



Middlesex Community College New Media Studies Center Initiative

Course: COM*226 Journalism I

*The following New Media course was modified as part of the
New Media Studies Center Initiative TAACCCT Grant*

July 27, 2015

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COURSE OUTLINE

	<u>COM</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>Journalism I</u>	<u>3</u>
Dept. No.	Dept. Abbr.	Course No.	Course Title	Credit(s)
Prepared by				
J. Shafer				
	<u>Humanities / Arts</u>	<u> </u>	<u>J. Shafer</u>	<u>9/26/05</u>
	Department	Faculty	Program Coordinator Cluster Chairperson	Date
Reviewed by				
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Department	Cluster Chairperson	Dean	Date

<i>Course Description</i>		
COM 226 JOURNALISM I 3 credits Practice in the methods and techniques of news gathering, writing, editing, and analysis. Students will also specialize in one or more areas of newspaper production and be involved in creating the college newspaper. Prerequisite: ENG 101.		
<i>General Objectives of the Course</i>		
<p>This course is designed to teach students the ins and outs of print journalism through the practice of writing and producing a college newspaper. Emphasis will be placed on learning investigative reporting and general news gathering skills as well as specific writing techniques for news articles, including researching strategies, learning how to judge appropriate news content, interviewing techniques, constructing stories, revising and editing techniques, fact checking, and legal and ethical concerns for journalists. The course will also allow students to specialize in one or two supporting areas of newspaper production. This may include areas such as editing, copy editing, photography, illustration, design & layout, advertising sales, or distribution, depending on the students interests and skills.</p>		
<i>Unit No</i>	<i>Instructional Unit</i>	<i>Specific Objectives of Instructional Unit</i> (The specific objectives reflect the behavioral outcomes, which include what the student will be able to do at the completion of the unit. Evaluation is then to be based on the student's accomplishment of these objectives. Assume that each statement is prefixed with "The student will be able to".)
	<i>Finding News & Story Ideas</i>	Learn methods for judging what makes something newsworthy; how to find story ideas; understand the difference between fact and opinion; develop basic observation and awareness techniques.
	<i>Research & Reporting</i>	How to gather information; what distinguishes reliable sources and how to develop them; where and how to access public records, databases, on-line sources; effective search techniques; finding knowledgeable people; become familiar with Freedom of Information Act.

COURSE OUTLINE (Continued)

Unit No.	Instructional Unit	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Specific Objectives of Instructional Unit</i></p> <p>(The specific objectives reflect the behavioral outcomes that include what the student will be able to do at the completion of the unit. Evaluation is then to be based on the student's accomplishment of these objectives. Assume that each statement is prefixed with "The student will be able to".)</p>
	<p><i>Interviewing Techniques</i></p> <p><i>Writing News Stories</i></p> <p><i>Style & Grammar</i></p> <p><i>Editing and Analysis</i></p> <p><i>The Importance of Accuracy</i></p> <p><i>Ethical & Legal Issues</i></p> <p><i>Newspaper Production</i></p>	<p>Learn who to interview; how to set-up, plan, and conduct interviews; types of questions to ask; develop good listening and note-taking skills</p> <p>Learn basic elements of a news story; how to lead; how to keep focus; quoting techniques; attributing strategies; appropriate types and depth of background; different structuring methods; transitioning; pacing; feature verses hard news approaches; endings</p> <p>Understand specific grammar and style techniques used in news writing; familiarity with Associated Press stylebook guidelines.</p> <p>Practice and develop skill at analyzing a news story for effectiveness, economy, accuracy, and flow. Practice revising.</p> <p>Understand consequences of inaccuracy, including libel situations; learn techniques to insure accuracy and check information</p> <p>Learn basic journalism code of ethics and ethical issues such as honesty & plagiarism, minimizing harm to others, respecting privacy verses promoting the public interest, avoiding conflicts of interest, and understanding freedom of the press and its limitations.</p> <p>In the process of being involved in producing a college newspaper, learn something about the other aspects of newspaper production including, photography, design, layout, production timelines, marketing, advertising, and distribution. Students will learn at least one of these areas more in-depth through specialization.</p>

Middlesex Community College
COM 226: Journalism I

Spring 2015
3 Credits
Online Course

CRN (section): 1903
Professor: Adam Chiara
Email: achiara@mxcc.edu
Class Website: professorchiara.com

Course Description:

This course is designed to teach students the basics of journalism by analyzing the media and learning to write for the news. Students will also contribute to *The Flying Horse*, MxCC's student newspaper.

Emphasis will be placed on learning general reporting and news gathering skills. Students will learn specific writing techniques for news articles, like: researching strategies, learning how to judge appropriate news content, interviewing techniques, constructing stories, revising and editing techniques, fact-checking, and legal and ethical concerns for journalists.

Required Text:

Mencher, Melvin. *News Reporting and Writing*. 12th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011

Grade Breakdown

(4) Stories	35%
Classwork/ *Discussions	25%
Chapter Readings	25%
Final Assignment	15%

* See the *Discussion Guidelines* and *Discussion Rubric* for more information.

Course Calendar:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Content</u>
Week 1	Introductions Journalism in the Modern Era Journalism Basics
Week 2	What is News? What Makes Something "Newsworthy?" How to Conduct an Interview The Basic Structure of an Article Introduction to AP Style
Week 3	Story Structure: Inverted Pyramid (Lead, Nutgraph & Quotes) Practice AP Write a Profile Piece
Week 4	Finding Story Ideas Note Taking Style and Voice Start Your Feature Story
Week 5	News vs. Opinion Bias Practice Writing Leads
Week 6	Media Law Libel and Slander Inaccuracy Begin Your Hard News Story
Week 7	Developing Sources Researching Editing Clutter and Subjective Words
Week 8	Photojournalism Tools for Journalists Choosing Quality Quotes
Week 9	Opinions Editing Review Begin Writing Your Opinion Story

Week 10	Public Information Freedom Of Information (FOI) Investigative Journalism
Week 11	Press Releases On and Off the Record Begin Your Final Story
Week 12	Ethics News Values Internet News Social Media
Finals	Final Assignment

- *Schedule and deadlines are tentative, and may be adjusted during the semester if needed.*

Grading:

A – Publishable. Style, content, and construction are all excellent. Word count adheres to requirements. No errors.

B – Great. Needs some editing, but the piece is well organized, few errors, and well thought out.

C – Average. Has to be rewritten. Issues with structure, errors, content. Story may be too long or too short.

D – Below Average. Student obviously put little time or thought into this assignment. There are careless errors. Has to be rewritten and possibly re-reported.

F – Failure. Did not complete assignment, plagiarized, falsified quotes.

- *If you have questions about a grade on an assignment, or your final grade for the course, please contact me. If a mistake is discovered, I will change your grade accordingly, but some evidence to support your claim is needed.*

IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICIES. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/ or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/.



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Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

- Primary Title IX Coordinator
Dr. Adrienne Maslin
Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator
amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123
- Secondary Title IX Coordinator
Ms. Mary Lou Phillips
Director of Human Resources, Middlesex Community College
mphillips@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5751; Founders Hall Room 115
- Secondary Title IX Coordinator
Ms. Queen Fordham
Coordinator of the Meriden Center Welcome Desk
qfordham@mxcc.edu; 203-608-3011