Syllabi

1-2015

JRNL 270.01: Reporting

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JOUR 257 02 –Reporting Syllabus – Spring 2015

(Subject to change)

Instructor: Ray Fanning, Associate Professor, School of Journalism, Radio-Television Department.
Office: Don Anderson Hall 405
Office hours: 12:30-2:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment.
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Course Objectives:
This course will introduce you to the fundamentals of reporting and writing news for print, online and broadcast, including the use of digital audio recording and editing equipment.

Class Meets:
Tue. and Thu. from 9:40- 11:00 a.m., in Don Anderson Hall 009

Required textbook:
News Writing and Reporting by Chip Scanlan and Richard Craig, second edition I also expect you to read a newspaper, visit news web sites, listen to radio news and watch television news.

Successful JRNL 270 Students will:
- Develop sound news judgment
- Learn to write basic news stories with accuracy, clarity, logic and precision
- Learn to conduct interviews
- Understand and employ common story formats for print, broadcast and online
- Learn the basics of gathering and editing audio
- Understand basic legal and ethical principles of journalism

There will be an assessment at the end of the semester to measure student proficiency with these goals.

Grading:
Writing assignments will be evaluated for news judgment, clarity, completeness, fairness, spelling, grammar and style, and individual grades will reflect a professional standard. The closer a piece of writing is to being publishable, the better the grade.

Misspelled names and other obvious factual mistakes will result in a lower grade for that assignment.

Grading Breakdown:
- Writing and reporting assignments 35%
- Attendance and News of the Week 10%
- Print and broadcast enterprise stories 40%
- Print and broadcast style quiz 5%
- Final assessment 10%

Assignments will not be accepted more than a week after the deadline.

Grading Scale:
A   100-93%
A-   92-90%
B+   89-88%
B   87-83%
B-   82-80%
C+   79-78%
C   77-73%
C-   72-70%
D   69-60%
F   Below 60%

Attendance and Participation:
Pre-registered students who fail to attend the first meeting of the class may be dropped. You are expected to attend every class. You can't succeed if you miss critique sessions, lectures and labs. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you come in late, you are responsible to let the instructor know. If you are late you will only receive half the attendance points for that day.

Deadlines and Professionalism:
Professionals are under constant pressure to produce high-quality work in a short time. A great story is of little value if it's finished too late to make the paper or get on the air. Therefore, *deadlines in this class will be strictly enforced*. Unless you make prior arrangements with me, an assignment submitted after the deadline will get an F. If you can't meet a deadline due to illness or some other emergency, *you must let me know before the deadline.* If you don't, you won't be allowed to make up the work. I will not accept any assignments more than a week after the original deadline.

Diversity Initiative:
The School of Journalism has undertaken an initiative to create opportunities for students to tell stories of more varied and diverse groups of people. You will need to integrate one of these groups into an assignment. We will discuss this during the preparation for the assignment.

Double-dipping:

You may not submit for this course any assignment that has previously, or will be concurrently, submitted for another class, unless you receive prior approval from the professor for this course. To do so without permission will result in an F for the assignment and could result in an F for the course.

Academic Honesty:

I expect honesty in presenting your own work for this course. Academic misconduct at The University of Montana is subject to an academic penalty ranging from failing the assignment to expulsion from the university. Students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.

Plagiarism:

As defined by "The University of Montana Student Conduct Code" plagiarism is: "Representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own." This is strictly prohibited in this class and any case of plagiarism in this course will be subject to the penalties outlined in the student code of conduct.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. If you have any accessibility problems, please let me know. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website.

Audio Recording Equipment:

Small teams of students will be responsible for a set of audio recording equipment for the semester. You will manage sharing the gear among your teammates.

<u>As a group you are financially responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged equipment.</u>

Be careful with all equipment you use. Don't leave any equipment in your car or anyplace it could be stolen. Do not lose your temper and take it out on the equipment. Problems will happen, whether you're at the network level or in college. Everything breaks down eventually. Batteries quit and computers don't always work. Be patient and learn to solve problems.

Building Access:

For after-hours access to Don Anderson Hall, you will be able to enter the building using the Griz Card swipe at the front door. You will also be given a key code for the door to DAH 009.

For after hours access to Don Anderson Hall, complete and submit this form online by Friday, February 6 at 5pm.

Students who miss the Sept. 5 deadline will not have after-hours access to Don Anderson Hall for the fall semester. Complete only one request form per semester – be sure to list all the Journalism courses you are taking. A door code will be assigned and provided to you via email. This request will also activate your Griz Card for the outside door and, if needed, Room 101. Codes will remain active until the last day of the semester.

University Writing Assessment:

This course requires an electronic submission (via Moodle) of an assignment stripped of your personal information to be used for educational research and assessment of the university's writing program. Your paper will be stored in a database. A random selection of papers will be assessed by a group of faculty and staff using a rubric developed from the following writing learning outcomes.

- o Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- o Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- o Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- o Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- o Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- o Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions (largely style conventions like APA or MLA)
- o Demonstrate appropriate English language usage

This assessment in no way affects either your course grade or your progression at the university. Here's the rubric that will be used to assess your assignment.

Week	Date	Class	Assignments	Read Before Class
1	1/27	What's News? News, the news audience and reporting	News Judgment Exercise	
	1/29	Who, What, When, Where, Why and How	In class- write a simple news story	Scanlan: Chapters 1 and 2
2	2/3	Planning stories		Scanlan: Chapters 4 and 5
	2/5	Grammar and Punctuation		Scanlan: Chapter 8
3	2/10	Language and Accuracy	Quotes and Attribution AP Style	
	2/12	Leads Elements of Leads News discussion	First lead exercise	Scanlan: Chapters 10
4	2/17	Leads 2	Second lead exercise	
	2/19	Interviewing Cole lecture preview story		Scanlan: Chapter 6
5	2/24	Story Forms Covering Speeches	In class news conference	Scanlan: Chapters 11 and 17
	2/26	Covering other stories Features and enterprise stories A.P. Style review		
6	3/3	Write fire story	Cover Cole Lecture Monday, March 9- 7pm	
	3/5	Using Numbers	Record natural sound	Scanlan: Chapter 9
7	3/10	Sound bites Gathering and working with sound natural sound Enterprise story pitches	(You will write this story for both print and broadcast, so you will need to record all your interviews.	
	3/12	Broadcast writing basics	Correct sentences Cole speech due	Scanlan: Chapter 14
8	3/17	Broadcast leads Broadcast structure, story forms personalization		
	3/19	Cole review and rewrite		

Week	Date	Class	Assignments	Read Before Class
9	3/24	Obituaries		Scanlan: Chapter 19
	3/26	Interview and write obituary story	Obituary due at the end of class	
	3/31	Spring Break- no class		
	4/2	Spring Break- no class		
10	4/7	Check obits for factual errors POS Exercise		Scanlan: Chapter 15
	4/9	Editing with Audacity		
11	4/14	Reporting and Writing Online		Scanlan: Chapter 13
	4/16	Print and broadcast style quiz	Print enterprise story is due	
12	4/21	Plane crash exercise		
	4/23	Plane crash exercise 2	Short brief for web package for radio.	
13	4/28	Ethics and libel		Scanlan: Chapter 16
	4/30	Edit lab	Broadcast enterprise scripts due	
14	5/5	Critique broadcast stories Class evaluations	Broadcast enterprise edit due	
	5/7	Final Assessment		
15	5/4	Finals		