



ENGL 408 Sports Reporting

- *Credits: 3, Section: 010*
- *Spring, 2019 | T/Th 11:00 - 12:15 a.m.*
- *Drake Hall Room 04*

Hello, and welcome to Sports Reporting!

Before we begin, I'd like to share a little bit of my backstory.

My name is Deborah Howlett. I grew up in Oregon but have lived in New Jersey nearly as long. In between I lived in Washington, DC, and Chicago. I'm married to a wonderful woman who has nothing to do with journalism and we have two daughters in high school. I like sports and politics, and I'm a decent cook.

I've wanted to be a journalist as far back as I can remember. I spent my career as a reporter mainly at USA Today, first as a national reporter, then as a political reporter and ultimately as the bureau chief in Chicago. I've covered wars and presidential campaigns; murder trials and Super Bowls; terrorist attacks and natural disasters. I've reported from 48 of the 50 states and at least a dozen foreign countries.

I began teaching journalism as an adjunct professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, before I joined the English faculty at the University of Delaware in 2017. My interest in journalism is in using emerging digital platforms to deliver news that adheres to the highest professional standards. I am also interested in issues of gender and media

My Contact Information:

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Website: <http://debhowlett.com>

Office location: Memorial Hall Room 221

Office hours: Tuesday 3:30-5:30 pm or by appointment

Phone number: 609-712-0445

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Training and covering all major sports including both women's and men's sports. Topics include keeping statistics, game coverage, player profiles, and sports columns.

[Prerequisite: ENGL307 or permission of instructor.]

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide a professional experience in sports reporting, building on basic journalism skills and learning appropriate techniques such as statistics and interviewing. It expands an understanding of covering sports as an important part of the culture, as well as a significant section of the entertainment industry.

COURSE DELIVERY

This course is a “lecture” format, though it will require much more of you than sitting silently in your seat. Most weeks there will be one activity/assignment related to the readings. Students will also be expected to write and participate in peer editing on a weekly basis for contributions to the course website. It will include considerable time outside of class doing reporting of professional, collegiate, club and intramural sports events.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic style and writing of all forms of sports coverage, including game stories, advances, sidebars, columns, interviews and profiles.
- Track and interpret statistics, understanding their utility in effective sports reporting.
- Understand how to produce sports stories in multi-platform formats.
- Produce and publish every element of their work on a website.
- Define the roles race, gender and culture play in American sports
- Understand the ethics of sports reporting as a journalistic practice.
- Produce, on deadline, professional quality sports reporting.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Gisondi, Joe. *Field Guide to Covering Sports*, Second Edition. CQ Press. California, 2018. ISBN: 97811506315683

Students will be required to read daily the sports sections of The Review and DelawareOnline.com as well as *The New York Times* (which is available at no cost through the University library. <https://library.udel.edu/databases/nytdigital/>). Students must also read at least two other sports publications, such as Sports Illustrated, ESPN the magazine, The Athletic, etc.

ASSESSMENTS

Students will produce a minimum of 10 posts for the website udsportsreport.com during the term, each including up to 500 words of text and an appropriate image/video. This work will count for half of the semester grade.

Students will serve as a site editor and a copy editor for at least one week of the term. This work will count for 30 percent of the semester grade.

Students will also have in-class assignments that will count for 20 percent of the grade.

GRADE SCALE

Grades will be awarded according to the guideline established by the University of Delaware, which are outlined here: <http://www1.udel.edu/registrar/students/grades.html> This is how they break down by percentage of available points: A >93; A- ≥90; B+ >87; B >83; B- ≥80; C+ >77; C >73; C- ≥70; D+ >67; D >63; D- ≥60; F ≤59

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

There is no mandatory attendance policy for this course. However, much of what we learn will happen during 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. Missing class for a recognized holiday when the university is open (for example Diwali or Yom Kippur or Eid al Adha) is acceptable. 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

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

Communication

Because I am old and set in my ways, I prefer email as a means of quickly communicating information (or even a phone call). Please check your email at least daily. However, I am not averse to receiving texts, if that is your preferred means of communication. If there is a more complicated issue please feel free to call me or stop by my office during regular office hours or make an appointment.

Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with UD policies regarding academic dishonesty. To falsify the results of one's research, to steal the words or ideas of another, to cheat on an assignment, to re-submit the same assignment for different classes, or to allow or assist another to commit these acts corrupts the educational process. Students are expected to do their own work and neither

give nor receive unauthorized assistance. Complete details of the university's academic integrity policies and procedures can be found at <http://www1.udel.edu/studentconduct/policyref.html> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Office of Student Conduct, 218 Hullahen Hall, (302) 831-2117. E-mail: student-conduct@udel.edu

Harassment and Discrimination

The University of Delaware works to promote an academic and work environment that is free from all forms of discrimination, including harassment. As a member of the community, your rights, resource and responsibilities are reflected in the non-discrimination and sexual misconduct policies. Please familiarize yourself with these policies at www.udel.edu/oei (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. You can report any concerns to the University's Office of Equity & Inclusion, at 305 Hullahen Hall, (302) 831-8063 or you can report anonymously through UD Police (302) 831-2222 or the EthicsPoint Compliance Hotline at www1.udel.edu/compliance (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. You can also report any violation of UD policy on harassment, discrimination, or abuse of any person at this site: <http://sites.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct/how-to-report/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Faculty Statement on Disclosures of Instances of Sexual Misconduct

If, at any time during this course, I happen to be made aware that a student may have been the victim of sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual violence, domestic/dating violence, or stalking), I am obligated to inform the university's Title IX Coordinator. The university needs to know information about such incidents in order to offer resources to victims and to ensure a safe campus environment for everyone. The Title IX Coordinator will decide if the incident should be examined further. If such a situation is disclosed to me in class, in a paper assignment, or in office hours, I promise to protect your privacy--I will not disclose the incident to anyone but the Title IX Coordinator. For more information on Sexual Misconduct policies, where to get help, and how to reporting information, please refer to www.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. At UD, we provide 24-hour crisis assistance and victim advocacy and counseling. Contact 302-831-1001, UD Helpline 24/7/365, to get in touch with a sexual offense support advocate.

For information on various places you can turn for help, [click here.](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. For more information on Sexual Misconduct policies, where to get help, and reporting information please refer to www.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..

Inclusion of Diverse Learning Needs

Any student who thinks he/she may need an accommodation based on a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) office as soon as possible. The DSS office is located at 240 Academy Street, Alison Hall Suite 130, Phone: 302-831-4643, fax: 302-831-3261, DSS Website (<http://www.udel.edu/DSS/www.udel.edu/DSS> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.). You may contact DSS at dssoffice@udel.edu

Non-Discrimination

The University of Delaware does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, disability, religion, age, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by applicable law in its employment, educational programs and activities, admissions policies, and scholarship and loan programs as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. The University of Delaware also prohibits unlawful harassment including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

For inquiries or complaints related to non-discrimination policies, please contact: Director, Institutional Equity & Title IX Coordinator- Susan L. Groff, Ed.D. groff@udel.edu, 305 Hulliher Hall Newark, DE 19716 (302) 831-8063

For complaints related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact: Director, Office of Disability Support Services, Anne L. Jannarone, M.Ed., Ed.S. - ajannaro@udel.edu Alison Hall, Suite 130, Newark, DE 19716 (302) 831-4643 OR contact the U.S. Department of Education - Office for Civil Rights (<https://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.)

CALENDAR