



AMERICAN STUDIES 4825: Making a Newspaper/Magazine
Spring 2019
Mondays, 3:50 - 7:00 p.m.
Professor Khristopher J. Brooks
Office Hours: By appointment only
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Course Description

The daily newspaper and the monthly magazine have become staples in the American media landscape yet few people know how these publications are created. In this course, students will learn and practice each step that professional journalists employ to produce a newspaper or magazine. Specifically, students will learn how to identify a potential news story, assign the story to a reporter, write a news story, take publishable photos or video, and design a newspaper or magazine page. Throughout the weeks, we will explore the ever-changing role of the American journalist and the evolving role of media itself. We will discuss job opportunities available for up-and-coming journalists and where to search for jobs. Other components of the publishing business including circulation, advertising, and human resources, and printing will be explored.

Reading

We will be using *How to Write Articles for Newspapers and Magazines* by Dawn Sova (Arco Thomson Learning), *the Art of Editing in the Age of Convergence* by Brian S. Brooks and James L. Pinson (Pearson), *the Associated Press Stylebook* by the Associated Press, and selected readings from *The Newspaper Designer's Handbook* by Tim Harrower (Brown Publishing). Students are expected to obtain their own copy of Sova, Brooks/Pinson, and the AP Stylebook. I will provide .pdf access to the selected readings from Harrower. Students are also expected to digest several handed out materials from *The Poynter Institute for Media Studies* and the *Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas*.

Each student is expected to read at least one newspaper, watch/listen at least a half hour of broadcasted news (television or radio), or read a reputable news website per day. Reputable sites include *The Huffington Post*, *ProPublica*, *the Texas Tribune*, *Gothamist*, or *Buzzfeed*.

Learning Outcomes

From taking this course, students will

- be able to write an engaging news lede on a news or feature story
- be able to accurately integrate quotes into news and feature stories
- know if submitted information from a source warrants a news story
- edit a submitted article into a piece of publishable journalism
- know how to use their cell phone to capture web-ready photos for news outlets
- understand how a newsroom and its journalists fit within the newspaper operation
- be able to identify the elements that create a newspaper front page and inside page
- be able to use Adobe InDesign to create newspaper pages

Grades

The final grade in this course is based on how well students score in four core areas: weekly quizzes, the mid-term, in-class/homework assignments, and the final exam. Each area represents 25 percent of the final course grade. Letters grades for each specific assignment will be based on how many total points a student accrues after completing the work. Please keep in mind that this is a journalism course, meaning that total points awarded for each writing assignment can decrease if assignments are submitted late or contain factual, spelling, and/or grammatical errors. Students will also be given the opportunity to complete self-directed courses from the Poynter Institute's News U website to earn extra credit. The following represents how a student's score percentages will translate to a letter grade at the end of the semester.

100 - 96.5 | A+
96.4 - 92 | A
91.9 - 89.9 | A-
89.8 - 86 | B+
85.9 - 82 | B
81.9 - 79.9 | B-
79.8 - 76 | C+
75.9 - 72 | C
71.9 - 69.9 | C-
69.8 - 66 | D+
65.9 - 62 | D
61.9 - 59.9 | D-
Below 59.8 | Failing

Policy on Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating are condemned at all institutions of higher learning. These acts detract from the student's intellectual and personal growth by undermining the processes of studying, reading, note-taking, and struggling with one's own expression of ideas and information. Moreover, cheating inevitably involves secrecy and exploitation of others.

Plagiarizing means "presenting somebody else's words or ideas without acknowledging where those words and ideas come from." Examples include:

- copying material from the Internet or other sources and presenting it as your own
- using any author's words without quotation marks; using any quotation without credit
- changing any author's words slightly and presenting them as your own
- using ideas from any published sources (even your own words) without exact credit, including all material from the Internet or electronic databases
- using long passages in a paper that have been written or rewritten by a friend or tutor
- turning in any assignment written by someone else

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have or suspect you may have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Stacey DeFelice, Director, The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD), NAB, 2065, Phone: 516-628-5666, Fax: 516-876-3005, TTD: 516-876-3083. E-mail: defelices@oldwestbury.edu. The office will help you determine if you qualify for accommodations and assist you with the process of accessing them. All support services are free and all contacts with OSSD are strictly confidential. SUNY/Old Westbury is committed to assuring that all students have equal access to all learning activities and to social activities on campus.

SUNY Old Westbury Writing Center

The Writing Center provides free writing assistance and free non-credit writing workshops for Old Westbury students. Assistance is available at any stage of the writing process, from understanding the assignment to looking at the revised draft. You can get help with developing the thesis or main idea, organizing or developing the ideas, the bibliography, grammatical issues or any other writing

concerns. You can make an appointment by stopping by the center located in room L-242 on the main floor of the Library in Campus Center. During the Fall and Spring semester, Writing Center hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Writing Center closes during the summer. For more information, call 516-876-3093.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time every Monday for class because quizzes will be handed out promptly at 3:50 p.m. Attendance will be taken at the start of every class session, as is required by American Studies department and university-wide policy. Any student who appears between five and ten minutes after class begins will be eligible to take the weekly quiz, but will still be marked late. Any student who appears to class after ten minutes will not be allowed to take the weekly quiz and therefore will receive 0 points on the quiz. Students are not allowed to retake a quiz that he or she missed because of being late for class. If a student anticipates being late for class because of a legitimate emergency (i.e. car trouble, severe illness, death in the family), it is his or her responsibility to notify me via email at least three hours before the start of class. Students are not allowed to be absent from class for more than three times this semester.

Class Schedule

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