Master Syllabus

ENGL 2115
Introduction to Journalism

Instructor: 
Office:  
Phone:  
E-mail: 
Office Hours:

Course Description: An introduction to writing for print media. Topics include basic news-gathering techniques; interviewing; writing feature articles, press releases, and news stories for newspapers and other publications; and journalistic format according to Associated Press Stylebook & Libel Manual. (Prerequisite: ENGL 1010).

Course Credits: 3

Course Outcomes:

1. Conduct research, including interviews, the Internet, and other electronic databases.
2. Compose and edit short news pieces and long feature stories and submit at least one for publication.
3. Learn to critically analyze the validity of sources and detect bias in the slant, tone, and focus of major daily newspaper stories.

Required Textbooks:

Americans with Disabilities Act: NSCC complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request any accommodation for this course, please contact the Coordinator of Disabilities at 353-3721.
NASHVILLE STATE HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM.

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity. He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College. Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment is defined as:

- Offensive language
- Harassment of students or professors
- Repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught
- Continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others;
- Beepers
- Cell phones
- Palm pilots
- Games

Students who are removed from class for disruptive behavior will not be allowed to return until the issue is resolved.

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, AND OTHER FORMS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY ARE PROHIBITED.

Students guilty of academic dishonesty, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance will be punished accordingly. Students guilty of flagrant plagiarism (turning in work that is not their own) will be given an automatic F for the course.

Grading Criteria: (Each instructor provides students with a rubric for assessment of work and stated grading standards for the course.)

Grading Scale: (Instructor provides students with letter grades and/or points.)

Attendance and Participation: (Instructor determines specific attendance and tardiness policies; any student who violates the attendance policy and/or misses two weeks of class risks failing the course.)

Late Work Policy: (Instructor provides students with policy.)
**Plagiarism/Cheating Policy:** At the discretion of the instructor, students who cheat or steal work from another source will either (1) be dismissed from class with a grade of “F” or (2) receive a grade of “F” for the assignment/test. Some examples of plagiarism and cheating are: using undocumented sources, copying work verbatim from the Internet, using someone else’s work, recycling work from another class, using unauthorized notes during an exam, and/or looking on a classmate’s test/paper. Instructors may further define honor code violations on the syllabus. Many instructors use Turnitin, a software program that detects and documents plagiarized work.

**Testing, Papers, Course Work:** (to be determined and disseminated by the instructor)
Weekly Schedule:

Week One: Chapter One, “Writing with Clarity and Coherence.” Attention will be given to writing the clear, crisp, prose that is required of journalists. Some trouble grammar spots will be reviewed.

Week Two: Chapter Two, “Writing With Responsibility.” Also, Libel Manual in AP Stylebook. Ethical considerations, libel, slander, yellow or “tabloid” journalism and how to avoid.

Week Three: Chapter Five, “Writing the Opening.” Developing good story ideas and leads.

Week Four: Chapter Six, “Writing Basic News Stories.” Developing the story. First news story is due.

Week Five: Chapter Four, “Writing and Gathering Information.” Research skills, using and crediting sources, reliability of sources, etc…

Week Six: Chapter Three, “Writing for Audience.” Second news story is due.

Week Seven: Midterm review and exam.


Weeks Nine and Ten: Writing the magazine feature (handouts). Writing query letters and pitching story ideas. Turn in feature story.

Week Eleven: Public relations writing (press releases).


Weeks Thirteen and Fourteen: Writing content for the Internet, E-Zines and other web sites.

Week Fifteen: Turn in final project and review for exam.