
JN2000: Introduction to Journalism | Syllabus Fall 2016

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 p.m., Arrupe Hall 222

Instructor

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Office hours: M 9 a.m. – noon; T/Th 8:30-9:30 a.m.,
and by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to equip you with basic journalism skills and to expose you to a wider philosophical understanding of the journalist's responsibility to society. It will provide a basic survey of the field and instruction in the fundamentals of journalistic writing, interviewing and editing.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate the following:

1. **Reporting:** The ability to report in depth, using a wide variety of sources to provide context, accuracy, and balance.
2. **Writing:** The ability to produce stories that are clear and concise and engage the audience's attention.
3. **Role and Responsibilities:** An understanding of the roles and duties of journalism in society, and recognition of the legal and moral implications of their work.

Texts

Textbook: "Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism," by Tim Harrower
(3rd edition)

Stylebook: The Associated Press Stylebook

BASIC COURSE RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

News

You are expected to keep up with local, regional, national and international news events by reading a daily newspaper, visiting news Web sites, watching television news broadcasts and/or listening to radio news broadcasts. The Kansas City Star, National Public Radio, The New York Times and cnn.com are some of the recommended sources to help you get started.

Assignments

This course has several exercises conducted in and outside the lab designed to reinforce the skills taught in class. *The ability to meet deadlines is a critical requirement in journalism.* Any late assignment will lose one letter grade for each day it is late. If you do not bring your story on a story workshop day, you will lose 15 points.

You are responsible for reading each chapter for the assigned day and should come to class ready to discuss the readings. I expect the class to engage in intelligent and critical discussion about the topics listed in this syllabus and other topics as they may arise based on your interests.

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced in 10-12 point font size, and free of typographical and/or grammatical errors. The Associated Press Stylebook is the word usage guide for this class. Bring it to class for all writing assignments.

Stories developed in this class may be submitted to the student newspaper, The Sentinel.

Exams

If you are not present for an exam, you will receive a zero and will not be allowed to make it up. If you have extenuating circumstances, you may be allowed to make up your exam, but this must be arranged prior to you missing the exam. If you miss an exam because you are sick, I expect a doctor's note excusing you from class.

Participation and Attendance

Some of the work done in the classroom will involve applications of lecture material. It is imperative that you participate. If you fall asleep during class time, read the newspaper, use your cell phone in any way, use a computer for anything other than note-taking for this course, study for another class, etc., you will lose points and/or be asked to leave the classroom. These activities are distracting for the instructor and other students.

Attendance is expected and recommended for a good grade in this class. Lecture material not included in the textbook may appear on exams. Continual tardiness may be recorded as an absence at my discretion. Classes missed as a result of delayed registration are also recorded as absences. If you miss more than six class periods, you may be assigned a grade of "F" at my discretion for excessive absences, as stated in the Rockhurst University catalog.

Academic Misconduct

All forms of academic dishonesty or misconduct are prohibited. Academic dishonesty, as outlined in the University catalog, is a serious offense and can result in both failing the course and expulsion from the university. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult the catalog and/or feel free to ask.

Rockhurst University Statements

- A. "Rockhurst University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please contact Sandy Waddell, Director of Access Services (Massman Hall, Room 7, 816.501.4689, sandy.waddell@rockhurst.edu) to provide documentation and request accommodations. If accommodations have already been approved by the Access Office, please communicate with the instructor(s) of this course regarding these arrangements by the second week of class in order to coordinate receipt of services."
- B. "Student contact information must be kept current in order to receive important notices from Rockhurst University. Your contact information is online via your RockWeb account. Please check your local address, local phone number, and emergency contact information on RockWeb and revise as needed. **All important University notices will be**

sent only to your RU email address. Please check your RU email account in addition to any other email accounts you may have. Accounts are activated at the Computer Services Help Desk."

- C. "Course withdrawals are the responsibility of the student. The RU Catalog lists the procedures for a student to withdraw from one or all courses and will be upheld. If the student does not process course withdrawal(s) correctly, it will result in a failing grade."
- D. "The Crisis Management Team for Rockhurst University, out of a concern for the safety and welfare of all community members, urges you to familiarize yourself with Campus Emergency Procedures as well as emergency, evacuation, and shelter signage located within and outside of buildings across campus. They also request that you sign up for RockAlerts, the University's emergency communications system. All community members must comply with University staff instructions during regularly scheduled fire/tornado drills as well as actual emergencies. Information regarding the above resources can be found at www.rockhurst.edu/emergency."

Assignments

Assignment	Point Value	Your Score
Personality Profile	40	
World Cultures Day Story	40	
Multi-Media Story	80	
Exam 1	80	
Exam 2	80	
Exam 3	80	
Participation (labs, short assignments, quizzes, in-class writing, contributions to class discussion, etc.)	160	
Group project (final) + presentation	100	
Total	660	

Grading Scale

A	92 – 100%
A-	90 – 91%
B+	88 – 89%
B	82 – 87%
B-	80 – 81%
C+	78 – 79%
C	72 – 77%
C-	70 – 71%
D+	68 – 69%
D	60 – 67%
F	Below 60%

Calendar (subject to change)

Date	Topic/Reading	Assignment Due
T, Aug. 23	Introduction to Course	
Th, Aug. 25	Lab 1: Interviewing	
T, Aug. 30	1—The Story of Journalism 2—How Newsrooms Work	
Th, Sept. 1	Lab 2	
T, Sept. 6	3—Newswriting Basics	
Th, Sept. 8	TBD: Dr. Clune at teaching workshop	
T, Sept. 13 (12:45 p.m.)	4—Reporting Basics	Peer editing workshop for Personality Profile; bring four copies of story
Th, Sept. 15	Lab 3	Personality Profile Due
T, Sept. 20	Exam One: Chapters One-Four	
Th, Sept. 22	AP Style (in class)	
T, Sept. 27	AP Style (in class)	
Th, Sept. 29	AP Style (in class)	
T, Oct. 4	5—Covering the News	
Th, Oct. 6	Attend World Cultures Day; report on event	
T, Oct. 11	6—Beyond Breaking News	World Cultures Day story due
Th, Oct. 13	Dr. Clune at National Honors Conference; study for exam	

T, Oct. 18	Exam Two: Chapters Five, Six + AP Style	
Th, Oct. 20	Fall Break – No class	
T, Oct. 25	7—Law and Ethics	
Th, Oct. 27	Lab 4	
T, Nov. 1	8—Digital Journalism: Find an example of an outstanding online story. What makes it outstanding? How does it meet the criteria outlined in the chapter? Write a one- to two-page critique of the story. Be prepared to show it in class. (15 points)	
Th, Nov. 3	Lab 5	
T, Nov. 8	9—Broadcast Journalism	Peer editing workshop for Multi-Media Story; bring four copies of story
Th, Nov. 10	Lab 6	
T, Nov. 15	Multi-Media Story Presentations	Multi-Media Story Due
Th, Nov. 17	Multi-Media Story Presentations	
T, Nov. 22	Multi-Media Story Presentations	
Th, Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Break – No class	
T, Nov. 29	Introduction to final project; time in groups	
Th, Dec. 1	Exam No. Three – Chapters 7-9	
T, Dec. 6 + Thu, Dec. 8	Intensive group preparation, group meetings with Dr. Clune	
T, Dec. 13	Group presentations (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)	