### COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Title:** Journalism I  
**Department:** Humanities Department  
**Curriculum:** Communications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code: (eg. ACC 101)</th>
<th>COM*121</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Type:</strong></td>
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| Elective Type: | E/G/HU/LAS |

**Course Descriptors:**  
Make certain that the course descriptors are consistent with college and Board of Trustees policies, and the current course numbering system.

**Prerequisites:**  
C or better in Composition (ENG*101)

**Corequisites:**  
None

**Other Requirements:**  
None

**Credit Hours:**  
3

**Developmental:**  
No

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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**Class Maximum:**  
24

**Semesters Offered:**  
F/SP

**Catalog Course Description:**  
Students receive an introduction to news-writing, reporting, and information-gathering through completion of writing assignments and study of work done by journalists in print, television, Internet, and radio news. Attention is given to the tasks and responsibilities of persons who write for today's varied media. Students also explore ethical questions that confront news media and those who work in news media.

**Topical Outline:**  
List course content in outline format.

1. First Steps in News-writing  
   A. News Thinking: Getting Ideas  
   C. Writing the News Lead  
   D. The Rest of the Story

2. Story Structures  
   A. Inverted Pyramid  
   B. Hourglass  
   C. Narrative

3. Interview Skills
A. Preparation
B. Questions: Open-Ended, Closed-Ended
C. Note-Taking and Recording
D. Off-the-Record

4. Writing the News
   A. Basic News Reporting and Writing
   B. Feature Writing and Personality Profiles
   C. Opinion Writing (Columns, Reviews, and Editorials)
   D. Specialization (Sports, Obituaries, Lifestyle Reporting)
   E. Why Numbers Matter

5. Broadcast Writing
   A. Broadcast Style
   B. Continuity
   C. Teasers and Tags
   D. Broadcast Interviewing

6. Writing on Deadline
   A. Deadline Every Day (Print)
   B. Deadline Every Minute (Broadcast)
   C. Drafting on Deadline
   D. Revising on Deadline

7. Beat Reporting
   A. Why the Beat System?
   B. Getting to Know Sources
   C. Community Reporting
   D. Some Beats
      a. Government
      b. Police, Courts, Fires
      c. Sports
      d. Some Others (Lifestyles, Business, Health, Education)

8. Fairness, Ethical Concerns, and Privacy
   A. Libel and Slander
   B. A Right to Privacy?
   C. Conflicts of Interest
   D. Plagiarism
   E. Ethical Obligations

9. Journalism’s Global Reach
   A. From Main Street to the World Scene
   B. Consolidation
   C. The Internet
   D. Liberal or Conservative?

Outcomes:
Describe measurable skills or knowledge that students should be able to demonstrate as evidence that they have mastered the course content.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

COURSE:
1. prepare news articles that are worthy of publication or broadcast and that focus on events, personalities, or issues
2. describe the differences between opinion-writing and news-writing
3. explain libel and slander and describe their applicability to journalism
4. trace the evolution of journalism from its origin in locally based print products to its current global reach
5. analyze the role of the news media in shaping public opinion and actions
**Program**: (Numbering reflects Program Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)

NOT APPLICABLE. Journalism I is a required course in the Communications certificate program, but it also serves as an elective course in English, Liberal Arts, and the Humanities.

**General Education**: (Numbering reflects General Education Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)

3. Ethical Dimensions (embedded) - Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social and political problems.

- **Demonstrates**: Identifies and reflects critically on ethical issues presented in classroom instruction or in assigned co-curricular or civic activities and/or professional internships and practica.
- **Does Not Demonstrate**: Does not sufficiently identify or reflect critically on ethical issues presented in classroom instruction or in assigned co-curricular or civic activities and/or professional internships and practica.

5. Information Literacy/Continuing Learning - Students will be able to use traditional and digital technology to access, evaluate, and apply information to the needs or questions confronting them throughout their academic, professional, and personal lives.

- **Demonstrates**: Collects and synthesizes relevant and authoritative information resources appropriate to need and audience and utilizes current technologies to solve problems, complete projects, and make informed decisions.
- **Does Not Demonstrate**: Does not collect and synthesize relevant and authoritative information resources appropriate to need and audience nor satisfactorily utilize current technologies to solve problems, complete projects, and make informed decisions.

**Assessment**: Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

1. in-class examinations and quizzes
2. assignments in news reporting and feature writing to be completed and revised out-of-class
3. in-class writing assignments to be completed under deadline pressure
4. classroom discussion and oral presentations

**Instructional Resources**:

**Required**: Classroom with computer work stations, printer, and Internet access

**Desired**: None

**Textbook(s)**: Refer to current academic year printout.