

**JEFFERSON COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**ENG110**

**JOURNALISM I**

3 Credit Hours

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Revised Date: February 2010  
by  
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Arts and Science Education  
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean

## ENG110 Journalism

### I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

- A. Prerequisite: ENG101/ENG101H
- B. 3 semester hours credit
- C. Journalism I analyzes the forms, purposes and ethics of journalistic communications with practical work in writing and editing for the College newspaper. (F,S)

### II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT MEASURES

Expected Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measures
Students will write concise readable news stories that meet the journalistic styles covered in the course.	Submitted news articles Written and oral peer response feedback Written analysis of published professional news articles
Students will identify the core important facts of a story and prepare appropriate leads demonstrating a use of those facts.	Class discussion Written analysis of published professional news articles Quizzes
Students recognize the standards of journalistic practices and are able to assess real and hypothetical situations that violate the ethics of good journalism practices.	Written response to <i>Shattered Glass</i> , a film that explores journalistic ethics Class discussion Written analysis of published professional news articles Case studies of ethical violations
Students will identify the terms and jargon of the field and exhibit a knowledge of newspaper production	Quizzes
Students will express a written opinion in an objective, understandable, and interesting manner	Submitted editorial articles Written analysis of published professional editorials
Students will take prepared copy and put it in acceptable form for publication.	Submitted news articles Use of InDesign software to lay out <i>The Harbinger</i>

### III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS

- A. Introduction
  - 1. The newspaper: its sections
  - 2. The organization that creates a daily
  - 3. What "news" is
  
- B. Journalistic Style
  - 1. The declarative sentence
  - 2. The structure of a news story
  - 3. The mechanics of copy production
  - 4. Editing the copy
  
- C. The "Basic" News Story
  - 1. The five W's and an H: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How
  - 2. The "lead": what it does
  
- D. Covering the beat
  - 1. Where stories can be found
  - 2. Good news sources: their development
  - 3. What to believe/what to doubt
  
- E. Legal issues
  - 1. What slander is
  - 2. How to deal with a possibly litigious story
  - 3. Plagiarism and its consequences
  - 4. Misquotation
  
- F. Interview methods
  - 1. Note-taking skills
  - 2. Tape-recording
  - 3. Video-recording
  
- G. Feature writing
  - 1. Where "features" can be found
  - 2. Library reference
  - 3. Interviews with experts
  - 4. The feature "continuation"
  
- H. Special coverages
  - 1. Sports
    - a. Interview techniques
    - b. Sources near the team
    - c. The reluctant athlete

2. Human interest
    - a. Social problems
    - b. Personal problems
    - c. Local color/crafts/special skills
  3. Cultural activities
    - a. Coverage of music/dance/theater/film
    - b. Sources in the arts
    - c. Description of subjective activity
- I. Opinion: the editorial page
1. Political fairness
  2. The argumentation mode
  3. Humor and social consequences
- J. Media trends
1. Computers
  2. Desktop publishing
  3. The Internet
- K. Careers: realistic job opportunities
1. The small weekly vs. the large daily
  2. Writing for radio and television news
  3. Free Lance opportunities
- L. The editor's task
1. Newsworthiness
  2. Reportorial bias
  3. Political sensitivity
  4. Paper's philosophy vs. the readership

#### IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Handouts
- C. Journal article reviews
- D. Videos
- E. Field assignments
- F. Interviews

G. Student presentations

H. Class discussion

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

None

VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS (student)

A. Lecture notebook

B. Serviceable pens and note-pads

C. Tape recorder

D. A digital camera (optional)

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

A. *American Journalism Review*

B. Library holdings

C. AP Stylebook

VIII. METHOD OF EVALUATION (students)

A. Class assignments

B. Exams

C. Articles written

IX. EVALUATION

A. News reporting 35%

B. Written exams (includes final) 35%

C. Exercises 30%

X. ADA COMPLIANCE

Students who have needs because of a learning disability or other kinds of disabilities should contact the Access/ABILITY Office at (636) 797-3000 extension 169 or 158 and discuss accommodations with the instructor.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

If a student plagiarizes writing or cheats on an assignment or test, he or she will fail that assignment and may fail the entire course. Dishonesty is a gross violation of the academic honesty policy as stated in the Jefferson College Student Handbook and indicates a failure to meet the standards of this course.