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JOUR 380.01: News Editing

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NEWS EDITING

Fall Semester 2000
Jour 380 Section 1
Tuesday-Thursday, 9:40-11 a.m.
Rooms: J211 for lectures,
J212 for labs

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Hours: anytime but Wednesday p.m.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

News editing is a class that emphasizes practical experience in editing newspaper copy, writing headlines and cutlines, and deciding whether a story is ready for publication.

This course should make you passionate about using the right word, adding the well-placed comma and writing the perfect headline. It should help you develop an alarm system for suspicious facts, faulty logic, curious inconsistencies and bad math.

We'll spend many days in the journalism lab, functioning as real copy editors working on deadline. The class will include a liberal sprinkling of current events quizzes and AP style quizzes. Be ready for them.

Copy editors are trivia machines. They know many things, such as:

1. Where is the world's tallest building?
2. Who is the president of Brazil?
3. Who was the No. 1 NFL draft choice in 1998?
4. How many American homes have three or more TV sets?

Or, at least they'll know where to look it up.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- "Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual" (current edition)
- "Woe is I" (Patricia T. O'Conner)
- A good dictionary (preferably Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College edition)

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- An almanac for the year 2000. Several are available in the bookstore
- The Kaimin, the Missoulian, other regional as well as national newspapers — (especially handy for current events quizzes)
- Columbia Journalism Review (available in J-school library)
- American Journalism Review (ditto)
- Electronic: www.copydesk.org (American Copy Editors Society). This site includes copy-editing tips, job postings, internship information, examples of good headlines, and more.

ATTENDANCE

- It's required. Much of your grade will be based on work done in class. Unless you make prior arrangements, you'll get an "F" if you miss an in-class assignment. Even with prior arrangements, you must have a good reason to miss class.

DEADLINES

- Deadlines count for everything. No assignments accepted after deadline, except with prior arrangements.

GRADING

- Editing labs 50 percent
- AP style quizzes / Weeks I 15 percent
- Midterm and final exams 10 percent each (20 points total)
- Current events quizzes 05 percent
- Other homework and exercises 10 percent

COMPUTER USE

- If you already have an account in the J-school computer lab, it should still be in working order. (But be sure to check it before our first lab).
- If you don't have an account, be sure to fill out the login request form in Peet McKinney's office (room 206C).

ANSWERS:

1. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (1,483 feet, 88 stories)
2. Fernando Cardoso
3. Peyton Manning, Tennessee quarterback (picked by Indianapolis)
4. 39.2 million

Class schedule

J 380, Section 1

Fall 2000

Week 1 - Introductions, diagnostic exam/Role of the copy editor

Tuesday, Sept. 5 - Introduction, diagnostic exam

Thursday, Sept. 7 - Review diagnostic exam, Role of the copy editor. Read for Tuesday: Chapters 1 & 2, "Woe is I"

Week 2 - Reference materials/Grammar and Punctuation

Tuesday, 9/12 - Assign scavenger hunt. Discussion, worksheets: "Woe is I" (Ch. 1&2). For Thursday: Read "Woe is I" Ch. 3&4.

Thurs, 9/14 - Review chapters 3 & 4. For Tuesday, Read "Woe is I" Ch. 5 & 6.

Fri, 9./15 - Scavenger Hunt due

Week 3 - Grammar and Punctuation

Tues, 9/19- First AP Style Quiz (A-D); For Thursday, read "Woe is I" Ch. 7 & 8.

Thurs, 9/21 - Take home editing lab,(grammar, reference) due Tuesday

Week 4 -Mistakes Reporters Make

Tuesday, 9/26 - Mistakes reporters make

Thurs, 9/28 - More mistakes reporters make, Review Editing lab 1

Week 5 - Story organization

Tues, 10/3 - Story organization discussion and exercises

Thurs, 10/5 - Second AP Style quiz (E-H); Second take-home editing lab (grammar, reference, mistakes, story organization), due Tuesday

Week 6 - Fairness, taste, libel

Tues, 10/10 - Fairness, racist and sexist language, political correctness, etc.

Thurs, 10/12 - Review editing lab No. 2; Libel

Third take-home editing lab: (grammar, reference, mistakes reporters make, story organization, libel)

Week 7 - Clutter and Redundancy / Words Easily Confused, Spelling

Tues, 10/17 - Clutter and redundancy

Thurs, 10/19 - Third AP Style Quiz (I-M); Review third editing lab (if necessary);

Words easily confused; Fourth take-home editing lab, due Tuesday

Week 8 - Review and practice for midterm examination

Tues, 10/24 - Deadline editing

Thurs, 10/26 - Review fourth lab; Review for midterm

Week 9 - Midterm / Headlines

Tues, 10/31 - Midterm

Thurs, 11/2 - Fourth AP Style Quiz (M-P); Headlines (basics and busts)

Week 10 - Headlines

Tues, 11/7: NO CLASS

Thurs, 11/9 - Review headlines

Week 11 - Headlines

Tues, 11/14 - Advanced headline writing (alliteration, puns, labels, etc.)

Thurs, 11/16 - Fifth AP quiz (Q-S);

Week 12 - Cutlines

Tues, 11/21 - Fifth editing lab (in-class)

Thurs, 11/23: Thanksgiving

Week 13 - Cutlines and Graphics

Tues, 11/28 - Review fifth editing lab (if necessary); What makes a good cutline

Thurs, 11/30 - Sixth AP quiz (T-Z) Types of graphics; Sixth editing lab (take home - cutlines, graphics, headlines, et.al) Due Tuesday

Week 14 - Deadline Editing

Tuesday, 12/5 - Sixth editing lab due. Editing accumulating versions of the same story, Practice deadline editing

Thursday, 12/7 - Seventh editing lab (deadline editing)

Week 15 - deadline editing / review for final lab

Tues, 12/12 - Review

Thurs, 12/14 - Final lab