



## COMM 2900

**Division:** Humanities

**Department:** Communication

**Course:** COMM 2900

**Title:** Newspaper Production

**Catalog Description:**

Students will practice the theory and application of newspaper design, production, and reporting as staff members and student editors of The Snowdrift, Snow College's student newspaper.

**General Education Requirements:** N/A

**Semesters Offered:** Fall

**Credit/Time Requirement:** Credit: 2; Lecture: 2; Lab: 1

**Clock/Hour Requirements:** 0

**Offered for Non-Credit:** No

**Justification:**

Students need experience in leadership positions as well as newspaper production techniques such as page layout, design, headline writing, editing, etc. to produce a high-quality student paper. The course provides some training in subject and skill areas that would be covered in advanced journalism courses at larger schools. The course will transfer as elective credit.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students completing this course will:-- Know and practice the principles and skills of good newspaper production as they write, edit, design, layout, and publish the school newspaper.-- Learn to supervise 1st-year newspaper staff members and accept more responsibility for the timely production of the student newspaper.

**Content:**

Fall Semester---Reporting techniques-Interviewing techniques-Learning where to make contacts and where to find sources-Tools of the trade, typography, and page dummyming-Story design-Page design-Photos and art

**General Education Outcomes:**

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Students write stories every week for publication in the newspaper. Stories are edited by student editors before publication and critiqued by the advisor after publication so writers can see mistakes and improve future stories.

4) Retrieve, evaluate, interpret, and deliver information through a variety of traditional and electronic media.

Students will practice researching information for their news stories through interviews, accessing printed and electronic resources and databases, and will then assess the accuracy and appropriateness of that information for publication.

**Key Performance Indicators:**

Student performance in class will be evaluated in the following ways:- timely and efficient completion of design and editing of specific pages of The Snowdrift for which they are responsible: 20%- completion and quality of stories written for publication: 30%- written tests on material taught in class and from the textbook: 40% - participation in class discussions, and distribution of newspaper on campus: 10%- Issues of The Snowdrift will be submitted to the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (or a similar organization) for an annual critique. Sponsored by Columbia University in New York, the group sends a written critique on all aspects of the publication as well as suggestions for improvement.-- Subsequent value of the course to students may be measured by the quality of a students work as he/she pursues further involvement in the journalism field either as second-year students with The Snowdrift or with other newspapers.

**Representative Text and/or Supplies:**

The Newspaper Designer's Handbook, by Tim Harrower. Dubuque: WCB Brown and Benchmark, current edition.-- Local and national newspapers will be analyzed, as well as The Snowdrift and other college newspapers.

**Optimum Class Size:** 15

**Maximum Class Size:** 20

**Signatures:**

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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

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Elaine Compton, MS, Assistant Professor, Chair

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

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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:

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

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Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)