

MCM 360.04___: News and Feature Reporting

Credit: 3- Fall 2009

Course participation must be approved by Dept Chair

Meeting room: 209___

Dates and Times to be scheduled

Instructor: Kelli Arena

Office 114

Office hours: When not on Campus, available by e-mail or phone whenever you need.

e-mail: kelli.arena1@gmail.com

Phone: 936-294-1335 (office) 410-867-0028(home) 202-365-0798 (cell)

Required materials

Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual

Strunk & White, The Elements of Style

Laptop (download Skype for free)

a good dictionary

Course Objectives

- 1-To learn how to identify good news stories and report them in a way that is both compelling and accurate.
- 2- To learn how to interview effectively, work with sources and sourced material.
- 3- To learn to write well-crafted news stories on deadline.
- 4- To understand that a reporter's ethical standards must always be beyond reproach.

Methods

This course will be heavy on practical experience –We focus on finding stories, researching them, conducting interviews, and writing them. The standards will be the same as if you were working in a professional newsroom.

Required Work

I expect you to arrange your schedules to be present for each seminar. I expect you to participate in Seminar discussions. Writing assignments must be completed on deadline. You are expected to keep up with news of the day; I will be giving occasional current-event quizzes. Don't just read your local papers, read publications such as the New York Times or The Wall Street Journal.

Read news on the Internet, watch TV news, local, network and cable. News programs on the radio also can be beneficial.

Exams

There will be tests covering chapters 2-5 from Strunk and White's The Elements of Style, and information from the AP Stylebook. Final exams will also include a writing assignment.

Grading

Exercises, news quizzes & daily stories: 60 percent. Final exams 40 percent.

Missed Assignments or Exams

The instructor must be notified beforehand if a student has to miss an exam or cannot turn in an assignment on the due date because of an excusable circumstance.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will fail.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they shall not be subjected to discrimination. Please see instructor to make arrangements so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation.

Religious Holidays

As this is an arranged schedule class, we will do our best not to meet on Religious Holidays. If a student is absent due to observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to make up work within a reasonable timeframe.

Visitors in the Classroom

I need to know beforehand if a visitor is coming. They must be a registered student. They must not disrupt the class.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester

Classroom Rules of Conduct

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Read it.

No cell phone calls, or texting allowed in class. No listening to music or anything else on headphones. No reading unrelated reading material in class. Debate IS encouraged, but students should be respectful of each other's views.

Worth remembering

I'm told you are advanced among your peers. Show me. Pay attention, work hard, ask questions and don't take the easy way out.

