest
 4. Style in the column
 5. Importance of quality
- E. Editorial policy
 1. Definition and significance
 2. Conditions shaping editorial policy
 3. Effect on the overall nature of specific publications
 4. Relationship to legal and ethical considerations
- F. Proofreading
 1. Typographical corrections
 2. Factual corrections
- G. Photography
 1. Characteristics of good news photography
 2. Importance to news publications
 3. Identification with related materials



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

Student Learning Outcomes: JRNL 1610

Course Level SLO	Assessments
Evaluate assigned stories to determine the appropriate approach to completing journalistic pieces	Group discussion
Compose effective headlines for feature stories	Written stories for publication
Construct news and feature writing for a newspaper	Written stories for publication

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	060200 Journalism
SAM Priority Code:	C: Clearly 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