JOUR 214-1. Basic Reporting  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2015  
Class Meets: MWF (10 – 10:50 a.m.) Lab Meets: TBD  

Instructor: Fred Stewart  
Office Location: Journalism Room 113  
Office Hours: Mon thru Thur (11 a.m. – 12 p.m.)  
Office Phone: 903-886-5231  
Office Fax: 903-468-3128  
University Email Address: Fred.Stewart@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual  
Inside Reporting, by Tim Harrower, 3rd edition

Course Description: A beginning course in the gathering and writing of news with an emphasis on interviewing and the basic types of stories. Assignments will include work to be submitted to the student newspaper. Laboratory hours each week. Laboratory hours each week. Students must be able to type.

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%

THIS IS A BUSY AND DEMANDING CLASS. YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO BE ACTIVE, PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS AND ALL RELATED ACTIVITIES. YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO MEET ALL DESIGNATED DEADLINES – NO EXCEPTIONS. YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO BE ACTIVE, INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE WITH STUDENT PUBLICATIONS. YOU MUST COME TO CLASS PREPARED. DON'T MISS CLASS.
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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

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. 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 is available. Missed story deadlines result in one full letter grade reduction for each 24 hours late from original deadline. Student should read/listen/watch the news media daily and be up-to-date on current events locally and around the world. Students should be aware, be curious, be observant and be inquisitive.

University Specific Procedures:
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 or Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-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

JOURNALISM 214 - BASIC REPORTING SYLLABUS FALL 2015
Activities are subject to change (LAB to be determined)

Aug. 31 Introduction, course outline, class guidelines.
Sept 2 Discuss: How newsrooms work. What is news?
Sept. 4 Discuss reporter’s responsibilities, deadlines
Sept. 7 Holiday - No Class
Sept. 9 Discuss: Finding news stories
Sept. 11 Discuss: Finding news stories
Sept. 14 Discuss: AP Style
Sept. 16 Discuss: AP Style
Sept. 18 Discuss: Interviewing
Sept. 21 Discuss: Interviewing
Sept. 23 Discuss: Newswriting Basics
Sept. 25 Discuss: Newswriting Basics
Sept. 28 Discuss: Newswriting Basics
Sept. 30 Discuss: Newswriting Basics
Oct. 2 Discuss: Newswriting Basics
Oct. 5 Discuss: Newswriting Basics
Oct. 7 Discuss: Newswriting Basics
Oct. 9 Discuss: Newswriting Basics
Oct. 12 Discuss: Reporting Basics
Oct. 14 Discuss: Reporting Basics
Oct. 16 Discuss: Reporting Basics
Oct. 19 Discuss: Reporting Basics
Oct. 21 Discuss: Reporting Basics
Oct. 23 Mid-Term Exam
Oct. 26 Discuss: Reporting Basics
Oct. 28 Discuss: Reporting Basics
Oct. 30 Discuss: Reporting Basics
Nov. 2 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 4 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 6 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 9 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 11 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 13 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 16 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 18 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 20 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 23 Discussion: Covering the news.
Nov. 25 Holiday – No Class
Nov. 27 Holiday - No Class
Nov. 30 Discussion: Digital journalism
Dec. 2 Discussion: Digital journalism
Dec. 4 Discussion: Digital journalism
Dec. 7 Discussion: Digital journalism
Dec. 9 Discussion: Digital journalism
Dec. 11 Discussion: Digital journalism
Dec. 14 Final Exam – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.