

Journalism 3, News Writing

Spring 2008 • ART 154 • 3 units • M&W 3-4:15 p.m.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

JOURN 3 is a class for students to learn journalistic reporting and writing skills. Topics will include the basics of writing, methods of reporting, practices of journalists, interviewing, and note taking. Using these skills, students will practice writing news stories, feature stories, photo captions and other journalistic writing components such as headlines. Students will also discuss and analyze media law and ethical principles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is for students to learn and practice using the basics of journalism in reporting and writing using proper media standards. Students will also become familiar with the Associated Press Wire Service in reviewing, reading and downloading articles. This course will guide students into becoming strong reporters and writers.

READING:

• The required book for this course is:

News Writing & Reporting, 7th Edition by Bruce Itule and Douglas Anderson

• It is strongly suggested that students read several different newspapers and magazines, listen to news on the radio, or watch news on the television to further their understanding of news writing, journalistic photos and the mass media in general.

ASSIGNMENTS:

In addition to weekly reading assignments (see the calendar on the last page), students will be given weekly writing and/or interview assignments which will be turned in and graded. Points will be determined based on quality of your work, ability to meet deadlines, and use of journalism standards. Students may also have quizzes to show their understanding of the weekly readings.

Weekly assignments may require students to attend meetings, sports activities, or campus activities outside of class. Certain articles written by students in the class could be used in Reedley College's student newspaper The Chant.

EXAMS:

There will be three exams given during the semester that will consist of multiple choice, true-false, matching, and writing questions each worth 100 points. Make-up exams may only be taken if the absence was due to a true emergency.

GRADING:

There will be 400-600 points available in this class, depending on class assignments and quizzes. Grades will be based on the total point score and follow these guidelines: A = 90% and above; B = 80% to 89%; C = 70% to 79%; D = 60 to 69%; F = 59% and below. In addition to exams, students can earn points from classroom assignments, homework, quizzes and extra credit.

ATTENDANCE:

All students are expected to attend class regularly, arrive on time, and stay through the entire class period and have all assigned readings completed on time. Attendance will be taken each day, and more than three unexcused absences, being late for class, or leaving class early without the instructors' permission may lower your final grade.

CLASSROOM RULES:

NO food or drinks are allowed in the ART 154 computer lab, please help keep the computers in good condition. Please turn all cell phones and pagers OFF before entering class. Any student having a device going off during a meeting will 5 loss points toward your final grade.

Open Lab Hours:

ART 154 has open lab hours for students, they will be posted during the beginning weeks of the semester. Please feel free to use these lab hours to finish your writings or to use the Associated Press Wire Service.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Class participation is encouraged! All students' contributions, comments, and questions are valuable to the class. We are all audiences of mass communication and have interests in it.

DISABILITY NOTICE:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to identify themselves to the college and the instructor so reasonable accommodations for their learning and evaluation with the course can be made.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated in this course or any course at Reedley College. Please see the college catalog for complete information. Students are not allowed to confer during exams, and all work submitted to the instructor must be your own original work. Plagiarism and cheating will result in a failing grade in this course, and possible expulsion from the college.

QUESTIONS:

Please don't hesitate to see, call or e-mail me if you have questions, concerns or comments. I am happy to assist you.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE and The Chant deadlines: *(tentative schedule, subject to change)*

WEEK 1	In class: Open questions assignment, What is News assignment
WEEK 2	Read Chapter 1 Today's Media and Chapter 2 Ingredients of News on your own In class: Associated Press Wire Service
WEEK 3	Read Chapter 3 Qualities of Good Writing and Chapter 4 Summary Leads on your own (Campus closed, no classes on Monday, January 21)
WEEK 4	Read Chapter 5 Organizing a News Story and Chapter 6 Developing a News Story on your own
WEEK 5	Read Chapter 7 Quotations and Attribution and Chapter 8 Special Leads on your own In class: Exam 1 on Wednesday
WEEK 6	Read Chapter 9 Features and Chapter 10 Interviewing on your own
WEEK 7	Read Chapter 11 Computer-Assisted Reporting and Research and Chapter 12 By the Numbers on your own (Campus closed, no classes on Monday, February 18)
WEEK 8	Read Chapter 13 Obituaries and Chapter 14 Speeches and Conferences on your own
WEEK 9	Read Chapter 15 Weather and Disasters and Chapter 16 Broadcast Writing on your own
WEEK 10	Read Chapter 17 Multimedia Journalism and Chapter 18 News Releases on your own In class: Exam 2 on Wednesday
WEEK 11	(Spring Break week, no classes held March 17-21)
WEEK 12	Read Chapter 19 Multicultural Reading and Chapter 20 Local Government on your own
WEEK 13	Read Chapter 21 Police and Fire and Chapter 22 Courts on your own In class:
WEEK 14	Read Chapter 23 Sports on your own
WEEK 15	Read Chapter 24 In-Depth and Investigative Reporting on your own
WEEK 16	Read Chapter 25 Business News and Other Specialities on your own
WEEK 17	Read Chapter 26 Law and Chapter 27 Ethics and Fairness on your own
WEEK 18	Continue Law and Ethics, Review for final exam, final assignments due
FINAL EXAM	MONDAY, MAY 12, 3:00-4:50 p.m. ART 154

Ground Rules for Classroom Discussions

Everyone participates because everyone has something to add

Think globally as well as locally

Be honest

No one should dominate the discussion

Stay on track

Only one speaker at a time

Everyone should be active listeners

Give freely of your experiences and/or ideas

Keep an open mind

RESPECT each other

There are no dumb questions

Have fun