

Course Title: Journalism

Board Approval Date: September 15, 2020

Credit / Hours: 1 Credit

Course Description:

This course will serve as an introduction to the basic principles of the field of journalism. The class will serve as a skill-building course and a potential springboard for involvement in DHS publications. We will spend a significant portion of our time working with the intricacies of news writing, including but not limited to, gathering news, interviewing, writing, reporting, editing, layout, and web-based publishing. Items covered in this course will also include current events, the history of the American media, documentary coverage of news events, photojournalism, as well as the ethical and legal responsibilities of journalism.

Learning Activities / Modes of Assessment:

Students will primarily be assessed through project-based assessments including, but not limited to, articles written for each of the sections of a newspaper. Additional assessments will include class discussions, quizzes, and a comprehensive final exam.

Instructional Resources:

Instructional resources will include Schoology, Notability, Actively Learn, Newsela, Quizlet, Gimkit, Quizizz, EdPuzzle, Nearpod, various media outlet websites, and portions of textbooks: *Journalism Today*, *Journalism Matters*, and *Writing and Reporting the News*.

Curriculum:

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Know:

- how the American concept of freedom of the press came into being
- how the Internet became a tool for gathering and disseminating information
- how to conduct an effective interview, including how to research and structure questions
- how to prepare and use stock questions
- the characteristics of an effective interview-based story
- criteria for evaluating the performance of the various media outlets
- how to generate ideas by brainstorming
- the different types of ledes
- the different types of headlines
- simple guidelines for composing a photograph
- how to select, crop, and size the best photos for a layout
- the different types of features stories
- the different types of sports stories
- the different types of opinion stories
- how to construct a market survey
- what a cutline is

Understand:

- how the printed press in America developed
- the strengths and limitations of conducting interviews on the Internet
- the functions that the media must be able to fill in society
- the ethical principles of journalism
- libel laws and what defenses journalists have
- the basics of obtaining information by polls
- the elements of lede writing
- the inverted-pyramid structure
- the value of different types of ledes
- news story structure
- the role of each staff member
- the role of photographs in a student publication
- the difference between a feature story and a straight-news story
- the value of features, sports, and opinion coverage
- the role of featurized coverage in the sports section
- the various ways opinion is expressed
- the value of newspaper advertising
- the importance of cutlines

Do:

- identify some of the issues facing journalism at the beginning of the 21st century
- identify some of the major criticisms of the press
- evaluate news value
- write the traditional "AP," or summary lede
- write a variety of alternative ledes
- identify loaded language
- write effective headlines
- edit for AP style
- integrate quotes effectively into articles
- use transitions effectively
- write for each section of the paper
- analyze an editorial cartoon
- write effective cutlines
- conduct a market survey

Pacing Guide

Course: Journalism

Course Unit	Length of Instruction
History of Journalism	5 class periods
Current Events	10 class periods
News Writing	10 class periods
Features Writing	10 class periods
Sports Writing	10 class periods
Opinion Writing	10 class periods
Interviewing	5 class periods
Legal and ethical issues in journalism	5 class periods
Headlines	5 class periods
Editing and AP style	10 class periods
Photo and video journalism	5 class periods
Business of journalism	5 class periods
TOTAL	90 Class Periods