COURSE OBJECTIVE:
The purpose of this course is to provide a survey of the basic skills and techniques required to compose and write news stories.

EXPECTATIONS:
1. To understand the definition of new.
2. To be able to research and compile sources.
3. To understand how to gather information and conduct news interviews.
4. To examine the ways in which a news story is composed.

REQUIRED READING:
Will be provided in class.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
Plagiarism: This course adheres to University policy on penalties for these unethical behaviors. Penalties can range from grade reduction to dismissal from the University. (See Academic Handbook, http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml) Note that plagiarism includes but is not limited to the use of others’ ideas or direct quotations without attribution (credit to the source); and paraphrasing without attribution. See the APA Style Manual for information on proper attribution.

E-mail usage: University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their standard University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Students should check this account frequently. (Operations Manual, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11.)

Suggestions and complaints: Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Sexual harassment: Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment at www.uiowa.edu/~eod/policies/sexual-harassment-guide/index.html for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Severe weather policy: In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. (Operations Manual, IV.16.14. Scroll down to e. h. and i.)

Disabilities: I need to hear from anyone who has a disability, which may require some modification of seating, testing or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please contact
me during my office hours. All disabilities must be documented with Student Disability Services (335-1462).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Eight main reporting and writing assignments (total 80%).
2. In Class Graded Exercises (approximately one each week) = 16% total of final grade.
3. Non-graded exercises and attendance = 4% total. Non-graded exercises are 2%, and attendance is 2%. These are closely linked as you must be in class to do the exercises, and will not be able to make up exercises missed due to absences.

GRADE ALLOCATION:

1. Eight main reporting and writing assignments (total 80%).
2. In Class Graded Exercises (approximately one each week) = 16% total of final grade.
3. Non-graded exercises and attendance = 4% total. Non-graded exercises are 2%, and attendance is 2%. These are closely linked as you must be in class to do the exercises, and will not be able to make up exercises missed due to absences.

Explanation of Grading for Scheduled Assignments (80%)
The assignments will be graded on a scale of 100. The following attributes is what I’m looking for:

- Reporting Writing/grammar
- Structure of story
- Thought, Creativity
- Flow of the story
- Amount of research (interviewing/background checks/more than two sources)

No late papers will be accepted. You simply loose the allocated percentage for a missed paper. See me in advance about emergency circumstances.

Course Assignments (All assignments are due at the beginning of class each Tuesday. Hard Copy. No late work.):

June 14  Reaction due
June 21  Interview due
June 28  Obit due
July 5  Press Conference due
July 12  City Council due
July 19  Feature due
July 26  Feature due

Due during finals: Profile

Grading scale
95% and greater A
90 to 94%  A-
85 to 89%  B+
80% to 84%  B
75% to 79%  B-
70% to 74%  C+
65% to 69%  C
60% to 64%  C-
55% to 59%  D
54% and below  F

COURSE OUTLINE


Week 5 – City Council. Specialized type of stories. Public Affairs

Week 6 – Features. Other kind of ledes.

Week 7 – Features. Different type of news writing (the Choo-Choo Train).

Week 8 – Advanced Reporting

*All topics are subject to change.