

MCF-242 News Reporting and Writing (3 credit hours)

Pre-requisites: None

Course Objectives

1. The course would enable the students to identify a possible news story, where to gather information from, and how to put the collected information into a formal news story format. The course is also intended to apprise the students of the significance of 'news' as a basic component of newspaper, and the role of a reporter with reference to his professional qualities, duties, achievements, failures, skills and working conditions

Learning Outcomes

2. After completion of course, students will be able to:
- a. Identify newsworthy news and compose it properly
 - b. Apply different news writing techniques
 - c. Report a news on camera and on paper
 - d. Differentiate different reporting beats.

3. Contents

- a. The purpose of journalism
 - (1) Public service mission
 - (2) Journalist's responsibilities
- b. News and newsworthiness criteria
- c. Discipline of verification
 - (1) Accuracy in reporting
 - (2) Transparency and bias in journalism
- d. The basics of reporting
 - (1) Story idea generation
 - (2) Identification of news hook/angle
 - (3) Planning and background-ing
 - (4) The newsgathering process
 - (5) Sourcing
 - (6) Interview techniques
 - (7) Note-taking skills
 - (8) Use of social media for newsgathering
- e. The basics of news writing

- (1) Intro/lede writing
- (2) Headlines
- (3) Basic news report formats
- (4) Story structure and organisation
- (5) Story focus
- (6) Basics of narrative flow
- (7) Grammar and mechanics
- (8) Voice
- (9) Attribution and paraphrasing
- f. Editing techniques
- g. The basics of feature writing
 - (1) Nutgraf
 - (2) Profile writing
 - (3) Delayed intro/lede types
- h. Beat reporting basics
 - (1) Specific news report formats
- i. Introduction to data and investigate reporting
- j. Introduction to multimedia and photojournalism
- k. Introduction to layout design

References

1. Alden Todd, (1979). *Finding Facts Fast*, Barclay, Ten Speed, Pren.
2. Anderson David (1964) *Investigative Reporting*, Englewood Cliffs, Prentice Hall.
3. Charnely Mitchell (1964) *Reporting*, Holt Rinehart & Winston, New York
4. Hohenberg,(1983) (5 sub edition) *The Professional Journalist*. Holt Rinehart & Winston
5. Ken Metzler, (1977) *Creative Interviewing*, Englewood Cliffs, N.J; Pren.
6. Mac Dougall, Curtis D. (1972) *Interpretative Reporting*, New York, Macmillan
7. William L. Rivers (1975) *Finding Facts*, Englewood Cliffs, N.J; Prentice Hall.
8. Clark, Roy Peter (2006) *Writing Tools*. NY: Little, Brown and Company