# JOU 2101-001: Writing for News Media, spring 2022

**Class time: 11 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. MW in 2434 Buzzard.**

**Professor:** Dr. Sally Renaud, [*serenaud@eiu.edu*](mailto:serenaud@eiu.edu) • **Office:** 2546 Buzzard Hall, 581-6003

**Hours:** 10:30 to 11 MW; 11:30 a.m. to noon TTh; 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and by appointment

I routinely check emails during regular business hours Monday through Friday when school is in session and D2L postings in the evening. If you email in the evening, I may not be able to respond until the following morning. Over the weekends I cannot guarantee I will be available. I will try and respond, of course, but you may have a 24- to 48-hour response time for weekend correspondence.

**Texts: \****Reporting for the Media*, by John Bender, Michael Drager, Lucinda Davenport and Fred Fedler

**\****The Associated Stylebook and Libel Manual*

**Course description:**

This course is an introduction to the study and practice of gathering and writing information for news media. In this course you will learn the elements of news, about news judgment and about reporting the news. You will learn where to find information and then how to convey that information to the public in a journalistic style. In addition, we will study current issues facing the news industry, including diversity, and legal and ethical concerns.

# Course objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, the students will be able to:

-Select information from a set of facts and write a concise summary lead. (CT, WR)

-Organize a story properly, accurately and completely using multiple sources. (CT, WR, RC)

-Use appropriate grammar, punctuation, spelling and AP style. (WR)

-Use attribution effectively, including direct and indirect quotes. (CT, WR)

-Write a broadcast story. (CT, WR, RC)

-Write under deadline pressure. (WR)

-Demonstrate the ability to prepare for and conduct an effective interview. (CT, WR)

-Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of legal and ethical issues. (CT)

-Demonstrate the ability to use basic research skills using the Internet, public records and other resources. (CT)

-Demonstrate journalistic decision-making and a sensitivity to diverse cultures and populations. (CT, RC)

-Demonstrate an ability to apply basic numerical and statistical concepts. (QR)

**Grading:**

Your grade in this class is based on several phases of assignments: textbook assignments, general weekly work, a report on an issue facing journalism today and a final assessment test.

1) Deadlines are essential in journalism. Missing a deadline will result in a letter-grade reduction for each day the assignment is late.

2) To be considered for a grade, all assignments must be typed (unless specified) in 12-point, double-spaced.

An A story is excellent, and it is publishable with virtually no editing required.

A B story is good; it is publishable with some editing.

A C story is satisfactory; it is publishable but would need substantial editing.

A D story is weak; a major overhaul is needed.

An F story is not acceptable for publication.

**• Issues presentation:**

One of the objectives of this course is to help you think critically about legal, diversity and ethical issues of the profession. We will be talking about examples of these issues all semester, but later in the spring we will discuss some of the most prevalent issues facing journalism today in depth. Details of the assignment will be given closer to the assignment deadline.

# Absences and Make-up Work:

# I realize we are living in challenging times. Students are expected attend class and turn in work by the deadline. You are responsible for all material covered or assigned. That said, please contact me if you find yourself getting behind or struggling. It is vital to keep communicating with each other throughout the semester.

**Grade breakdown:**

In-class assignments/

in-class stories 800 points (approximation)

Issues presentation 100 points

Final assessment 100 points

A – 90-100 percent

B – 80-89 percent

C – 70-79 percent

D – 60-69 percent

F – below 60 percent

# Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is using someone else’s work as your own without proper credit, and it simply is not tolerated. Naturally, in journalistic writing you will use information from other sources, perhaps quotes or information from other publications. That’s great. It shows the reader you have done your research. Just make sure you give credit within the story. Any assignment that uses plagiarized material will be given a 0 grade, and the responsible student will be referred to the appropriate EIU board for discipline. According to university policy, students who plagiarize can be dismissed from EIU.

It is academically dishonest to claim as your own the work of others; to fail to properly identify the work of others when used in your work; cheat on assignments or exams; copy from the exams, quizzes or assignments of other students or knowingly assist another student in committing an act of academic dishonesty. Any violation will earn the student an F for the course and will be reported to the office of Judicial Affairs.

In addition, because Eastern Illinois University is committed to the learning process and academic integrity, to encourage original and authentic written work, any written assignment created in this course may be submitted for review to Turnitin.com and will become a searchable document within the Turnitin-protected and restricted use database.

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct (http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

**Students with disabilities:** If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

**The Student Success Center:** Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

**Electronic Writing Portfolio:** This course qualifies as a writing-centered course in the EWP program. An assignment from this class may be submitted to your Electronic Writing Portfolio to fulfill part of your graduation requirement if it meets the campuswide EWP requirements. Please see your adviser for more information on how to select and submit your writing. Information is available online at [www.eiu.edu/~assess](http://www.eiu.edu/~assess).

# Journalism Assessment: As the journalism program continues to assess what you are learning, we will be contributing several assessment instruments to its overall assessment, including a math test, a style test and a writing sample, even if you are not a journalism major. I will tell you then how to submit it to D2L and/or complete the assignments when the time comes.

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| **Course schedule Dates** |
| Week 1: Module 1  What is news? Understanding journalism.  Jan. 10-14 |
| Week 2: Module 1  The elements of news. Basic AP style.  Jan. 17-21 **No class Monday, Jan. 17.** |
| Week 3: Module 2 Learning the lead.  Learning the nut graph  Jan. 24-28 |
| Week 4: Module 2 Learning the lead.  Learning the nut graph  Sept. 13-17 |
| Week 5: Module 3A Part 1. Research and sources  Part 2. Basic interviewing techniques  Jan. 31-Feb. 4 |
| Week 6: Module 3A Part 1. Research and sources  Part 2. Basic interviewing techniques  Feb. 7-11 **No school Feb. 11** |
| Week 7: Module 3B Part 1: Using quotes: Types and grammar  Part 2: Citing sources and attribution  Feb. 14-18 |
| Week 8: Module 3B Part 1: Using quotes: Types and grammar  Part 2: Citing sources and attribution  Feb. 21-25 |
| Week 9: Module 4  Obituaries  Feb. 28-March 4 |
| Week 10: Module 4  Covering local government  March 7-11 |
| March 14-18 SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES  Week 11: Module 4  Police/accident reports  March 21-25 |
| Week 12: Module 4  Fire reports  March 28-April 1 |
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| Week 13: Module 4  Accident reports  April 4-8 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  Week 13: Module 5  Broadcast and Public Relations  April 11-15 |
| Week 14: Module 5  Bogging  April 18-22 |
| Week 15: Module 6  Legal, Ethical and Diversity Issues Facing the Media  April 25-29  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  FINALS WEEK: Writing assessment  **Final: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 3** |