

Comm 1610 — Newswriting, Fall 2009

(Section 01, 30440, MWF 11 to 11:50 a.m., CN 221; Section 02, 30441, MWF 8 to 8:50 a.m., CN221)

Dr. Husselbee, Centrum 230, <husselbee@suu.edu>, <www.suu.edu/faculty/husselbee/courseinfo.html>
Office hours: MWF, 9 to 10:50 a.m., or by appointment; please make appointments via e-mail only.

Description — The course is designed to teach students to report and write facts accurately and fairly. It develops the ability to identify essential and significant details and to report them clearly. Also, it includes exposure to legal and ethical restrictions that should be considered when writing news for publication. There is no course fee for Comm 1610.

Textbooks — The primary text is Harrower's *Inside Reporting* (6th edition). Students may want to purchase *The Associated Press Stylebook* and a good dictionary; they are recommended but not required. Students who are serious about media-based careers will read the *University Journal* and a daily newspaper.

Grades — Grades are determined by a simple equation: points earned divided by points possible. Graded activities include a quiz, two exams, eight writing assignments, and citizenship/participation. You determine your grade by your performance on graded activities. Remember, this is your ball game; I just keep the score.

Take-home Quiz and Exams — A take-home quiz to help you study our course style rules is due Sept. 21. In addition to the quiz, midterm and final exams will be given. The midterm will be administered in the Testing Center (ELC 113) from Oct. 20 to Oct. 23. The final will be given in our classroom on the day designated in the university's final exam schedule. Each exam consists of true-false, multiple-choice and matching questions. The final exam also requires writing a news story on deadline.

Writing Assignments — Students will demonstrate news judgment and writing skills by completing eight assignments, including the following: news briefs, obituary, traffic accident, armed robbery, trial, sports, speech and public meeting. The sports assignment will **require** attending the SUU football game vs. Eastern Washington on Nov. 14. Each assignment is worth 50 points; the lowest grade will be dropped.

Citizenship and Participation — Respect for others in the classroom is expected; rudeness is not tolerated. Rudeness includes conversing with other students, talking or texting on cells phones, surfing the Internet, and reading or writing e-mail messages during class. If you attend class regularly, participate with enthusiasm, and refrain from rude behavior, you can expect a positive grade for citizenship and participation. However, students who miss a lot of class and those who are rude in class will be graded accordingly.

Attendance — Attendance is expected, but roll is not taken. Students may miss class at their own risk. On the other hand, failure to attend class limits participation, which is a key component of the citizenship grade. The bottom line is that missing a lot of class will almost certainly have a negative impact on your final grade.

Makeup Work — Missed exams or assignments can be made up only when an absence is the result of a university-sponsored activity or under extenuating circumstances, such as serious illness or a death in the immediate family. In such circumstances, documentation is required. No other excuse, such as weddings, honeymoons or "special" plans for university holidays, qualifies for makeup work.

Deadlines — News is a deadline-oriented business. In most cases, late work is not accepted. Students traveling for university-sponsored activities must take exams or hand in assignments before leaving. If other extenuating circumstances apply (see "Makeup Work" above), students must submit required documentation along with a written request to take a makeup quiz/exam or hand in late assignments within a reasonable time after the absence. In this class, "reasonable" means within two class days. No exceptions are permitted.

Cheating — Scholastic dishonesty is not tolerated. Any act of cheating (especially plagiarism or fabrication) will result in a failing grade for the course. "I didn't know it was wrong" is not an acceptable excuse.

Students with Disabilities — Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities who desire academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids must contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center.

The Fine Print — Other than policies on grading, deadlines, makeup work and attendance, information in this syllabus is subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Semester Schedule

<u>Class</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>
1	Mon	Aug. 24	Syllabus/Intro to course	—	Mon	Oct. 19	Harvest Holiday (no class)
2	Wed	Aug. 26	The story of journalism (pp. 6-9)	24	Wed	Oct. 21	Covering the news (pp. 90-91)
3	Fri	Aug. 28	The story of journalism (pp. 10-13)	25	Fri	Oct. 23	Covering the news (pp. 92-93)
4	Mon	Aug. 31	How newsrooms work (pp. 16-23)	26	Mon	Oct. 26	Covering the news (pp. 92-93)
5	Wed	Sept. 2	How newsrooms work (pp. 24-29)	27	Wed	Oct. 28	Covering the news (pp. 94-95)
6	Fri	Sept. 4	Law and ethics (pp. 136-141)	28	Fri	Oct. 30	Covering the news (pp. 94-95)
—	Mon	Sept. 7	Labor Day (no class)	29	Mon	Nov. 2	Covering the news (pp. 98-99)
7	Wed	Sept. 9	Law and ethics (pp. 142-145)	30	Wed	Nov. 4	Covering the news (pp. 98-99)
8	Fri	Sept. 11	Law and ethics (pp. 146-149)	31	Fri	Nov. 6	Covering the news (pp. 100-101)
9	Mon	Sept. 14	Newswriting basics (pp. 34-39)	32	Mon	Nov. 9	Covering the news (pp. 100-101)
10	Wed	Sept. 16	Newswriting basics (pp. 54-57)	33	Wed	Nov. 11	Covering the news (pp. 108-109)
11	Fri	Sept. 18	Newswriting basics (pp. 40-41)	34	Fri	Nov. 13	Covering the news (pp. 108-109)
12	Mon	Sept. 21	Newswriting basics (pp. 40-41)	35	Mon	Nov. 16	Covering the news (pp. 102-103)
13	Wed	Sept. 23	Newswriting basics (pp. 40-41)	36	Wed	Nov. 18	Covering the news (pp. 102-103)
14	Fri	Sept. 25	Newswriting basics (pp. 42-43)	37	Fri	Nov. 20	Covering the news (pp. 104-105)
15	Mon	Sept. 28	Newswriting basics (pp. 44-45)	38	Mon	Nov. 23	Covering the news (pp. 104-105)
16	Wed	Sept. 30	Newswriting basics (pp. 46-48)	—	Wed	Nov. 25	Thanksgiving (no class)
17	Fri	Oct. 2	Newswriting basics (pp. 50-53)	—	Fri	Nov. 27	Thanksgiving (no class)
18	Mon	Oct. 5	Reporting basics (pp. 66-69)	39	Mon	Nov. 30	Covering the news (pp. 104-105)
19	Wed	Oct. 7	Reporting basics (pp. 70-71)	40	Wed	Dec. 2	Online reporting (pp. 154-157)
20	Fri	Oct. 9	Reporting basics (pp. 72-75)	41	Fri	Dec. 4	Online reporting (pp. 158-161)
21	Mon	Oct. 12	Reporting basics (pp. 76-79)	—	Mon	Dec. 7	Study day
22	Wed	Oct. 14	Reporting basics (pp. 80-83)	—	Tue	Dec. 8	Sec. 01, Final exam, 11 a.m., CN 221
23	Fri	Oct. 16	Reporting basics (pp. 84-85)	—	Wed	Dec. 9	Sec. 02, Final exam, 7 a.m., CN 221

Assignment Due Dates, Fall 2009

<u>Class</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Due</u>
18	Fri	Oct. 9	Assignment 1, News briefs	33	Wed	Nov. 11	Assignment 5, Trial
27	Wed	Oct. 26	Assignment 2, Obituary	35	Mon	Nov. 16	Assignment 6, Sports (SUU football)
29	Mon	Nov. 2	Assignment 3, Traffic accident	37	Fri	Nov. 20	Assignment 7, Speech
31	Fri	Nov. 6	Assignment 4, Armed robbery	41	Fri	Dec. 4	Assignment 8, Public Meeting

Prepare assignments in MS Word and submit via e-mail (husselbee@suu.edu) by the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments with a time-date stamp after class begins on the due date are late and will not be accepted.

Graded Activities

Take-home Style Quiz (distributed Wednesday, Sept. 16, and due Monday, Sept. 21)	50 points
Midterm Exam (in Testing Center, ELC 105, from Tuesday, Oct. 20, to Friday, Oct. 23).....	100 points
Final Exam (Sec. 01, Dec. 8 at 11 a.m.; Sec. 02, Dec. 9, 7 a.m.).....	150 points
Writing Assignments (8 @ 50 points each; drop lowest score)	350 points
Citizenship.....	100 points
Total.....	750 points