

Journalism 8, Newspaper Production

Fall 2009 • ART 154 • 1-3 units • M 2-2:50 p.m. and also times to be arranged

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is the laboratory environment which provides students with “real world” experience in newspaper production. It is designed for students interested in all or some of the aspects of journalism and newspaper production including story proposals, writing, editing, photography, advertising, and page layout.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is for students to use their journalistic skills to produce the fall semester's issues of the Reedley College student newspaper The Chant. This can include proposing appropriate ideas for news, feature, opinion and sports stories, producing professional articles through interviewing and using journalism style writing, taking professional photos and using journalist judgement in cropping and editing, writing journalist captions for each photo, editing and proofreading work, selling and creating advertisements for print, or using journalist judgement in deciding placement of stories, photos, cartoons, and advertisements toward a final product.

READING:

- The required book for this course is the Associated Press Stylebook, it can be found in the Reedley College bookstore.
- 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.

UNITS/HOURS:

Because this class is a student lab, units are based upon the number of hours students devote toward the class each week. Student can choose the number of units (1-3) they take the class for, but must complete the amount of hours needed per week. For 1 unit: 3 lab hours per week are needed; for 2 units: 6 lab hours per week are needed; and for 3 units: 9 lab hours per week are needed. Some of these hours may be spent staying late after class during layout times to help with layout of the newspaper. Students will be provided a weekly time sheet to record their hours, which will be turned in each week. Classroom time can also be counted toward these hours, and we will meet a minimum of once a week as a class. The entire newspaper staff meets once a week on Mondays from 2 to 2:50 p.m.

ASSIGNMENTS:

As this class is the newsroom for The Chant, all points will be earned through creating the three or four issues of the newspaper. Students may earn points through writing articles, taking photographs, writing captions, editing, participating in newsroom discussions, drawing cartoons or illustrations, selling ads, page design, or any other activity that contributes to the production of the newspaper. Points will be determined based on quality of work, and when your assignments are turned in. It is very important that deadlines for each assignment is met ON TIME so the newspaper can be printing on time. Remember that each student is a part of the newspaper and if any part is late, it effects the whole newspaper staff as well as the outcome of the newspaper. Points will be determined based on quality of your work, ability to meet deadlines, and your contribution to the final product.



GRADING:

Grades will be based on the total point score and follow these guidelines: A = 90% and above; B = 80%-89%; C = 70%-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 59% and below.

One story and layout is worth 1 to 20 points depending on the quality of reporting, writing, length, number of sources, and ability to meet deadlines. One photo or graphic illustration is worth 1 to 10 points depending on quality, content and ability to meet deadlines. Ads sold are worth 10 points each.

ATTENDANCE:

Most work done for this course will be done outside the classroom in gathering information for stories, attending events, taking photos, interviewing, selling advertisements, and so on. But meetings will take place in class at least once a week. Think of class meetings as newsroom meetings, a place where we discuss the progression and direction of the paper and where you will turn in articles, photos, captions, and ads etc.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- Classroom Etiquette. Portable electronic devices (iPods, other mp3 players, cell phones, pages, etc.) must be turned off before class begins. Talking on a cell phone or texting during class is not permitted during class instruction. These are highly inappropriate and disruptive to the learning process. If you are caught either texting, using a cell phone or other electronic device, or listening to music during class you will be given ONE warning. A second warning will result in confiscating your cell phone or electronic device until the end of class. Also, five points will be taken from you next assignment for each disturbance.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom. This is a remodeled building with computers; please help keep it clean and as new as possible.
- Class participation is encouraged, especially when we are discussing The Chant and ways to improve it. Here are some basic rules for classroom discussions:
 - Don't dominate the discussion
 - Allow one person to speak at a time
 - Be a good listener and well as good speaker
 - Keep an open mind
 - Respect each other
 - Be honest and open
 - Remember that there are no dumb questions
 - Have fun, learning doesn't have to be serious all the time

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 write stories or captions, edit photos, or anything else for The Chant. A folder will be created on the computers to save all Chant materials in. Open lab hours will be posted at the beginning of the semester.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

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.

JOURNALISM CONFERENCE:

On Saturday, November 7 there will be an optional field trip to the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) NorCal Journalism Conference. This year it will be held at San Jose State University and will include workshops, guest speakers and competitions. All other community colleges with student newspapers from Northern California will be in attendance. All students are encouraged to attend with registration fees and transportation covered by The Chant. It's a really fun and information-packed event, I hope you will plan to attend!

DROP DATE:

THE LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS TO DROP A FULL-TERM CLASS IS OCTOBER 16, 2009. IT IS NOT THE INSTRUCTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DROP STUDENTS WHO STOP ATTENDING CLASS.

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 DEADLINES: *(tentative schedule, subject to change)*

- WEEK 1 Introduction, ad information, Chant #1 assignments
- WEEK 2 Staff meeting on August 24. Working on assignments on your own during the week
- WEEK 3 Staff meeting on Monday August 31, Chant #1 DEADLINE, layout begins
Working on assignments on your own during the week.
- WEEK 4 No staff meeting due to holiday, Chant #1 layout continues, other days of the week if needed
(Campus closed, no classes on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day holiday)
- WEEK 5 Staff meeting, September 14, Complete Chant #1 layout, begin work on Chant# 2 assignments, Wednesday
Chant #1 goes to the printer, Friday Chant #1 distributed on campus
- WEEK 6 Staff meeting on September 21, DEADLINE of Chant #2, layout begins.
Working on assignments on your own during the week.
- WEEK 7 Staff meeting on September 28, DEADLINE of Chant #2, layout begins.
Working on assignments on your own
- WEEK 8 Staff meeting on October 5, Chant #2 layout continues, other days of the week if needed
- WEEK 9 Staff meeting on October 12, complete Chant #2 layout, staff gets Chant #3 assignments.
Wednesday Chant #2 goes to the printer, Friday distributed on campus
- WEEK 10 Staff meeting October 19, DEADLINE for Chant #3.
Working on assignments on your own during the week
- WEEK 11 Staff meeting on October 26, working on assignments during the week
- WEEK 12 Staff meeting on November 2, Chant #3 layout continues, other days of the week if needed
(Campus closed, no classes held on Wednesday, November 11 for Veterans Day)
Saturday, November 7: Journalism Conference at San Jose State University (optional field trip)
- WEEK 13 Staff meeting on November 9, complete Chant #3 layout, Chant #4 assignments
Wednesday Chant #3 goes to the printer, Friday distributed on campus
- WEEK 14 Staff meeting on November 16. Working on assignments on your own during the week
- WEEK 15 Staff meeting on November 23, DEADLINE of Chant #4, layout begins.
Working on assignments on your own
(Campus closed, no classes held for Thanksgiving holiday November 26 & 27)
- WEEK 16 Staff meeting on November 30, Chant #4 layout continues, Wednesday also if needed
- WEEK 17 Staff meeting on December 7, Complete Chant #4 layout
Wednesday Chant #4 goes to the printer, Friday distributed on campus
- FINAL EXAM MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2:00-3:50 p.m. in ART 154