

College of San Mateo

Course Outline

- New Course
 Update/No change
 Course Revision (Minor)
 Course Revision (Major)

Date: 10-12-10

Department: Digital Media

Number: 261

Course Title: Advanced Newswriting and Reporting

Units: 3

Total Semester Hours

Lecture: 48

Lab:

Homework: 80

By Arrangement: 16

Length of Course

Semester-long

Short course (Number of weeks ___)

Open entry/Open exit

Grading

Letter

Pass/No Pass

Grade Option (letter or Pass/No Pass)

Faculty Load Credit (To be completed by Division Office; show calculations.):

Lecture hours per week (3) X 16 = 48 / 16 = 3.0 FLC

Faculty Load Credit: 3.0 FLC

1. Prerequisite (Attach Enrollment Limitation Validation Form.)

Prerequisite is completion with a C of Journalism 120 or Digital Media 260 —Newswriting and Reporting

2. Corequisite (Attach Enrollment Limitation Validation Form.)

None

3. Recommended Preparation (Attach Enrollment Validation Form.)

None

4. Catalog Description

DGME 261 Advanced Newswriting and Reporting

(3) (Pass/No Pass or letter grade) Minimum of 48 lecture plus 16 lab hours by arrangement per term. Advanced techniques and resources for writing style and news coverage, and publishing reports for print and digital media. Students learn to work on and off campus and while developing reports for multiple media platforms. For practical experience, students write for the college newspaper and website, *The San Matean*. Class is taught concurrently with newswriting class. Prerequisite: DGME 260 or JOUR 120 with a C or higher. (AA, CSU, UC)

5. Class Schedule Description

DGME 261 Advanced Newswriting and Reporting

This class increases journalism skills in research, interviewing, writing style and online journalism. Students publish their work in *The San Matean*, the college newspaper and website.

Plus 16 lab hours by arrangement. Prerequisite: DGME 260 or JOUR 120 with a C or higher. (Pass/No Pass or letter grade) (AA, CSU, UC)

6. **Student Learning Outcomes** (Identify 1-6 expected learner outcomes using active verbs.)

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

1. Demonstrate improved newswriting, newsgathering and interview techniques
2. Propose, research, write and deliver in-depth articles for *The San Matean*
3. Demonstrate the ability to use public records and provide news coverage using on and off campus sources
4. Demonstrate the ability to collaborate and work independently
5. Demonstrate advanced skills in applying libel, privacy and ethical guidelines as outlined by the Society of Professional Journalists

7. **Course Objectives** (Identify specific teaching objectives detailing course content and activities. *For some courses, the course objectives will be the same as the student learning outcomes. In this case, "Same as Student Learning Outcomes" is appropriate here.*)
Same as Student Learning Outcomes

8. **Course Content** (Brief but complete topical outline of the course that includes major subject areas [1-2 pages]. Should reflect all course objectives listed above. In addition, a sample course syllabus with timeline may be attached.)

The course is structured around publication every two weeks of the campus newspaper and web site. Production is conducted in a manner similar to the commercial press with a hierarchy headed by editors. The major subject areas, such as beat coverage, are defined as duties and addressed as needed for production. A manual provides the basis for participation in campus publications.

Topical outline:

1. Advanced news gathering techniques, beat coverage, reporter's responsibilities, and newswriting style
2. Using public records in research
3. News feature writing elements used to enhance writing style, including analysis of three key elements: description/color; characters/quotes and facts/research
4. Detailed editorial, opinion, profile and review writing techniques
5. News and feature leads
6. Improving quality of writing by analyzing precise use of language, word lists and refining the ability to eliminate unnecessary words
7. Principles of journalism judgment, including journalism law, authority, objectivity, ethics, fairness and balance
8. Terminology used in journalism
9. Analyzing current events for news values and localization; specifically, the ability to identify the elements of timeliness, proximity, prominence, consequence and human interest
10. Web sources, databases and convergence in reporting

11. The 24-hour news cycle and impact of the Web

9. **Representative Instructional Methods** (Describe instructor-initiated teaching strategies that will assist students in meeting course objectives. Describe out-of-class assignments, required reading and writing assignments, and methods for teaching critical thinking skills. **If hours by arrangement are required, please indicate the additional instructional activity which will be provided during these hours, where the activity will take place, and how the activity will be supervised.**)

Methods include lectures, tests, essays, group discussion and analysis, critiques, field trips, guest speakers, writing exercises, coaching sessions with instructor, and individual or teamwork on the newspaper and website as a practicum. Critical thinking skills are integral to the class. Hours by arrangement will include working on student publication at newspaper classroom with faculty member present.

10. **Representative Methods of Evaluation** (Describe measurement of student progress toward course objectives. Courses with required writing component and/or problem-solving emphasis must reflect critical thinking component. If skills class then applied skills.)

Grading will be based on:

- Tests, exercises, stringbook and culminating essay
- Story development and demonstrated progress in skills and initiative
- Participation including beat coverage, collaboration, and development of in-depth, multi-platform work

11. **Representative Text Materials** (With few exceptions, texts need to be current. Include publication dates.)

Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law 2010, Associated Press
America's Best Newspaper Writing, Second Edition, by Roy Peter Clark and Christopher Scanlan, Bedford/St. Martin's

Telling the Story, Third Edition, The Missouri Group, Bedford/St. Martin's

The Investigative Reporter's Handbook, Fifth Edition, Brant Houston and IRE, Inc., 2009, Bedford/St. Martin's

Inside Reporting, Second Edition, Tim Harrower, McGraw-Hill, 2010

Students also are provided a copy of the program's operations and ethics guide, The San Matean Manual. These materials are available in the classroom library.

Prepared by:

(Signature)

Email address:

Submission Date: _____