JOUR 314-1. Intermediate Reporting  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015  
Class meets: MWF (10-11:50 a.m.) Lab (Arr.)

Instructor: Fred Stewart  
Office Location: Journalism Room 113  
Office Hours: Mon thru Thur (8-9 a.m. – 1-2 p.m.)  
Office Phone: 903-886-5231  
Office Fax: 903-468-3128  
University Email Address: Fred.Stewart@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual

Course Description: A continuation of Jour 214 with emphasis on developing the students’ news sense, judgment, interpretive news presentation, and reporting skills to produce in-depth stories using multiple sources of information. Assignments will include work to be submitted to the student newspaper. Laboratory hours each week. Prerequisite Jour 214 or consent of instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. The student will be an active participant in discussions and evaluating information presented in class activities and video tape presentations.
2. The student will be an active participant in the news gathering and writing process from idea to completion.
3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the news gathering and writing process including but not limited to story idea development, interviewing techniques, and basic news writing.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments
This course consists of class discussions accompanied by selected video tape presentations to give the students a better understanding of the process and topics discussed. Students will conduct interviews, write stories, participate in related activities, compile a clip book, take quizzes and exams.

Grading
Grades will be determined from: Associated Press Style activities, Current Events quizzes, In-Lab and Out-of-Lab writing activities, developing story ideas, compiling a clip book of published work, a mid-term and a final exam including writing stories.
Grading Scale: A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 75%, D = 65%, F = below 65%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students should know how to type and use a computer (word processing). Lab is equipped with Mac computers, using Microsoft Word.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

n/a

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:
To contact the instructor, students may call 903-886-5231 (if no answer, leave a voice mail), email (Fred.Stewart@tamuc.edu). Response will be within 24 hours of receipt, if response is requested. Students requiring club, organization or athletics grade checks must bring appropriate form to instructor’s office during office hours. No grade checks will be given in the classroom. Instructor-initiated communication will be via email at the students’ myLeo email address.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:
Students are encouraged to attend class regularly and be on time. Excessive absences may result in the student being dropped from the class. Excessive talking or other class disruptions may result in student being asked to leave class. Student may make up missed quizzes prior to final exam. No extra credit or quiz re-takes are available. Missed story deadlines result in one full letter grade reduction for each 24 hours late from original deadline.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services
Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Daily Schedule (Subject to change)

Jan 21  Introduction, course outline, guidelines
Jan 23 -30  Covering Beats – cultivating sources – topic coverage
Feb 2-6  Story Ideas – idea development – idea packaging
Feb 9-13  Interviewing – questions – notes – follow-ups
Feb 16-25  Coverage of education
Feb 27-Mar 6  Coverage of Municipal events
Mar 9-13  Coverage of Budgets
Mar 16  Spring Break
Mar 18  Spring Break
Mar 20  Spring Break
Mar 23-27  Coverage of Features
Mar 30-Apr 8  Coverage of Police-Fire-Courts

Apr 10  Assignment work day – no regular class
Apr 13-17  Visual coverage and support
Apr 20  Working with varied sources
Apr 22  Packaging the story
Apr 24  Investigative reporting
Apr 27  Opinion reporting
Apr 29  Other types of reporting
May 1  Resume – clip book preparation
May 4-8  Complete Final Exam Story

May 11 Final Exam (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)