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JRNL 270.03: Reporting

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Reporting

JRNL 270-03
Class meets Tuesday, Thursday 12:40-2
Don Anderson Hall Room 009

Professor Nadia White
408 DAH 243-6720 (office)
529-9839 (cell)

Office Hours:
Mondays 9:30-11:30, Thursdays 3-5
or by appointment

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.

Required textbooks
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. I also expect you to have Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts. You should pay attention to how news is treated on social media

Successful JRNL 270 students will:
1. Develop sound news judgment.
2. Learn to write basic news stories with accuracy, clarity, logic and precision.
3. Learn to conduct interviews.
4. Understand and employ common story formats for print, broadcast and online.
5. Learn the basics of gathering and editing audio.
6. Understand basic legal and ethical principles of journalism.
7. Understand the role social media plays in news dissemination and reporting.
8. There will be an assessment at the end of the semester to measure student proficiency in goals 1-2, 4-6.
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.

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.

Moodle
We will use Moodle for this course. Your grades will be available there, along with some handouts.

Final grade breakdown
- Writing and reporting assignments 35%
- Attendance and News of the Week 10%
- Print and broadcast enterprise stories 35%
- Print and broadcast style quizzes 10%
- Final assessment 10%

The grade scale is:
A   93-100
A-  90-92
B+  88-89
B   83-87
B-  80-82
C+  78-79
C   73-77
C-  70-72
D   60-69
F   Below 59

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.

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 Feb. 6 deadline will not have after-hours access to Don Anderson Hall for the Spring 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

Academic Honesty
I expect your 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.

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.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with the instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website.