



COMM 1130

Division: Humanities

Department: Communication

Course: COMM 1130

Title: Media Writing

Catalog Description:

This course will focus on the purposes, format, traditions, and expectations of writing for the news media. It includes practice in reporting, writing and critiquing news, features and editorials.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Justification:

This course is designed to introduce students to career options in journalism, to help them become better writers, and to prepare them to meet transfer requirements as journalism majors. The course is comparable to beginning media writing courses offered at all other Utah state colleges and universities, and is a prerequisite to Communication major courses at those schools. It will also provide training for the students who will be producing the school newspaper, so that the quality and depth of the paper will improve.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students completing the course will:

- Know the differences between writing news for print and writing for electronic media
- Develop traditional news writing skills
- Understand Associated Press style
- Have experience writing local news that could be used in the student newspaper

Content:

The following topics will be covered in this course:

- Understanding news: Changing concepts of news, basic news story
- Collecting Information: Sources, reporting, interviewing
- Constructing Stories: Leads, story structure, writing for different media
- Understanding Media Issues: Libel, ethics, etc.
- Applying techniques to different story types
- Following AP Style

-Writing for public relations

-Writing for tv, radio and online sources

Course work will include assigned readings and class discussions of the readings; review of current news stories and developments in the field of journalism; practical writing assignments based on the work in the book and current events on campus.

General Education Outcomes:

Key Performance Indicators:

Student knowledge of material covered in the course will be assessed by:

-a minimum of eight graded paper - 40 percent

-four tests - 40 percent

-final exam - 20 percent

Day to day activities include weekly writing assignments, class participation showing general comprehension of the areas, problems, and tasks involved in journalism.

Evidence of how well students have achieved the art of news writing will be shown in their improvement from the beginning to the end of the course, the quality of the product they produce as the contribute to the student (or other) newspaper or pursue more advanced writing and reporting classes at four-year colleges or universities.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

The Missouri Group. Telling the Story: The Convergence of Print, Broadcast and Online Media. Current edition. Bedford's St. Martins.

Optimum Class Size: 18

Maximum Class Size: 20

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Elaine Compton, MS, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Communication Department:

Elaine Compton, MS, Assistant Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)