

Syllabus: Journalism

Course Description

A press badge is like having a backstage pass to history as it happens. Reporting on sports, politics, business, art, culture, etc. comes with obligations: journalists have the responsibility (and honor) of writing the truth. In this class students will focus on becoming a journalist who acts justly and loves mercy. Christian reporters ought to focus their notebooks, cameras and microphones on the least of these while holding the powerful accountable. Students in this class will explore the principles, history, and modern issues of journalism. The class will move beyond theories of journalism and focus on the practice of journalism. With coaching and editing, students will engage in the fundamental skills of finding, reporting, and writing the news. Students will frequently create short articles, learning to write what keeps people reading. Homework will average 2 - 3 hours per week.

Attendance and Participation

Both attendance and participation are vital parts of this course; therefore, students are required to attend class sessions and participate actively in discussions. Students are expected to view archives of any missed classes, and are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments.

Students will be given quarterly grades for both participation and attendance:

- Fifteen percent of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*. This includes raising one's hand, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box regularly to contribute to the academic conversation.
- Five percent of the final grade will be attributed to *class attendance*. Being present, being on time, and readiness for class are all factors to be considered in the class attendance grade. *Excused* absences will not detrimentally impact attendance grades.

Grading rubrics are located in the Course Documents folder in each course page.

Assignments & Exams

Student assignments will include reading about journalism as a craft and industry, researching their community, writing articles based on local news and culture, and learning about AP Style. Students will be expected to conduct their own local reporting, write, edit and fact-check their stories, and submit them on deadline. They will write five articles over the course of the year. Additionally, students will take a number of reading quizzes throughout the year as well as a mid-term and a final exam.

All assignments and exams are due at 11:55 PM ET on the date shown. Specific instructions will be provided by the instructor.

Evaluation

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

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| ● Class Attendance | 5% |
| ● Relevant Class Participation | 15% |
| ● Writing Assignments | 20% |
| ● Reading Assignments | 15% |
| ● Quizzes | 15% |
| ● Midterm/Final Assessment | 30% |

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades.

100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 0% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Late Work

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

Exam/Test Retakes

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. Retakes must be submitted within one week of the returned, failed test. If the retake is not submitted within one week, the original failing grade will stand.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.

- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student's teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

Textbooks

The books needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials.

- Elements of Journalism (175040)
- World Magazine Student Subscription (798004)

Course Calendar

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.