

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY ENG 221 - ADVANCED JOURNALISM I (3 CR.)

Course Description

Provides instruction in news and feature writing and other aspects of journalism. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course will provide the student with the knowledge and skills requisite to reporting and to writing news and feature stories for newspapers and magazines, will introduce the importance of the role of editor in the journalism process, and will provide the student with practice in editing as a creative process.

Course Prerequisites/Co-Requisites

ENG 121 "Introduction to Journalism I" or Eng 122 "Introduction to Journalism II", equivalent course, or division approval.

Course Objectives

GOAL 1: Conventions of Journalistic Writing and reporting

Eng 221 will help students to understand the conventions and norms of journalistic writing and reporting. Students will be able to:

- Write inverted pyramid and other story structures
- Ensure stories are accurate, fair and objective
- Interview sources and gather information from electronic and other sources to write articles
- Write a variety of types of leads
- Use the target publication's style and audience to shape the article's style and content

GOAL 2: Newspaper Writing

Eng 221 will help students to tailor articles for newspapers. Students will be able to:

- Write "spot" or "breaking news" with a tight deadline
- Understand the role of beats in organizing news gathering
- Develop methods for adding online components to the print version of the article
- Identify key aspects of newspaper style
- Identify different types of newspaper jobs

GOAL 3: Magazine Writing

Eng 221 will introduce students to the conventions of magazine writing for staff writers and freelancers. Students will be able to:

- Plan, report, and structure longer articles
- Write different types of feature articles
- Identify the role of advertising and the relationship with news
- Write a query letter

GOAL 4: Role of the editor

Eng 221 will introduce students to the editor's role in editing articles and shaping content.

- Copy edit carefully for AP Style, grammar, and spelling, using newspaper copy editing symbols
- Edit for accuracy and thoroughness
- Develop a better sense of which stories are newsworthy
- Work collaboratively with editors and possibly other writers
- Understand the editor's role in a newspaper and in a magazine
- Write headlines

GOAL 5: Media law and ethics

Eng 221 will help students to develop a better sense of the legal and ethical challenges facing journalists and how to respond to these challenges.

- Review media law and key ethical challenges
- Identify key ethical dilemmas for newspaper and magazine writers
- Apply ethical principals to key dilemmas

Major Topics to be Included

- Review of lead writing and news story structure
- Writing for a newspaper
- Writing for a magazine
- Writing under a deadline
- Objectivity and fairness in reporting
- Types of features
- Feature leads
- Using quotations
- The organization of longer stories
- Libel and its defenses
- Sources
- Headline writing
- Editorial writing
- Layout