

## Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – JRN 100

Semester	<b>Spring 2016</b>	Instructor	<b>Gary Redfern</b>
Course Title & #	<b>Introduction to Journalism, JRN 100</b>	e-mail	<b>gary.redfern@imperial.edu</b>
CRN #	<b>10475</b>	Webpage	<b><u><a href="http://IVCJournalism.com/JRN100">IVCJournalism.com/JRN100</a></u></b>
Room	<b>2724</b>	Office	<b>None</b>
Class Dates	<b>Feb. 16-June 9</b>	Office Hours	<b>Student consultations by appointment.</b>
Class Days	<b>Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</b>	Office Phone #	<b>(760) 960-6079</b>
Class Times	<b>8-9:25 a.m.</b>	Who students should contact if emergency or other absence	<b>Contact your instructor using above contact information.</b>
Units	<b>3 Units</b>		

### Course Description

From CurricUNET course outline of record: <http://www.curricunet.com/Imperial/>

The course focuses on the newspaper as a vehicle for communication within a community. Students study basic components of print journalism, including types of articles, writing style, interview techniques, makeup and ethics. (CSU)

### Student Learning Outcomes

From CurricUNET <http://www.curricunet.com/Imperial/>

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)

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## Course Objectives

Adapted from CurricUNET <http://www.curricunet.com/Imperial/>

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. Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Develop basic newspaper writing skills, including understanding news values and basic news writing structure.
2. Understand how newspaper format determines article length and scope.
3. Develop basic newspaper reporting skills, including how to cover a story fairly and comprehensively, 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.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of layout techniques.
5. Understand all phases of news production from conception to publication, including editorial, advertising and business functions.
6. Develop marketing skills as they apply to newspaper production.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethics as they apply to journalism and understand ethical and legal considerations and the responsibilities of a journalist, especially in the age of social media

The culmination of the student's learning will be a final semester project to be proposed for publication in a media to be determined. 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.

## Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

### 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, Textbook.com, Chegg.com, etc.)
2. The Associated Press Stylebook, any edition from 2007-2012
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

Bring all books to all classes.

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## Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

### Course requirements:

- Attend all classes (Must provide prior notice for classes missed. If a class is missed without prior notice, student should contact the instructor as soon as possible after class and make arrangements to obtain the day's assignments. Missed quizzes and exams cannot be made up.)
- Complete all assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted.
- Cover external news events as assigned. Turn in articles on those events on time. Assignments will be due at the beginning of class or as designated.
- Pass in-class quizzes.
- Pass mid-term and final. Final will be a writing project.

### Instruction method:

The Journalism 100 class will have two segments. One will be a traditional classroom approach that includes classroom lecture, textbook reading and quizzes. For the second segment the class will simulate the newsroom of a professional media organization. Students will be required to cover stories as assigned, present independent story ideas and complete them, as well as edit and comment on the articles of other students. Students also will share story ideas and reporting experiences in class for discussion with the instructor and other students. The two segments will be intermingled throughout the semester.

### Assignment Deadlines and Course Work

Students will be required to meet each deadline for assignments in this course. If a deadline is missed, student will not receive credit for the assignment, although late assignments will be reviewed to feedback for improvement. Students are required to submit assignments in Microsoft Word DOCUMENT (.doc or .docx) format and send them to the instructor as an **attachment** via email. **Please do not copy and paste assignments submissions into the body of an email. Such submissions will be returned without review or a grade, with risk missing the deadline, and must be resubmitted properly.**

Some assignments require attending public meetings and other community events outside of the classroom, on and off campus, including evenings and weekends. Missed assignments will receive a failing grade.

All assignments -- both in-class and homework -- will be edited and returned for improvement where necessary. Students are allowed to improve their work for a better grade, but it is the student's responsibility to ask 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**

Students are required to have a working email account that must be checked daily for correspondence from the instructor in relation to coursework. Students will be required to submit your assignments to me via your email

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account. That also means students must have Internet access either at home or by the use of IVC campus computers, or by other means, e.g., public libraries.

**Excuses for failing to do coursework due to lack of Internet access, email, or computer access are not acceptable.**

Students will need a digital camera to complete the final project assignment for this course. If a student does not own a digital camera, then the student must secure a way to take high-quality digital photos for the last two assignments.

**Course Grading Based on Course Objectives**

**Grading**

There will be a total of 2,000 possible points. You will have 13 writing assignments, one quiz, 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	1050 points
Quiz	100 points
Midterm	200 points
Final Project	400 points
Attendance & Participation	250 points

**Attendance**

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Students are expected to attend all 32 class sessions in this semester. However, it is understandable 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.

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## Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- 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.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

## Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly 'cite a source', you must ask for help.
- 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 defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment ;(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service.

## Additional Help

- Blackboard support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- Learning Labs: There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program
- Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

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- **Office Hours** I am available to meet with in person or by phone. Please contact me at email or phone number listed in the heading of this syllabus. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns about your coursework at any time.

### Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

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

### Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

### Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at [http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762](http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762)

### Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

### Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

#### **JRN 100 SPRING 2016- COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Note: This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**

This schedule will change as the course progresses. When there are changes, students will be notified via email, via in-class instructions, and/or via the [course website](#). Detailed written and reading assignments, test i

#### **Week 1: Feb. 16 and 18**

Syllabus review, introduction to course, course requirements, ground rules

What is news? Discuss “beat” assignments.

Feb. 16 -- Written assignment: Initial story (due Feb. 18)

Feb. 18 – Initial beat report (due Feb. 23)

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## **Week 2: Feb. 23 and 25**

Finalize “beat” assignments

The First Amendment and the basics of media law

Note taking

Structuring a news story; writing a news lead with the 5Ws

Feb. 23 – mock press conf. #1 (due Feb. 25)

Feb. 23 -- Assign beat pre-story (due March 1)

## **Week 3: March 1 and 3**

Structuring a News Story; writing a news lead with the 5Ws

Substantiation, attribution, quotation, paraphrasing

March 1-- Beat pre-story due

March 1—Mock press conf. #2 (due March 3)

## **Week 4: March 8 and 10**

Substantiation, attribution, quotation, paraphrasing, cont.

What is objectivity and being a fair observer?

Where news comes from; developing news from your own observation fairly and objectively

March 8 – Assign beat story #1 (due March 22)

March 10 -- Quiz #1

## **Week 5: March 15 and 17**

Where news comes from/story development cont.

AP style and Elements of Style guides; punctuation capitalization, etc.

Grammar and homonyms

Finding the news value and supporting it with additional facts/  
information/quotes

## **Week 6: March 22 and 24**

Interviewing basics

March 22 -- Beat story 1 due, start think about your next story

March 22 -- Mock press conf. #3 (due March 24)

March 24 – Assign “why” story (due April 5)

March 24 – Assign beat story #2 (due April 19)

## **March 29 and 31: Spring break**

## **Week 7: April 5 and 7**

Developing a news story; interviewing basics

April 5 – “Why” story due

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### **Week 8: April 12 and 14**

Researching a story; what is the news value

Developing and maintaining sources

Information assessment: objective vs. nonobjective media /

Verifiable vs. nonverifiable sources and how to tell the difference

### **Week 9: April 19 and 21**

First half review

April 19 – Beat story #2 due

April 19 – Assign descriptive story (due April 26)

### **Week 10: April 26 and 28**

April 26 – Descriptive story due

April 26 – Assign profile story (due May 12)

April 26 Assign final project pre-story report due May 5

(not for approval, just advice), one paragraph (3-4 sentences) summary

### **April 28 Midterm**

### **Week 11: May 3 and 5**

May 3 – Guest speaker, the source’s perspective

The viewpoint of the person being interviewed; empathy

May 5- discuss interview story (from prior class)

May 5 - discuss descriptive story due

May 5 – discuss mid-term results

May 5 -- final project pre-story report due (not for approval, just advice)

### **Week 12: May 10 and 12**

May 10 -- Assign public record research (due May 24)

May 12 – Profile story due

May 10-- Return final project pre-story report with comments

Discuss final project

Researching, developing sources, proposing a story

Other media: television, radio, advertising, the Internet, retail stores

### **Week 13: May 17 and 19**

May 17 Guest speaker

Search Engine Optimization importance

Creating your own website/blog page



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**Week 14: May 24 and 26**

May 24 -- Public records research due

May 24 -- Mock press conf. #4 conduct and write in class.

**May 26**

Visual elements: do's and don'ts of photojournalism

Visual elements and headline writing

Make it fun, silly photos and headlines, have students

Write headlines

**Week 15: May 31 and June 2**

June 2 -- final story due

Schedule student meetings for June 7 and 9 (do alphabetically)

Independent project work and meetings with instructor

**Week 16: June 7 and June 9**

Final projects review