News Reporting & Writing
MM 2311
Spring 2018

Professor: Dr. Cathy Johnson

Phone: 942-6083

E-mail: Cathy.Johnson@angelo.edu

Office Location: B318, Library 3rd floor

Office hours: Tue/Th 11-1
Wed/Fri 8-10
Or by appointment

Course Description
Methods of gathering and writing news including audience analysis, news evaluation, fact gathering, interviewing, and information dissemination.

Textbooks


Learning Outcomes
In this course you will:

1. develop a sense of news value along with the ability to apply news judgment

2. develop an ability to find and gather information for news stories, particularly from primary sources

3. develop an ability to write news for print and digital

These learning outcomes will be evaluated from student-written news stories, daily assignments, and a final exam.
Activities/Instructional Strategies
The class period will combine lecture, class discussion, and laboratory. Stories on occasion (and without warning) will be displayed for class observation and critique, but you will not be identified as the writer.

You are expected to read news on a daily basis and the Ram Page on a weekly basis outside of class. Occasional news quizzes may be given to ensure that this is occurring.

Cell phones must be silenced and out of sight. Also, this is not a come and go class.
Evaluation Procedures/Criteria
Your course grade will be based on a daily grade, news stories, and a final exam.

All assignments due at the beginning of the class period (2 p.m.) except in-class assignments. If you are not in class on a particular day, you cannot make up an in-class assignment.

Assignments will not be accepted late.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Stories</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily grade**</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

News stories published in the Ram Page with a single byline (yours) will receive an extra 10 points on your story grade.

** You will write seven news stories plus one speech story. The lowest grade from the stories other than the speech story will be dropped. In other words, dropping the speech story grade is not an option.

** Your daily grade will be comprised of class participation (which necessitates class attendance and having read the assigned readings from the text), plus any assignments other than your news stories or the final exam.
Other university policies and procedures

Notice to Students with Disabilities: Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Office of Student Services, 325-942-2047, or Houston Harte University Center, 112.

If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Grade Appeal Process. As stated in Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at www.angelo.edu

Honor Code Policy: Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources.

Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan.</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>Introduction to the Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ch. 1 The Nature of News</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Covering ASU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23, 25</td>
<td>Ch. 3 Interviewing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Story 1 due Jan. 23, gold team &amp; blue team</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
30, 1 Interviewing continued
Ch. 4 Gathering & Verifying Information
Story 2 due Jan. 30, blue team

Feb. 6, 8 Gathering info continued
Story 2 due Feb. 6, gold team

13, 15 Ch. 7 Beyond the Inverted Pyramid
Story 3 due Feb. 13, blue team

20, 22 Ch. 12 News Conferences and Meetings
Ch. 12 Speeches
Story 3 due Feb. 20, gold team

27, 1 covering speeches continued
Story 4 due Feb. 24, blue team

March 6, 8 Ch. 14 Law, Ch. 15 Ethics
Story 4 due March 6, gold team

13, 15 Spring Break

20 Moon Lecture, 2 p.m.

22 writing speech story
Story 5 due Feb. 22, gold team

27, 29 Ch. 2 Convergence, Citizen Journalism & Emerging Media
Story 5 due March 27, blue team

April 3, 5 Ch. 13 Writing Common Types of Stories
Speech story due April 3, gold team & blue team

10, 12 Ch. 5 Reporting with Numbers
Story 7 due April 10, blue team

17, 19 Ch. 11 Covering a beat
Story 7 due April 17, gold team

24, 26 careers in reporting
Story 8 due April 24, blue team

May 1, 3 catch up and review
Story 8 due, May 1, gold team

Final Exam Tuesday, May 8, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.