

MAC 440, Advanced Reporting and Newswriting
Course syllabus, Fall 2015
Instructor: Stan McKinney

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. in CH 106

Booklist

Textbooks are News Reporting and Writing (NRW) by Melvin Mencher, 12th edition, and The World Ends at the County Line (TWEACL) by Stan McKinney. AP Stylebook.

Course description

Advanced Reporting and Newswriting is designed for students who have completed the basic Reporting and Newswriting class or those who have a basic understanding of newspaper writing or possibly experience in the field. Emphasis will be on writing for publication. Students will produce a variety of stories suitable for publication and a portfolio.

Course objectives

- Students will learn about investigative reporting techniques, news writing, feature writing, opinion writing and series writing.
- Students will write a variety of stories including investigative, news, feature and opinion.
- Students will learn how a newsroom functions. They will learn how story ideas are developed, interviews conducted and stories written.
- Students will learn how to write a variety of different types of accurate, interesting and informative stories on a timely basis, suitable for use by various forms of media including print, broadcast and the web.
- Students will also edit others' stories as part of the writing process.
- A working knowledge of reporting will be taught.
- The course will prepare students for beginning reporting jobs with a newspaper, magazine, radio station, television station or other media.
- Students will learn how to use the AP Stylebook.

Course outline

-Much emphasis will be placed on writing. Students will be developing story ideas, conducting interviews and writing stories. Some of the stories will be for publication in the Campus Times. Some stories will be written for possible publication in other newspapers. Students will be writing nine stories during the semester. Deadlines for the stories will be set and students will be expected to meet those deadlines as they would have to if they were working for a newspaper.

-There will be discussions regarding writing style, ethics and such topics as "pack" journalism.

-There will also be discussions as to how dull or routine topics can be made more interesting for readers. Students will learn how to look and write beyond the obvious.

-Time will be spent discussing stories in various publications and how they were handled. Some time will also be spent discussing how radio and TV handled a particular situation.

-Students will write a total of nine stories for the semester.

They will be broken down as follows: two news stories, two feature stories, two sports stories and an editorial or column for the Campus Times. Assignments will vary each month depending on needs of the paper.

The other two stories will consist of a meeting story and a story related to Homecoming.

-The meeting story will require that students attend at least one public meeting such as city council, fiscal court, school board, parks board, zoning board or something comparable on campus.

-There will be discussion about story ideas and sources.

Evaluation

-Stories will be graded for completeness, accuracy, reader interest and overall impact. It is possible that students may be doing some rewrite if an initial draft of a story isn't acceptable for some reason for publication.

-Sources for stories will be asked to judge the accuracy of what you write. They will also be asked to evaluate your interviewing skills.

-The purpose of the course is to prepare students to write a variety of different types of accurate, interesting and informative stories on a timely basis, suitable for use by various forms of media.

-There will be two tests during the semester. The first will be at midterm. The final will be during the week of final exams. Each will be worth 5 percent of the final grade.

-Grades on stories will account for 90 percent of the semester grade. (That's 10 percent per story.) Grades for those stories will be determined by the quality of the questions asked, how interesting the story is, accuracy (sources will be given a chance to read the story), grammar, style and other factors that contribute to making them publishable.

The grading scale will be as follows: 90 to 100, A; 80 to 89, B; 70 to 79, C; 60 to 69, D; 0 to 59, F.

Deadline Assignment Policy

NO LATE WORK: All DEADLINE assignments are due on the dates listed. If an assignment description or course schedule provides a DEADLINE date for a particular assignment, that assignment is considered a DEADLINE assignment. DEADLINE assignments are **not** accepted after their due date. If an assignment is not turned in on or before the provided due date, then the student will immediately receive a zero (0) for that assignment. Deadlines are provided at the beginning of the semester and students are given ample time to complete assignments. University-related events do not provide an excuse for missing a deadline. Outside of extreme illness or death, there is no exception to this rule.

Attendance policy

Students are expected to attend each and every class. Students are also expected to be punctual.

University policy requires that roll be kept and the vice president for academic affairs advised if a student misses class the number of times it meets in two weeks. Students who miss

more than four times without a legitimate excuse also may be penalized points on their final grade.

University policy also requires that the vice president for academic affairs be informed of any students who miss more than the equivalent of four weeks. A student missing that many times will receive a grade of WA. (Withdrawn-absenteeism).

The university does not recognize excused absences for any purposes.

Plagiarism policy

According to the Division of Humanities, plagiarism is defined as representing the words or ideas of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise. Therefore, all writing (or photography) you do for this course must be your own and must be exclusively for this course, unless the professor stipulates differently. Pay special attention to the accuracy of the quotations, paraphrases, summaries and documentation practices you use in your assignments. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please ask your professor. If you plagiarize, your professor reserves the right to grant you a failure for the assignment or the course, and your case may be reported to the College of Arts and Sciences. For additional information concerning plagiarism, you may consult the Writing Center in the BASC.

Accommodations for disabilities

Campbellsville University is committed to reasonable accommodations for students who have documented physical and learning disabilities, as well as medical and emotional conditions. If you have a documented disability or condition of this nature, you may be eligible for disability services. Documentation must be from a licensed professional and current in terms of assessment. Please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at (270) 789-5192 to inquire about services.

Writing Center and Learning Commons

It is encouraged that students visit the Citizens Bank and Trust Co. Writing Center and Learning Commons, both located in the Badgett Academic Support Center (BASC). Both provide tutors and general support for preparing research to present in class, writing research and other papers and learning on a variety of topics.

Hours for the center are posed online at www.campbellsville.edu. Don't hesitate to ask for help, either from these centers or from this instructor, with writing and research. Technology is available to offer students a place to practice their presentations in an effort to make them comfortable presenting and to create the best presentations possible.

Make-up exams

Students are expected to attend class and take exams as scheduled. Make-up exams are permitted if a student misses because of a university-related trip or sanctioned event. In such case, the professor should be notified in advance of the fact the student will miss the exam. A

student will also be permitted to make up an exam missed because of illness or other emergency. Proof of illness or emergency must be presented to the professor.

Arrangements to make up an exam should be made as soon as possible. Exams should be made up within two weeks. The professor reserves the right to refuse to permit a student to make up an exam if these policies are not followed.

Title IX

Campbellsville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires all responsible employees, which includes faculty members, to report incidents of sexual misconduct shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Title IX Coordinator

Terry VanMeter 1 University Drive

UPO Box 944

Administration Office 8A

Phone - 270-789-5016

Email — twvanmeter@campbellsville.edu

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: www.campbellsville.edu/titleIX

Contact information

Stan McKinney's office is at Carter Hall 207A. His office phone number is (270) 789-5035. His box number on campus is 1371. He may also be reached by e-mail at

somckinney@campbellsville.edu

Campus Security Phone Numbers

Security Cell Phone: (270) 403-3611

Security Office Phone: (270) 789-5555