

Syllabus Fall Semester 2016-2017



CHESTNUT
HILL
COLLEGE

COMM 241.1 — Journalism I

Room: St. Joseph Hall 250

Day/Time: TR 8-9:15p

Course Hours: 3

Instructor: Dr. Myles Ethan Lascity

Office: DeSales 2

Office Hours: TR 930-1045a

Email: LascityM@chc.edu

About This Course

Required Readings

Harrower, Tim (2013) *Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism*. McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-073526-17-1

The 2016 Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law
ISBN: 978-0-917360-63-3

A digital subscription to The New York Times (<http://nyti.ms/1XadVDK>).

Course Description

Introduces students to the principles and methods of journalistic writing. Students learn how to write for major types of news media: newspaper, in both print and online versions; radio and television.

Purpose of this Course

The primary goal of this course will be to introduce students to the world of news writing and allow them to “get their feet wet” with regard to writing news and reporting. This will be accomplished through the readings, class discussion and various writing assignments. Students will also have the opportunity to view journalism practices through the lens of community journalism and think critically about what other journalists produce.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students who have successfully completed the course will be able to (1) cultivate news story ideas; (2) interview sources; (3) identify key parts of a news story; (4) write a basic news story; and (5) provide thoughtful analysis of local and national news reporting.

Student Learning Outcomes

Chestnut Hill College has adopted ten Students Learning Outcomes that we believe should be an integral part of every CHC student's education. The following will be emphasized in this course: Information Literacy, Critical and Creative Inquiry, Civic Engagement, and Ethical Reasoning.

Methods of Evaluation

Your grade will be graded out of 700 points.

Attendance and Participation – 150 pts

Attendance and participation are extremely important in this class. Much of this class will be reading and critiquing the news of the day, as such, it is important to engage in dialogue with your classmates and instructor. This means regular and prompt attendance, coming to class having done the assigned work, contributing to discussion and respectfully listening to others.

From the Undergraduate Studies Catalog (p. 59): There is a relationship between the academic success of the student and class attendance. The School of Undergraduate Studies expects its students to accept their responsibility to attend class regularly and promptly. An Instructor may lower a student's grade because of absences from class. It is the responsibility of the Instructor to set forth in writing at the beginning of a course any special conditions regarding absence in the course.

A student who finds it necessary to be absent from class should, if possible, inform the Instructor in advance of the absence. If absences occur, it is the student's responsibility to make up whatever work has been missed. Permission to make up laboratory assignments, studios, quizzes, and examinations may be granted at the discretion of the Instructor. When an Instructor determines that a student's progress is being seriously impeded by excessive absences from class or by other difficulties, the Instructor will refer the student to the Office of Student Success.

Each class you will be given two (2) points for coming to class. Contributing to the discussion will be worth up to an additional three (3) points. Being late to class, not paying attention to the discussion or actively disrupting class will result in a loss of participation points.

You are allowed **two (2)** unexcused absences from class. **Missing eight (8) or more classes without a valid excuse will result in a failure of the course.**

Note: The instructor reserves the right to (a) assign and include pop quizzes into your participation grade and (b) give additional points for outstanding attendance and participation.

Assignments – 550 pts

Third Place Assignment — 50 pts
Story Structure Test — 50 pts
News Story #1 — 100 pts
Edited News Story #2 — 100 pts
300-Word Story — 100 pts

PDE Assignment – 150 pts

Students are required to complete 5+ additional instructional hours outside of class meeting time to meet the PDE requirement of 42 hours per 3-credit course.

Media Analysis Assignment — 150 pts (7 hours)

Written assignments are due by the beginning of class on the assigned due date. All assignments must be submitted via SafeAssign. No exceptions.

Late assignments will not be accepted, except in cases of unforeseen and demonstrable circumstance.

If you are having an issue or need an extension for any reason, please discuss it with the instructor as soon as possible. Accommodations can be made but they will not be made if you wait until the due date.

Plagiarism and story fabrication is a serious issue within the journalism field. As such any instances of plagiarism or fabrication will result in a failing grade for the assignment and failing grade in the course. There are not exceptions to this rule. Please refer to the college's policies on academic honesty in your student handbook and online. Students will also be reported to the dean of SUS.

Grade	Average	Class Points	4.0 Scale
A+	97-100	679-700	4.0
A	93-96	651-672	4.0
A-	90-92	630-644	3.67
B+	87-89	609-623	3.33
B	83-86	581-602	3.0
B-	80-82	560-574	2.67
C+	77-79	539-553	2.33
C	73-76	511-532	2.0
C-	70-72	490-504	1.67
D+	67-69	469-483	1.33
D	60-66	420-462	1.0
F	59 and below	Less than 413	0.0

Academic Policies

Academic Integrity

Every student who enrolls in any course taught at CHC is required to abide by the CHC Academic Integrity Policy. Specific instructions from each faculty member may be added to the course requirements as well.

Special Accommodations/Disability Policy

Americans with Disabilities Act: Any student whose disability falls within ADA guidelines and has accommodations authorized by the Chestnut Hill College Disability Committee should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. This is presented to the instructor in the form of an Accommodations Letter provided by the CHC Disability Committee. If a student feels he/she may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability (eg. sensory, learning, psychological, medical, mobility), he/she should contact the Disability Resource Center to arrange an appointment for assistance in verifying your eligibility for academic accommodations. Contact Kristin Tracy, Director of the Disability Resource Center, 331 St. Joseph Hall, Phone: 215-753-3655, Fax: 215-242-7748, TracyK@chc.edu.

College Policy for Withdrawal

From the Undergraduate Studies Catalog (p. 47): Students are permitted to withdraw from a course with the approval of a Faculty Advisor. A student who wishes to withdraw from a course or courses must complete the Change of Registration Form. If a student completes a Change of Registration Form before the deadline indicated on the Academic Calendar a non-punitive grade of "W-Withdrawal" is recorded on the transcript; the GPA is not affected. After the deadline, a grade of "WF- Withdrawal/Failing" is assigned and the GPA is affected. Students are responsible for all outstanding debts to the College regardless of the grade assigned.

College Policy for Incomplete Grade

From the Undergraduate Studies Catalog (p. 49): Students having earned at least 24 academic credits may take up to 4 credits per semester of electives on a Pass/Fail (P/F) basis. The total number of P/F courses taken may not exceed 18 credits. Electives are defined as any course not required for a major or minor or the core curriculum. A course may be taken P/F (even a course in the major department), but it will count as an elective and will therefore not be counted toward the requirements for the major or the minor. The only P/F credits that may be counted towards a major or minor requirement are those earned for fieldwork, internships or practica at the discretion of the department.

Requests to change the grading option must be received in the Office of the Registrar by the deadline published in the Academic Calendar. The Instructor's

permission is required to change the grading option of a course after the drop/add deadline as published in the Academic Calendar.

Class Schedule

This is a working schedule. Any changes will be made between the instructor and the class. You are responsible for knowing about any alterations to the syllabus if you are not in class when the changes are discussed.

Week	Date	Class Plans
Wk 1	Aug. 23 Aug. 25	Class Introduction <i>Ch. 1 — The story of journalism</i> <i>Ch. 2 — How newsrooms work</i>
Wk 2	Aug. 30 Sept. 1	<i>Lauterer, Ch. 1</i> <i>Oldenburg, Ch. 2</i>
Wk 3	Sept. 6 Sept. 8	Ch. 4 — Reporting Basics <i>Tur, “My Crazy Year With Trump”</i>
Wk 4	Sept. 13 Sept. 15	Ch. 3 — Newswriting Basics Third Place Due Ch. 5 — Covering the News
Wk 5	Sept. 20 Sept. 22	Online Class Ch. 6 — Beyond Breaking News
Wk 6	Sept. 27 Sept. 29	Story Structure Test <i>Lauterer, “Interviewing and Writing”</i>
Wk 7	Oct. 4 Oct. 6	<i>Lauterer, “About the Community in Community Journalism”</i> Workshopping — News Story Due
Wk 8	Oct. 11 Oct. 13	Fall Break — No Class Ch. 7 — Law and ethics
Wk 9	Oct. 18 Oct. 20	Film: Honest Man: The Life of R.Budd Dwyer <i>Myers, “Fact-Checking 2.0”</i>
Wk 10	Oct. 25 Oct. 27	Workshopping — 300 Word Due <i>Brooks and Pinson — “The Editing Process”</i>
Wk 11	Nov. 1 Nov. 3	<i>Brooks and Pinson — “Macro Editing for the Big Picture”</i> <i>Brooks and Pinson — “Microediting ... ”</i> Ch. 8 — Digital Journalism
Wk 12	Nov. 8 Nov. 10	<i>Huang, “Storytelling in the Digital Age”</i> <i>Duffy, “Rethinking Readership”</i>

Wk 13	Nov. 15 Nov. 17	Ch. 9 — Broadcast Journalism Edited News Story Due
Wk 14	Nov. 22 Nov. 24	Online Class Thanksgiving — No Class
Wk 15	Nov. 29 Dec. 1	Wortham — “Justin Beiber” The Onion — “Miley Cyrus” Class Wrap Up
	Dec. 8	Final Reflection Paper Due by 8a