

Syllabus

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE: INTRODUCTORY JOURNALISM (JRN 100) CRN 20444

Spring 2015 Three (3) credits

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:35 a.m. - 10 a.m. Bldg. 2700, Rm. 2724

Instructor: Gina Germani

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Course Website: IVCJournalism.com/JRN100

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will help develop the student as a digital-age journalist with the basic skills for reporting news accurately, fairly, clearly, creatively and visually. The student will learn, among other things:

- News values and basic news writing structure
- Ethical and legal considerations and the responsibilities of a journalist, especially in the age of social media
- How to cover a story fairly and comprehensively
- How to work through the newsgathering process by developing a story, proposing it, researching it, conducting interviews, identifying and gathering appropriate visual elements, writing it, and getting it published

The culmination of the student's learning will be a final semester project to be proposed for publication on the University of Texas El Paso's Borderzine.com student journalism website. The final project must be produced for credit in the course, but the student's final grade is not contingent on the final project being published.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Compose and produce a news story that is logically structured and grammatically correct (ILO1, ILO2)
2. Compose and produce a news story that is ethical, balanced, and fair (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)
3. Complete the news story on deadline for publication (ILO3)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

English Language Proficiency

A sound and enjoyable learning experience in JRN 100 requires that you are proficient in writing and speaking English. If you do not possess the skills for writing and speaking English fluently, then I strongly urge you to take—and pass—an advanced English course prior to enrolling in this journalism course.

Required Textbook and References

1. Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism, Third Edition, by Tim Harrower ISBN: 978-0-07-352617-1 (It is acceptable if you have the second edition, or blue cover, new or

used, from online text book sources, i.e., Amazon.com, Textbooks.com, Chegg.com, etc.)

2. The Associated Press Stylebook

Any edition between 2007 and 2012

3. The Elements of Style, Fourth Edition, by Wm. Strunk and E.B. White (*Recommended*)

ISBN: 0205313426

4. Merriam-Webster's Dictionary & Thesaurus (*Recommended*)

ISBN: 0877798516

You should bring your text and AP books to all classes.

Assignment Deadlines and Course Work

You will be required to meet each deadline for assignments in this course. If you miss the deadline, then you will receive an "F" on the assignment, although I will still edit your late assignment and give you the necessary feedback for improvement. You are also required to submit your assignments in Microsoft Word DOCUMENT (.doc or .docx) format and send them to me as an **attachment** via email. **Please do not copy and paste your assignment submissions into the body of an email. If you do, I will return it to you without review or a grade, and you will risk missing the deadline.**

Some of your assignments will require you to attend public meetings and other community events outside of the classroom, on and off campus—including evenings and weekends. If you cannot attend assigned events—for whatever reason—and you do not make other acceptable arrangements with me prior to the deadline to fulfill the assignment, then you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

All of your assignments—both in-class and homework—will be edited and returned to you for improvement where necessary. I do allow students to improve their work for a better grade, but it is the student's responsibility to ask me for the opportunity to do so.

Writing Materials

Always bring a pen/pencil and a notebook with you to class.

Email Account, Internet Access, Computer Access, and Digital Cameras

You are required to have a working email account that you must check daily for correspondence from me in relation to your coursework. You will be required to submit your assignments to me via your email account. That also means you must have Internet access either at home or by the use of IVC campus computers, or by other means, i.e., public libraries. **Excuses for failing to do coursework due to lack of Internet access, email access, or computer access are not acceptable.**

You will need a digital camera to complete the final project assignment for this course. If you do not own a digital camera, then you need to secure a way to take high-quality digital photos for your last two assignments.

In-Class Use of Computers and Internet

The nature of the course classroom is to give you full, instant access to news and information that will help you learn. The use of computers during class is restricted to that purpose.

Cell Phones in Class

I do allow students to have their cell phones turned on in class, but they are not allowed to be placed on your desk top. If you need to make or receive a phone call, then you are required to leave the room and return within two minutes. I am extending this courtesy to you as a responsible young adult, so please do not abuse the privilege.

Attendance

I expect you to attend all 32 class sessions in this semester. However, I do understand that illness, personal emergencies and other unforeseen problems may prevent your attendance. In those events, notify me *before* your absence in a class, or in a reasonable amount of time following the start of the class so I may consider excusing you.

If you are absent for any three (3) class sessions of the semester, you will be dropped from the course.

Every unexcused absence you have is a deduction of 10 points reflected in your final semester score/grade.

Being Late

Each class starts promptly at 8:35 a.m. If you arrive late, you will lose five (5) points, which will be reflected in your final semester score/grade.

Plagiarism, Fabrication, and Cheating

- Plagiarism is **theft**, plain and simple. If you present someone else's work—in whole or in part—as your own without attributing, citing or otherwise giving credit to the original source, then you have committed plagiarism.
- Fabrication is **lying**. If you make up, or fabricate quotes, information, sources or otherwise invent material for this course, then you have committed fabrication.
- Cheating is **fraud, deceit, or dishonesty** and encompasses both plagiarism and fabrication as well as (a) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination, or on an assignment; (b) communicating test information with another person during an examination, or in an academic assignment.

Anyone caught cheating in this course will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and it will be reported to the Campus Disciplinary Officer. Expulsion, loss of financial aid and academic standing are among the possible repercussions of cheating.

Grading

A perfect semester score is 1,000 points. You will have five (5) in-class and homework assignments, three (3) quizzes, one midterm, and one final semester project. Your attendance and participation in the course carries the most weight in your final semester score.

The following lists the weight of each portion of your grade:

In-Class and Homework Assignments	155 points
Quizzes	75 points
Midterm	150 points
Final Project	300 points
Attendance & Participation	320 points

Extra Credit

If during the course of the semester you feel that your current grade can be improved by completing an extra-credit assignment on a deadline that you and I agree upon, then I urge you to talk to me about it so we can make arrangements for such an assignment.

Disability Information

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify me on the first day of class, or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313, if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Office Hours

I do not hold office hours, although I warmly welcome meetings with my students—in person, by phone, or by Skype. I am easily reached by email or at the phone number listed in the heading of this syllabus. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns about your coursework at any time.

JRN 100—FALL 2014—COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule will change as the course progresses. When there are changes, students will be notified via email, via in-class instruction, and/or via the [course website](#). Detailed written and reading assignments, test information and guest speakers will be announced in class and may also be found on the [course website](#).

Week 1: Introduction: Course requirements/syllabus
What News Is

Week 2: Media Ethics & Media Law
Structuring a News Story; Writing a News Lead with the 5Ws

Week 3: Structuring a News Story cont.
Substantiation, Attribution, Quotation, Paraphrasing

- Week 4:** Substantiation, Attribution, Quotation, Paraphrasing, cont.; Being a Fair Observer
Where News Comes From; Developing News from Your Own Observations Fairly and Objectively
- Week 5:** Where News Comes From/Story Development cont.; AP Style and Elements of Style guides; punctuation, capitalization, etc.
Style cont.; finding the news value and supporting it with additional facts/information/quotes
- Week 6:** Interviewing Basics
- Week 7:** Developing a news story; interviewing basics
- Week 8:** MIDTERM
- Week 9:** Researching a Story; What is the news value?
- Week 10:** Visual Elements and Captions Writing
- Week 11:** Researching a Story; What is the news value? (continued)
- Week 12:** Researching, Developing Sources, and Proposing a story
- Week 13:** Creating Your Own Website/Blog Page
SEO importance; Visual Elements: Do's and Don'ts of Photojournalism
- Week 14:** Independent project work and meetings with instructor
- Week 15:** Independent project work and meetings with instructor
- Week 16:** Final Projects Review