

Shasta College  
Arts, Communications & Social Sciences (ACSS)  
JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT  
**SYLLABUS**

JOUR 27: Newswriting and Reporting  
COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER

3  
UNIT VALUE

Spring 2013  
SEMESTER/YEAR

F4821  
COURSE CODE

Campus-Rm.1307 & 5009  
LOCATION/PROGRAM

Craig Harrington  
INSTRUCTOR'S NAME  
E-mail: [charrington@shastacollege.edu](mailto:charrington@shastacollege.edu)

OFFICE: 5012A  
TELEPHONE: 242-7729

**Advisory:** ENGL 190 and ability to type 25 wpm  
**Class Hours:** Tues/Thurs 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Instruction and practice in writing news stories, feature articles and journalistic interviews, critical reviews and editorials. Prepares students for writing and reporting in mass media environments, including newspapers, television and radio news organizations, public relations agencies, on-line news services and other telecommunications media.

**TEXT**

News Reporting and Writing by Melvin Mencher, McGraw Hill  
The Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual

**COURSE OUTLINE**

To give each student an introduction to the basics of news reporting and writing, including methods, styles and structure. Media writing will be considered from both theoretical and practical standpoints. Students will write stories on a variety of subjects in several styles, from a simple obituary to more complicated news events, developing skills in gathering and distilling information and writing it concisely. Students will also learn about the business of media writing as a career, including how to work with editors and visual journalists, how to handle constructive criticism, how to rewrite for polish, and dealing with public reaction to stories and coverage. The differences in various types of media writing (news, editorial, feature, opinion, review, sports, business and public relations) are introduced.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Use the rules of grammar, punctuation, journalistic style, and copyediting.
2. Explain and demonstrate proper usage of journalism style as presented in the Associated Press Stylebook.
3. Write concisely, avoiding jargon, superfluous words, clichés and redundancies.
4. Evaluate news stories and materials.
5. Discuss Journalism traditions such as "The inverted pyramid" and summary lead using examples, as well as be conversant with modern news developments such as alternative story developments & lead styles.
6. Summarize verbally and in writing the basics of journalism ethics.
7. Elucidate the differences between facts and opinions.
8. Explain the elements of reporting, research, analysis, critical thinking, argumentation and persuasion in op/ed writing.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

1. Upon successful completion of the course, a student should be able to write a clear, accurate, interesting and grammatically correct news story under pressure of deadlines typically imposed by newspapers or web-based news sites.
2. In addition, the student should be able to conduct background research, construct an interview plan, structure a story, gather and select appropriate quotes, write a clear and engaging lead and develop follow up stories.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is essential.

**DROPS:** Dropping or withdrawing from this class is the student's responsibility.

**Official notice from Shasta College:** All students are responsible for being sure they are registered for any classes they are attending. Students wishing to drop a class or who are no longer attending a class are responsible for completing a drop form with the Admissions and Records Office or any Extended Education Center. It is not the faculty's responsibility to register or drop students from a class.

#### **GRADING POLICY**

50% -- Writing assignments – A minimum of 10 writing assignments

50% -- Weekly AP Stylebook quizzes

**Writing assignments & quizzes:** You will be assigned stories, both inside and outside of class. Each story will be worth a maximum of 100 points. You will be quizzed on chapters of the AP stylebook. The quizzes will be open-book and time-limited at the beginning of each class. Late arrivals will not be given extra time to finish. Each quiz is worth up to 50 points.

**Accommodation for Disabled Students:** Shasta College offers students with disabilities numerous services accessed by referral from the DSPS Counselor. Students requesting accommodations must first be certified by the DSPS office. Call 225-3973 or visit the DSPS office in Room 2005 for further information.