ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

DIVISION: Humanities, Fine Arts Social Sciences

COURSE: JRN 1002 – News Writing

Date: 5/17/16

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite(s):

Delivery Method: ☒ **Lecture**   **3 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)**

☐ **Seminar**   **0 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)**

☐ **Lab**   **0 Contact Hours (2-3 contact = 1 credit hour)**

☐ **Clinical**   **0 Contact Hours (3 contact = 1 credit hour)**

☐ **Online**

☐ **Blended**

Offered: ☐ **Fall**   ☒ **Spring**   ☐ **Summer**

IAI Equivalent –*Only for Transfer Courses*-go to *http://www.itransfer.org*: MC919

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
This course provides an introduction to news writing, including the techniques of news gathering, reporting, and interviewing; the use of library and online database research methods; and other related skills. Students write basic stories under real time constraints.

GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS ADDRESSED

[See last page for Course Competency/Assessment Methods Matrix.]

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

[Choose up to three goals that will be formally assessed in this course.]

☒ To apply analytical and problem solving skills to personal, social, and professional issues and situations.

☒ To communicate successfully, both orally and in writing, to a variety of audiences.

☐ To construct a critical awareness of and appreciation for diversity.

☒ To understand and use technology effectively and to understand its impact on the individual and society.

☐ To develop interpersonal capacity.

☐ To recognize what it means to act ethically and responsibly as an individual and as a member of society.

☐ To recognize what it means to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle in terms of mind, body, and spirit.

☐ To connect learning to life.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND RELATED COMPETENCIES:

[Outcomes related to course specific goals. See last page for more information.]

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

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1. write clear, concise, accurate, complete, balanced and readable news stories;

2. define what constitutes news and how news stories differ from features and opinion pieces;

3. effectively apply research skills for writing news stories;

4. write effective leads;

5. write a variety of types of news stories;

6. gather and write news in an ethical manner and apply the laws governing journalists;

7. demonstrate knowledge of AP stylebook rules

8. write under deadline pressure;

9. use social media technology to deliver and promote news; and

10. participate productively in a group

MAPPING LEARNING OUTCOMES TO GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS

[For each of the goals selected above, indicate which outcomes align with the goal.]

Goals	Outcomes
First Goal	
Goal #1 - To apply analytical and problem solving skills to personal, social and professional issues and situations.	- Outcome 1: Write clear, concise, accurate, complete, balanced and readable news stories; - Outcome 2: Define what constitutes news and how news stories differ from features and opinion pieces; - Outcome 3: Effectively apply research skills for writing news stories; - Outcome 4: Write effective leads; - Outcome 5: Write a variety of types of news stories; - Outcome 6: Gather and write news in an ethical manner and apply the laws governing journalists; - Outcome 7: Demonstrate knowledge of AP stylebook rules - Outcome 8: Write under deadline pressure
Second Goal	
Goal #2 - To communicate orally and in writing, socially and interpersonally.	- Outcome 1: write clear, concise, accurate, complete, balanced and readable news stories; - Outcome 2: Define what constitutes news and how news stories differ from features and opinion pieces; - Outcome 3: Effectively apply research skills for writing news stories; - Outcome 4: Write effective leads; - Outcome 5: Write a variety of types of news stories; - Outcome 6: Gather and write news in an ethical manner and apply the laws governing journalists; - Outcome 7: Demonstrate knowledge of AP stylebook rules - Outcome 8: Write under deadline pressure - Outcome 9: Use social media technology to deliver and promote news;

Third Goal	
Goal #4 - To understand and use contemporary technology effectively and to understand its impact on the individual and society.	• Outcome 3: Effectively apply research skills for writing news stories; • Outcome 9: Use social media technology to deliver and promote news

COURSE TOPICS AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS:

The course will include instruction, practice and evaluation in:

1. News definition
2. Accuracy, fairness, truth
3. The inverted pyramid
4. News story formats/organization
5. AP style
6. Writing leads
7. Avoiding editorializing
8. Interviewing; gathering and verifying information
9. Notetaking/recording
10. Quoting and attributing
11. Media law
    a. libel
    b. invasion of privacy
    c. crime/court coverage
    d. access
12. Ethics
13. Information sources, including databases
14. Reporting with numbers, including proportion, taxes and budget
15. Writing well
16. Writing routine news, including a sample of the following:
    a. obituaries
    b. speech/news conference stories
    c. public meeting stories
    d. crime/court stories
    e. accidents/fires/disasters
    f. stories from news releases
    g. science/business/sports news
17. Using social media to promote and deliver news

This course provides students with opportunities to practice skills in reading, writing and thinking.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

The course will include:
1. Lectures and discussions
2. Writing workshops and seminars
3. Group work
4. In-class and out-of-class writing assignments
5. Assigned readings
6. Instructor and peer evaluations of student writing
7. Self-assessment of student writing
8. Student conferences (at the instructor's discretion)
9. Guest presenters
10. Audio/visual presentations
11. Quizzes (at the instructor's discretion)
12. Exams (at the instructor's discretion)
13. Word-processing software
14. Internet resources
15. Electronic and library databases

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:
The following instructional materials will be employed:
Textbook: Textbooks used in JRN 1002 are at the discretion of full-time faculty. Instructors may use appropriate texts covering the course material, which offer instruction in reporting and news writing. A text such as the following, but not limited to the following, is appropriate for the course:
Missouri Group. *News Reporting and Writing.*
Missouri Group*. Telling the Story.*
The *Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law* is required.

Other instructional materials include supplemental reading materials, audio-visual materials, library databases, Internet databases, word processing software and online course management system.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION:
A= 90-100
B= 80-89
C= 70-79
D= 60-69
F= 0-59

Students will be required to successfully write news stories as assigned and on deadline; complete tests over reading, AP Style, current events; complete reporting exercises; complete small group exercises; participate in media production; and attendance.

Grading Scale
The grading scale used in JRN 1002 is at the discretion of the instructor, provided that news writing assignments count for at least 60% of the grade.

Evaluation

Evaluation of written work will follow standards of Journalism faculty policies on format, grading and plagiarism.

A sample rubric for news stories follows:

Rubric for News Stories

All news stories assess outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Some news stories assess outcomes 3 and 9. For outcome 8, four news assignments must be produced on deadline (each one within one class period) during the semester. All other news assignments have specific deadline requirements, but possibly not as much pressure since more than one class period is utilized.

Criteria	Proficient	Developing	Emergent
Lead			
Content completeness, number of sources, balance, Effectiveness of research, preparation			
Organization Structure is apparent and appropriate to assignment (such as inverted pyramid, focus, etc)			
Style AP Style Clarity Conciseness Readability No editorializing			
Accuracy Correct Ethical Lawful			
Deadline (news articles that are not submitted by deadline will not receive credit)			

OTHER REFERENCES

Web sites:

ACP/NSPA Resources
www.studentpress.org

Associated Collegiate Press
www.studentpress.org/acp

Columbia Scholastic Press Association
www.columbia.edu/cu/cspa

Society for Professional Journalists
www.spj.org

Student Press Law Center
www.splc.org

Print references:

The Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual. Associated Press Staff.

Brooks, Brian S. et. al. *News Reporting and Writing.* St. Martin's Press. 2014

Brooks, Brian S. et. al. *Telling the Story.* St. Martin's Press, 2013

Guide to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Illinois Attorney General's Office (yearly)

Harrower, Tim. *Inside Reporting.* McGraw-Hill, 2010.

Mencher, Melvin. *News Reporting and Writing.* Brown and Benchmark.

Strunk, William and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style.*

Course Competency/Assessment Methods Matrix

(Dept/# Course Name)	Assessment of Student Learning	Article Review	Case Studies	Group Projects	Lab Work	Oral Presentations	Pre-Post Tests	Quizzes	Written Exams	Artifact Self Reflection of Growth	Capstone Projects	Comprehensive Written Exit Exam	Course Embedded Questions	Multi-Media Projects	Observation	Writing Samples	Portfolio Evaluation	Real World Projects	Reflective Journals	Applied Application (skills) Test	Oral Exit Interviews	Accreditation Reviews/Reports	Advisory Council Feedback	Employer Surveys	Graduate Surveys	Internship/Practicum /Site Supervisor Evaluation	Licensing Exam	In Class Feedback	Simulation	Interview	Written Report	Assignment
Assessment Measures – Are direct or indirect as indicated. List competencies/outcomes below. **(Direct/Indirect)**		D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	_	_	_	_	D	D						
Write clear, concise, accurate, complete, balanced and readable news stories.				×	×				×			×				×	×	×	×													
Define what constitutes news and how news stories differ from features and opinion pieces.					×				×							×	×															
Effectively apply research skills for writing news stories.									×	×					×	×																
Write effective leads.					×				×	×						×	×											×				×
Write a variety of types of news stories.				×	×				×		×					×	×	×										×				×
Gather and write news in an ethical manner and apply the laws governing journalists.		×	×		×				×							×	×															
Demonstrate knowledge of AP stylebook rules.					×				×		×					×	×															
Write under deadline pressure.					×				×							×																×
Use social media technology to deliver and promote news				×	×				×		×			×		×	×															×
Note: Lab work is completed in college computer lab. Class meets in lab.																																