

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE PREFIX/NO.: **JOU 101**
COURSE TITLE: **Introduction to Journalism**
LEC HRS/WEEK: 3.0
LAB HRS/WEEK: 0.0
CREDIT HRS/SEMESTER: 3.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)
[Textbook Information](#)

Course description: This course is a study of basic rhetorical and ethical principles of journalistic writing for news media, including newspapers, journals, radio, and television.

Course competencies:

To complete this course successfully, a student will be able to

1. trace the key technological developments that influence media.
2. identify styles used by news media.
3. describe media convergence.
4. analyze the ethical and legal aspects of media coverage.
5. evaluate the effects of social, economic, and political pressures on news media.
6. prepare assignments using the journalistic process.
7. conduct basic research.

Minimal standards:

A minimum grade average of C (70%) is required to transfer credit to most colleges.

Course requirements:

Attendance: Students are responsible for attending all scheduled class meetings and for all material covered and all assignments. Any student who is not in attendance the required 80% of scheduled class time will be withdrawn. Absences are counted from the first scheduled class. Ordinarily, late arrivals or early departures of fewer than 10 minutes constitute a tardy. Three tardies constitute one absence. Late arrivals or early departures of more than 10 minutes may constitute an absence. Since Distance Learning students do not meet class regularly, any Distance Learning student who misses the first major assignment and has not conferenced with the instructor concerning progress will be withdrawn.

Withdrawal from class: A student may withdraw from the class after the add/drop period until midterm and receive a grade of W. After midterm, the student must contact the instructor to have a Request for Withdrawal form completed. A grade of W or WF at the time of withdrawal will be determined by the situation or reason for withdrawal.

Assignments: This course requires at least two tests, three writing assignments, a journal of assigned media analyses, and a final project. The final project will integrate basic research, a critical report, and graphic aids. Each instructor will provide specific guidelines for his or her class.

Late or missed assignments: Any approved make-up, late, or revised work must be completed in a designated time and manner as directed by the instructor. An instructor may choose not to accept late or missed work or may limit the maximum credit allowed. **Other academic assistance or requirements:** Any student who demonstrates an area of weakness or need for additional help may contact the instructor, Student Services, the area tutor, or the LAC Computer Lab.

Academic integrity: Academic dishonesty includes using another's work student caught cheating or involved in any other academic dishonesty will be given a grade of zero and will be subject to further disciplinary action" (York Technical College Handbook and Catalog).

EVALUATION STRATEGIES/GRADING:

Tests = 30%
Writing Assignments = 30%
Journal = 20%
Project = 20%

Grading Scale

A = 90 - 100
B = 80 - 89
C = 70 - 79
D = 60 - 69
F = below 60

Entry-level skills: See prerequisite.

Prerequisite: ENG 100 or equivalent and basic computer skills.

Co-requisite: None

Methods of instruction: The class is taught using a wide variety of instructional methods.

Topic/content outline: See instructor handout/calendar.

The course will address the following:

- Distinguishing characteristics of various types of news media
- Tracing the history of the media and the impact of key technological developments
- Analyzing the ethical and legal issues facing media
- Identifying social, economic, and political pressures on news media
- Developing news stories using the appropriate journalistic style
- Conducting research through observation as well as through reading
- Recognizing the presence of media convergence
- Evaluating the use of graphics in news media