

University of Delaware
Department of English
News Writing and Editing (ENGL307)
Allison Hall Rm 222
M/W 3:35 - 4:50 pm

Instructor: Deborah Howlett

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Office: Memorial Hall, Room 221

Hours: T/Th: 11:00am -12:30pm (or by appointment)

OBJECTIVE

This is an introductory class designed to provide a foundational overview of reporting, writing and editing the news. Our time will be spent reading excellent writing and practicing the craft of journalism in a real-world way. By the end of the semester, students will be able to produce well-written, concise and accurate news and feature stories suitable for publication.

PREREQUISITES

English 110, Critical Reading and Writing, is a pre- or co-requisite for this class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- News Reporting and Writing, 12th edition, Missouri Group
- AP Stylebook
- The Elements of Style, Strunk & White

ATTENDANCE

There is no mandatory attendance policy. However, much of what we cover will happen in class and that means your attendance is vital. If you miss a daily quiz or an in-class assignment without an excused absence, there will be no make-up. If serious illness, family emergencies, or other crises occur during the term, you must contact the Dean of Students Office (831-8939) as soon as possible. This office can assist you in notifying faculty and in validating for your teachers what has happened.

DISTRACTIONS

Cell phones should be on silent and in your pocket or bag. Please refrain from texting or tweeting during class time. Laptops may be used for note-taking and research, not Netflix. Sleeping during class is frowned upon, especially if you snore.

READINGS

All readings should be done before the class period for which they are listed. Think of it as pre-reading so that we might have an intelligent discussion of the material in class. Early in the semester, much of the reading will be from the text. In the second half, it will mostly be long-form works of journalism in the genre we will be discussing that week.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. The work flow will involve producing copy that will be due in class on Monday so that our classmates may edit the work. The edited copy is due back on Wednesday. Revisions of the work will be due on the next Monday, along with the next class assignment. The revised work should include the original version, with edits, stapled together.

DEADLINES

Deadlines are sacrosanct in journalism. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified day. Late work will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made in advance.

FORMAT

Assignments must be printed in 12 point Times New Roman, Arial or Helvetica typefaces. They must be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. All assignments must have a cover sheet with the student's name, class information, and contact information printed on it.

INTEGRITY

All work submitted in this class must be original and produced by the student. High ethical standards are important in journalism, where trust and credibility are the cornerstones of the industry. As such, plagiarism is a serious and often career-ending offense in journalism. You may use other source material - provided you attribute the information or quote. Do not make up quotes or copy and paste written information without providing attribution. Further, students should familiarize themselves with the University's [academic integrity policy](#). Any abridgment of the University's academic integrity standards may result in an F for the course and will be referred to the Chair of the English Department and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

ACCOMODATION

Students with a specific disability (permanent or temporary, physical or learning) needing special accommodation during the semester should notify me privately to discuss those arrangements. For further information, please visit: http://www.udel.edu/DSS/resources_helping.html.

ASSESSMENTS

Assignments will be graded based on clarity, accuracy, grammar, reporting strength, writing quality, news judgment, organization, and adherence to AP Style.

COURSE OUTLINE

This is an intensive writing class that will require you to begin writing almost daily. The ability to write well requires that you read — a lot. So, the course will require a large amount of reading, though much of it will be as long-form journalism. We will be considering concepts such as accuracy, fairness, tone, and style, as well as critical writing skills such as g

A > 95 %	Exemplary	Work is polished, deeply reported, and well structured. Stories contain a strong lede, several sources, compelling quotes and memorable anecdotes. Work is free of typos and grammatical errors. All names and titles are spelled correctly.
A- > 90		
B+ > 85	Outstanding	Work is polished but might be lacking a source or an anecdote. Work is free of typos and grammatical errors. All names and titles are spelled correctly.
B = 85		
B-> 80		
C+ > 75	Adequate	Work is free of typos and grammatical errors. All names and titles are spelled correctly. Work provides adequate context, quotes and detail. Work is on time and properly stapled.
C = 75		
C- > 70		
D > 60	Developing	Work shows little or no revisions/editing. Sources are limited Work has typos or grammatical errors. Names and title are spelled incorrectly. Work might be confusing or unclear.

rammar, spelling, and interviewing. You will learn the proper use of attribution, quotations, structure, and order in news writing. We will also discuss ethics and libel.

We will also be peer editing assignments. As part of the learning process, we will consider how best to improve copy by editing the work of our classmates in order to provide constructive comments that make the work better.

Attached is a general guide to the class, though this calendar is subject to change. Please refer to the class web site on Canvas for the most up-to-date information.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING LIST

<http://gizmodo.com/5981823/beat-by-dre-the-inside-story-of-how-monster-lost-the-world>

<http://www.cracked.com/blog/6-reasons-trumps-rise-that-no-one-talks-about/>

<http://www.elle.com/culture/a37255/forgotten-rape-kits-detroit/?src=longreads>

<http://www.gq.com/story/kim-kardashian-west-gq-cover-story>

<http://www.pulitzer.org/winners/david-fahrenheit>

<http://www.pulitzer.org/winners/staff-27> (Ghost Ship, East Bay Times)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/28/magazine/afghanistan-soldier-ptsd-the-fighter.html>
cj chivers

<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2016-stealing-dupont-white/?Src=longreads>

<https://harpers.org/archive/2015/04/american-hustle/?single=1>

<http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2017/07/07/avoid-surprises-wilmington-city-council-get-lawsuit-updates/452148001/>

Castro Obits

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/fidel-castro-en/article117186483.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/26/fidel-castro-obituary>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/26/world/americas/fidel-castro-dies.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/fidel-castro-cuban-dictator-dies-at-90/2016/11/26/f37bf3bc-b399-11e6-be1c-8cec35b1ad25_story.html?utm_term=.b1f58db8721a

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-cuba-castro-idUSKBN13L044>

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2016/11/30/the-new-york-times-biased-obituary-of-fidel-castro/>

Q&A

<https://fattykakes.wordpress.com/2011/12/03/plus-size-model-profile-maxey-greene/>

<http://content.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1687229,00.html>

<http://www.npr.org/2016/11/21/502857118/novelist-zadie-smith-on-historical-nostalgia-and-the-nature-of-talent>

Interview Lecture Notes

<http://www.columbia.edu/itc/journalism/isaacs/edit/MencherIntv1.html>

<https://www.poynter.org/2013/how-journalists-can-become-better-interviewers/205518/>

Sports gamers

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/bigpicture/2017/02/06/super-bowl/3MrNj8QVOzoE8KJKUhBTIM/story.html>

<http://www.ajc.com/sports/football/five-things-that-changed-the-outcome-the-falcons-super-bowl-loss/40yNffG54CJbAnLxktwPJJ/>

Editing Exercise

<https://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/world/2001/08/10/blast-usat.htm>