JRNL 22B: INTERMEDIATE REPORTING/NEWSWRITING

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

**Heading** | **Value**
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Effective Term: | Summer 2023
Units: | 5
Hours: | 4 lecture, 3 laboratory per week (84 total per quarter)
Advisory: | ENGL 1A or 1AH or ESLL 26; not open to students with credit in JRNL 21A.
Degree & Credit Status: | Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE: | Non-GE
Transferable: | CSU/UC
Grade Type: | Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability: | Not Repeatable

**Description**

This course is a continuation of the introductory newswriting/reporting course (JRNL 22A) and focuses on coverage of public affairs beats, including local and regional government, police, courts, and school and city boards. Fundamentals in feature writing for newspapers, magazines, and other media, with instruction and practice in profile, human interest, consumer, and interpretive news features. Includes both on- and off-campus reporting and writing/news presentation for a variety of news purposes and through multiple platforms, with practical experience in interviewing, writing special story types, and revising.

**Course Objectives**

The student will be able to:

a. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the fundamentals of feature writing and the organization and structure of feature stories
b. Gather, organize, and synthesize information to compile into feature stories, and write these stories under deadline pressure
c. Prepare feature stories for converging audiences
d. Create plan for submitting story to freelance market
e. Employ editing techniques and use journalistic style
f. Identify and apply fundamental media law concepts, such as libel and privacy rights, and basic freedom of information tools, including public records and open meeting laws
g. Read and analyze current events news
h. Identify and apply fundamental media law concepts, such as libel and privacy rights, and basic freedom of information tools, including public records and open meeting laws

**Course Content**

a. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the fundamentals of feature writing and the organization and structure of feature stories
   i. The news peg
   ii. Feature leads
   iii. Analysis of examples of good feature writing
   iv. Recognizing important, compelling details
   v. Types of features: covering city councils, school boards, courts, police, and other local governmental bodies
   vi. Difference between hard news story, soft news or feature story, opinion story
   vii. The complex, multi-source feature long form story
b. Gather, organize, and synthesize information to compile into feature stories, and write these stories under deadline pressure
   i. Report and write multiple on- and off-campus public affairs-type stories, such as coverage of local or regional government, public safety, courts, and education
   ii. Provide innovative story ideas
   iii. Gather information from diverse sources
   iv. Practice interviewing, note-taking, and fact-checking
   v. Research and develop stories
   vi. Conduct professional interviews
   vii. Organize notes
c. Prepare feature stories for converging audiences
   i. The profile
   ii. The consumer feature
   iii. The human interest story
   iv. The opinion piece
   v. The me-story (emotional, touching, or humorous)
   vi. Writing for various publication formats: print, online, multimedia, broadcast, and public relations
   vii. Writing for various publication formats: print, online, multimedia, broadcast, and public relations
   viii. Producing stories through audio, video, and other multimedia formats
   ix. Locate and use diverse human, paper, and electronic sources
d. Create plan for submitting story to freelance market
   i. Identify markets for freelance opportunities
   ii. Write query letter and submit story to appropriate market
   iii. Unusual and minority markets
   iv. Produce at least one major assignment utilizing basic multimedia skills, such as taking a photograph or capturing an audio/video interview, and/or employing social media or other emerging technology tools
e. Employ editing techniques and use journalistic style
   i. Practice revision and copy-editing
   ii. Apply AP Style
f. Identify and apply fundamental media law concepts, such as libel and privacy rights, and basic freedom of information tools, including public records and open meeting laws
   i. Non-sexist, non-biased language
   ii. Apply ethics codes and practices
   iii. Open meeting laws, public records, and freedom of information requests
   iv. Other media law concepts: libel and privacy
g. Read and analyze current events news
   i. Examine the basic concepts and techniques used in broadcast/webcast news and public relations writing

**Lab Content**

Assist in production of a regular news or feature non-fiction product with a journalism emphasis by and for students and distributed to a campus or community audience. Must include weekly newsgathering activities regardless of publication frequency.
Special Facilities and/or Equipment

1. Computer with word processing software and access to the internet, portable tape recorder/camera.
2. When taught as an online distance learning section, students and faculty need ongoing and continuous internet and email access.

Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

- Reporting assignments/projects across multiple platforms
- Quizzes/exams
- Critiques
- Peer critiques
- Adherence to professional protocols (meeting deadlines, attendance, adherence to ethics)

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

- Lecture and visual aids
- Discussion of assigned reading
- Discussion and problem solving performed in class
- In-class essays
- In-class exploration of internet sites
- Quiz and examination review performed in class
- Homework and extended projects
- Guest speakers
- Collaborative learning and small group exercises

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials


Although many of these texts are older than the suggested “5 years or newer” standard, they remain seminal texts in this area of study and are considered foundational texts.

Examples of Supporting Texts and References:


Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

a. Reading approximately 250 pages from a textbook, websites, and/or handouts that include:

i. Explanation of feature-writing style and leads
ii. Suggestions for finding diverse sources
iii. Examples of high-quality feature stories from professional media
iv. Media ethics and law applied to feature writing and freelance writing

b. Writing five feature stories, including:
   i. A multi-source personal profile
   ii. An enterprise story demonstrating choice of diverse, reliable sources
   iii. An entertainment review and/or opinion story
   iv. A multi-source story that localizes a regional, national, or international story

c. In-class assignments and exercises and a final exam to demonstrate comprehension of journalistic standards and critical thinking as applied to sourcing and writing feature stories

d. Presenting at least one story as an online presentation, such as a blog or website, with links and graphics

Discipline(s)

Communication Studies or English or Journalism