

1-2004

# JOUR 270.01: Beginning Reporting

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# JOURNALISM 270

Beginning Reporting, Section 1  
Spring Semester, 2004  
MWF 9:10-10 a.m.  
Jour 204 and 212

# INSTRUCTOR

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## TEXTS

- The Missoulian
- The Kaimin
- The J270 Stylebook (available in the Journalism Office)
- A reliable dictionary

## EXPECTATIONS

Be curious. Be willing to explore the world. What you should take from this class: the ability to know news when you see it, find information, conduct interviews and write lively, accurate and concise stories on deadline. Writing assignments will be frequent; you'll do some in class to help you get used to deadline pressure.

- **ATTEND EVERY CLASS.** Treat this class as you would your first reporting job: **Be on time, be ready to work and call in sick before class if you can't make it.**
- **ASK QUESTIONS.** That's what reporters do.
- **BE ACCURATE.** Any story in which you spell a name wrong or make a factual error will receive an automatic F.

## DEADLINES

- Stories are due **IN PRINTED FORM** (not on disk) at the beginning of class (9:10 a.m.). Electronically filed stories also must be in by the assigned deadline.
- If you can't finish an assignment on time because of an emergency, you must tell me in person or by phone *before* the deadline. Otherwise you'll get an F. Call me at home (til 10 p.m.) or at school; send e-mail, leave a message.
- If you can't cover an assignment outside of class because you have to work or you have another class at that time, let me know *before the event* so you can cover a different assignment. If you wait until after the event, you'll get an F.
- If you miss class for an excusable reason, clear it with me in advance. You can't make up work missed during an unexcused absence, and you'll get an F for in-class work you miss. You must complete work missed during an excused absence by the **beginning** of the next class period.

••STORIES TURNED IN AFTER DEADLINE GET AN AUTOMATIC  
F.••

## READING

Read the *Missoulian* and the *Kaimin* every day. Be prepared for **spot quizzes** on current events – local, state, national and international.

## NEWSPAPER PROJECT

Choose one major metropolitan newspaper available in the journalism library, and read it at least twice a week. Toward the end of the semester, you'll critique that paper based on what you've learned in this class.

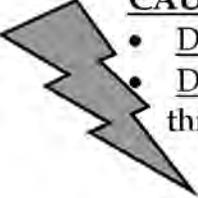
## GRADING

Stories (reporting and writing)	50 percent
Quizzes, exercises and other assignments	30 percent
Newspaper Project	15 percent
Attendance/participation	5 percent

**NOTE: Story grades in the 2nd half of the semester count twice as much as those in the first half.**

**ALSO NOTE: There is no final exam in Journalism 270.**

## CAUTIONS

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- DON'T plagiarize (turn in work that's not your own).
  - DON'T make up quotes, sources or facts. Both are academic misconduct. You'll fail this class, and you could be expelled.

## UM WRITING CENTER

We expect you to be proficient in grammar, punctuation, spelling and other writing skills. If you're rusty, don't be shy about asking for help at the Writing Center (102 Social Sciences building). Call Ext. 2266 or visit the center's Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter/> for hours. The Web site also has links to several online writing labs that may be helpful.

## FINAL WORD

*You may be wondering what you've gotten yourself into. Journalism is hard work, but it also can be great fun. Seeing your name on top of a story in the newspaper is a thrill that takes a long time to fade.*

*I'll be asking you to work hard in this class. Stop in and see me if you feel you're going under. And remember that learning a new skill is like riding a roller coaster. You might feel like you're hitting bottom, but you're really on the way up*