

## COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE PREFIX/NO: **JOU 201**

COURSE TITLE: **News Writing**

LEC HRS/WEEK: 3.0

LAB HRS/WEEK: 0.0

CREDIT HRS/SEMESTER: 3.0

Instructor: Staff

[DL Attendance/VA Statement](#)

[Textbook Information](#)

Course description: This course is a study of skills and techniques required in preparing copy for publication.

Course competencies:

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

1. conduct basic research (library, field, etc.)
2. plan and conduct interviews
3. analyze and distinguish journalistic styles
4. differentiate between soft and hard news
5. develop various story assignments using the journalistic process
6. edit and revise

Minimal standards:

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

Course requirements:

Attendance policy: Students are responsible for attending all scheduled class meetings and for all materials covered and all assignments.

Any student who is not in attendance the required 80% of schedule class time will be withdrawn.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.

Withdrawal from class: Any 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 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, four writing assignments of varying lengths, and a journal of assigned media analyses. 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 designed 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 my contact the instructor, Student Services, the area tutor, or the LAC Computer Lab.

Academic integrity: Academic dishonesty includes using another's work

without giving credit to the source and cheating of any type. "Any 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:

Reading Journal = 10%

Daily Grades (Homework, Classwork, Group work) = 10%

Major Tests = 20%

Writing Assignments = 60%

Grading scale:

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

D = 60 - 69

F = below 60

Entry level skills: See prerequisite.

Prerequisites: ENG 101 with a minimum grade of C.

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 news writing style
- Selecting and reporting the news
- Writing leads
- Using the Inverted Pyramid and Narrative styles appropriately
- Gathering news through research and interviews
- Writing features stories
- Writing for broadcast
- Analyzing the ethical and legal issues facing media