

Course Syllabus for Journalism I

Journalism I is an entry-level course designed to give students interested in newspaper and/or yearbook an overview of the different types of journalistic writing and knowledge of publications production.

Overall Course Goals:

- A. To teach the student skills necessary in communicating in the print media today with emphasis on writing, but including interviewing, observing, reporting, reacting and synthesizing.
- B. To help the student to become an intelligent consumer of the mass media.
- C. To give the student the opportunity to discover and explore the various forms of writing utilized in journalism.
- D. To provide the student with opportunities to critique his own writing, the writing of others and to have his writing evaluated by a teacher.
- E. To help the student understand and accept the legal, moral and ethical responsibilities inherent in a free press.
- F. To help the student learn the copy rules and tools necessary for preparation of copy for newspapers, yearbooks and magazines.
- G. To help the student to develop responsibility for punctuality in meeting deadlines.
- H. To teach the student the necessity of research to add validity, emphasis and depth to writing.
- I. To teach the student the practical aspects of producing a school newspaper and yearbook, including financial and advertising problems.
- J. To help the student develop the verbal, written, personal and social skills needed to publish a school newspaper and/or yearbook.
- K. To teach the student how to present his writing in an attractive, inviting manner, including headlines, graphics and photography.
- L. To give the student an outlet for creativity not found in other classrooms.
- M. To awake in the student an awareness of the world around him, both social and political.
- N. To stimulate an interest in journalism as a career.

Units To Be Taught:

- A. Introduction to Mass Media/History of American Journalism
- B. First Amendment freedom and the responsibility of the press
- C. Advertising
- D. Typography and Graphics
- E. News: What is it and how to gather it
- F. Writing news leads and articles; utilization of the inverted pyramid technique
- G. Copy editing: Learning style and editing skills
- H. The art of interviewing
- I. Headlines
- J. Layout and Design
- K. Introduction to Desktop Publishing
- L. Opinion writing: columns, reviews and editorials
- M. Photojournalism (composition, caption writing)
- N. Feature Writing
- O. Yearbook Production

Supplies Needed:

All students are expected to furnish their own supplies for this course. A student's grade will be negatively impacted if he/she does not have supplies when needed. Because of the nature of this course students will receive a grade based on their readiness for class. I only require some form of writing utensil and the paper work they are working on during class. I expect them to have both every day.

Expectations:

1. Students should come to class ready to begin working each day.
2. Deadlines are a major part of producing publications. Therefore, journalism students should think of assignment due dates as deadlines. If a student needs an extension of time, he/she must request it from me IN ADVANCE of the stated deadline. Extensions will be granted at my discretion.
3. Because this is a project-based class, students are expected to use their class time wisely in order to complete their projects on time. I am available to answer questions and provide help to those students who are actively working on their assignments.