

Syllabus

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE: INTRODUCTORY JOURNALISM (JRN 100) CRN 20881

Spring 2013 Three (3) credits

Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:35 a.m. - 10 a.m.

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Course Website: IVCJournalism.com/JRN100

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will help develop the student as a journalist with the basic skills for reporting news accurately, fairly, clearly, creatively and visually. The student will learn, among other things:

- News values and basic news writing structure
- Ethical and legal considerations and the responsibilities of a journalist
- How to cover a story fairly and comprehensively
- How to work through the newsgathering process by developing a story, proposing it, researching it, conducting interviews, identifying and gathering appropriate visual elements, writing it, and getting it published

The culmination of the student's learning will be a final semester project to be proposed for publication on the University of Texas El Paso's Borderzine.com. The final project must be produced for credit in the course, but the student's final grade is not contingent on the final project being published.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Compose and produce a news story that is logically structured and grammatically correct (ILO1, ILO2)
2. Compose and produce a news story that is ethical, balanced, and fair (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)
3. Compose a news story that is completed by deadline for publication (ILO3)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

English Language Proficiency

A sound and enjoyable learning experience in JRN 100 requires that you are proficient in writing and speaking English. If you do not possess the skills for writing and speaking English fluently, then I strongly urge you to take—and pass—an advanced English course prior to enrolling in this journalism course.

Required Textbook and Reference

1. Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism, Third Edition, by Tim Harrower
ISBN: 978-0-07-352617-1 (It is acceptable if you have the second edition (blue cover), new or used,

from online text book sources, i.e., Amazon.com, Textbooks.com, Chegg.com, etc.)

2. The Associated Press Stylebook
Any edition between 2007 and 2012
3. The Elements of Style, Fourth Edition, by Wm. Strunk and E.B. White
ISBN: 0205313426
4. Merriam-Webster's Dictionary & Thesaurus
ISBN: 0877798516

You should bring your text and AP books to all classes.

Assignment Deadlines and Course Work Outside of Class

You will be required to meet each deadline for assignments in this course. If you miss the deadline, then you will receive an "F" on the assignment, although I will still edit your late assignment and give you the necessary feedback for improvement. You are also required to submit your assignments in Microsoft Word DOCUMENT (.doc or .docx) format and send them to me as an **attachment** via email. **Please do not copy and paste your assignment submissions into the body of an email. If you do, I will return it to you without review or a grade, and you will risk missing the deadline.**

Many of your assignments will require you to attend public meetings and other community events outside of the classroom, on and off campus—including evenings and weekends. If you cannot attend assigned events—for whatever reason—and you do not make other acceptable arrangements with me prior to the deadline to fulfill the assignment, then you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

All of your assignments—both in-class and independent homework—will be edited and returned to you for improvement where necessary. I do allow students to improve their work for a better grade, but it is the student's responsibility to ask me for the opportunity to do so.

Writing Materials

Always bring a pen/pencil and a notebook with you to class.

Email Account, Internet Access, Computer Access, and Digital Cameras

You are required to have a working email account that you must check daily for correspondence from me in relation to your coursework. You will be required to submit your assignments to me via your email account. That also means you must have Internet access either at home or by the use of IVC campus computers, or by other means, i.e., public libraries. **Excuses for failing to do coursework due to lack of Internet access, email access, or computer access are not acceptable.**

You will need a digital camera to complete the final project assignment for this course. If you do not own a digital camera, then you need to secure a way to take high-quality digital photos for your last two assignments.

In-Class Use of Computers and Internet

The nature of the course is to have full, instant access to news and information that will help you learn. The use of computers during class is restricted to that purpose. If I find you repeatedly emailing, or doing anything else on the computers during class that does not relate to the coursework, then you will be asked to leave the class and you will be marked as absent for that day.

Cell Phones in Class

Students are allowed to have their cell phones turned on in class, but they are not allowed to be placed on your desk top during class. You are required to leave the room during class periods if you need to make or receive a phone call. I also expect you to promptly return to class within two minutes.

Personal Electronic Devices

You are not allowed to wear earphones in class unless the use of those devices relates to learning in the class and is approved by me. You will not play games on a portable gaming device in this class, or listen to your iPod. If you choose to do so, you will be asked to leave the class and you will be marked as absent for that day.

Attendance

I expect you to attend all 30 class sessions in this semester. However, I do understand that illness, personal emergencies and other unforeseen problems may prevent your attendance. In those events, I require you to call me *before* your absence in a class at the provided phone number listed at the top of this syllabus.

If you are absent for any three (3) class sessions of the semester—excused or not—then you will be dropped from the course.

Being Late

Each class starts promptly at 8:35 a.m. If you arrive after the classroom door has been closed, then you are late. Two late marks equals one absence. **Example: if you are late six (6) times during the semester, you will be dropped from the course.**

Cheating, Plagiarism and Fabrication

If I find that you have cheated on an assignment or an exam, or you have committed plagiarism, which is literary theft of another's original work, or fabricated facts, which is lying, then several things could happen: you will receive an "F" for the assignment; it will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs; and, you may face possible expulsion.

Grading

A perfect semester score in JRN 100 is 1,000 points. You will have eight (8) assignments, three (3) quizzes, one midterm, and one final semester project. Your attendance and your *meaningfully active* participation in classes will also count in your score.

The following lists the weight of each portion of your grade:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| In-Class and Homework Assignments | 225 points |
| Quizzes | 75 points |
| Midterm | 200 points |
| Final Project | 400 points |
| Attendance & Participation | 100 points |

Extra Credit

If during the course of the semester you feel that your current grade can be improved by completing an extra-credit assignment on a deadline that you and I agree upon, then I urge you to talk to me about it so we can make arrangements for such an assignment.

Disability Information

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify me and contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible: Room 2117 Health Sciences Building, 760-355-6312.

Office Hours

I do not hold office hours, although I warmly welcome meetings with my students—in person, by phone, or by Skype. I am easily reached by email or at the phone number listed in the heading of this syllabus. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns about your coursework at any time.

IRN 100—SPRING 2013—COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule will change as the course progresses. When there are changes, students will be notified via email, via in-class instruction, and/or via the [course website](#). Detailed written and reading assignments, test information and guest speakers will be announced in class and may also be found on the [course website](#).

Week 1: Introduction: Course requirements/syllabus
What News Is

Week 2: Media Ethics & Media Law
Structuring a News Story; Writing a News Lead with the 5Ws

Week 3: Structuring a News Story cont.
Substantiation, Attribution, Quotation, Paraphrasing

Week 4: Substantiation, Attribution, Quotation, Paraphrasing, cont.; Being a Fair Observer
Where News Comes From; Developing News from Your Own Observations Fairly and Objectively

Week 5: Where News Comes From/Story Development cont.; AP Style and Elements of Style guides; punctuation, capitalization, etc.
Style cont.; finding the news value and supporting it with additional facts/information/quotes

Week 6: Interviewing Basics

Week 7: TBA

Week 8: MIDTERM

Week 9: Creating Your Own Website/Blog Page
SEO importance; Visual Elements: Do's and Don'ts of Photography

Week 10: Visual Elements and Captions Writing

Week 11: Researching a Story; What is the news value?

Week 12: Researching and Proposing a story

Week 13: Independent project work and meetings with instructor

Week 14: Independent project work and meetings with instructor

Week 15: Independent project work and meetings with instructor

Week 16: Final Projects Review

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