

Reedley College
Syllabus 50310
Newswriting
Spring 2000 Semester
MF 9 - 9:50 a.m.
W 12-12:50 p.m.

Instructor: Mark F.
Phone: 486-1958 (business line) messages taken 24 hours per day, messages checked frequently
Monday - Friday and once on Saturday.

Office Hours: Arranged by appointment

Texts: Writing Right for Today's Mass Media by Paul Adams

Objectives:

Upon completion of this course the student should:

- Know concepts and techniques of writing for mass media
- Be able to think critically and write in a clear, concise, ethical and accurate manner;
- Show a basic knowledge of English grammar, spelling and punctuation;
- Be able to demonstrate strategies for organizing and expressing information that readers can understand.

Introduction:

The purpose of the course is to help you to learn to write for the mass media. Writing for media is learned through practice and guidance. Don't be discouraged at first. I am confident you will succeed if you have a basic command of the language, try and think about what you are doing. Why is writing well important? Good communication skills are one of the greatest assets. They are vital to succeed both personally and professionally. It is said that knowledge is power. I would say the same about the ability to communicate well. Your ideas and feelings have more impact when they are expressed well. I have devoted most of my working life to the newspaper business and have reverence for the language and learning. I take what goes on here seriously and expect you to reciprocate. I expect your full effort in this class. If you do not take this class seriously it will be obvious to me and your grade will suffer. I am not looking for perfection. Rather I want to see a serious and intelligent effort. We will learn from each other and you will learn from your classmates. I look forward to working with you.

Course requirements:

We will have numerous writing assignments both in class and homework. You are expected to read a daily newspaper every day. A mid-term and final exam will be given.

Please write all your assignments in blue or black ink. I prefer typed or word processed homework.

Basic Expectations:

- I expect you to show up to class regularly, be on time and stay the full length of class. If you leave class early, you will be marked absent. If you have more than four absences in the first nine weeks you will be dropped.

Drop date

- I expect you to turn in your homework on time. Turning in papers on time shows commitment to the class and the subject. **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- I expect you to give this class your full effort. This means good attendance, doing your homework and participating in class discussions.
- If you cannot attend class I want you to call me with an explanation **BEFORE** the class, preferably the day before or earlier.
- If you are sick enough to require a doctor's treatment I will require a doctor's note for the period you missed class.

Grading System:

A = 90-100 points

B = 80-89 points

C = 70-79 points

D = 60-69 points