

Course Code: COM 105 (IAI MC 919)

Course Title: Basic News Writing

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 09.0401

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

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 Course Objectives

To assist the student to define the role of the journalist; utilize reporting, interviewing, and ethical writing skills that are basic to journalism; as well as demonstrate the application of the news writing process through individual writing assignments.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Credit in ENG 101 with a grade of C or higher	None	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation includes at least 6 in-class news writing drills and 20 homework writing assignments demonstrating a range of topics and formats. Also, at least 10 AP style quizzes, at least 10 textbook quizzes (or equivalent assignments), a midterm exam, and final exam (or equivalent final project).

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Writing and Reporting News, by Carole Rich, Cengage Publishing (current edition)

AP Stylebook, One year online subscription

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.
- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
News Judgment	1. Identify the elements of a news story and explain how news stories differ from features and opinion pieces.	8	0	0
The News Writing Process: News Gathering	1. Apply research techniques to develop news stories and interviewing skills for gathering information and writing news stories.	5	0	0
The News Writing Process: Reporting	1. Apply reporting and writing skills to write a variety of news stories under deadline pressure.	5	0	0
The News Writing Process: Interviewing	1. Demonstrate interviewing skills for gathering information and writing news stories.	5	0	0
The News Writing Process: Writing	1. Develop clear, concise, complete, balanced, and readable news stories, and write effective leads for print, broadcast, Web-based, and mobile media. 2. Demonstrate the ability to follow the AP stylebook rules.	10	0	0
Ethics	1. Demonstrate an ability to gather and write news in an ethical and culturally sensitive manner. 2. Apply the rules governing journalists.	12	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0