COURSE OBJECTIVE:
The goal of this course is to teach you the basic skills and techniques of news and feature reporting and writing, interviewing and source cultivation.

REQUIRED READING:
*The New York Times*
2011 AP Stylebook (spiral-bound) ISBN 9780917360558

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 will not be tolerated. It 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:* Please let me know if you have a disability that 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. News and AP style quizzes (total 10%)
3. Class participation (total 10%).

Explanation of Grading for Scheduled Assignments (80%)
The assignments will be graded on a scale of 100. The grades will be based on the following:
- Reporting/Writing/grammar/AP style
- Structure of story
- Thought, Creativity
- Flow of the story
- Amount of research (interviewing/background checks/more than two sources)

4. No late papers will be accepted. You simply lose the allocated percentage for a missed paper. See me in advance about emergency circumstances. You will not be able to make up exercises missed due to absences.

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

June 14  Lede exercise due
June 21  Interview due
June 28  Obit due
June 28 (midnight)  Press Conference due
July 12  City Council due
July 19  Feature due
July 26  Feature due (most likely a 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 1 – Course overview. Story ideas. News ledes. Inverted pyramid.


Week 5 – City Council. Beat coverage. Source Development.

Week 6 – Features. Other kind of ledes.

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

Week 8 – Advanced Reporting. Investigative Reporting.

*All topics are subject to change.

“The Iowa Dozen”

In this class we will learn the following principles, which—when spelled out—become the “Iowa Dozen.”

We will learn:
1. to write correctly and clearly
2. to conduct research and gather information responsibly
3. to edit and evaluate carefully
4. to use media technologies thoughtfully
5. to apply statistical concepts appropriately

We will value:
6. First Amendment principles for all individuals and groups
7. a diverse global community
8. creativity and independence
9. truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity

We will explore:
10. mass communication theories and concepts
11. media institutions and practices
12. the role of media in shaping cultures.