

COURSE SYLLABUS

JOURN 1102.001/2101.001: JOURNALISM LAB

Spring 2015

Instructor: Steve Lang Office Hours: W-F 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Email: slang@sulross.edu or by appointment

Office: BAB 108; BAB 106

Lecture Hours: 0

Day and Time: See below

Lab Hours: 1

Texts: Handout(s)

Prerequisites: None

Description:

An introduction to basic journalism writing styles including newswriting, feature writing, and/or editorial or sports writing with an opportunity to be published in the school newsmagazine, *The Skyline*, or yearbook, *The Brand*.

Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to meet one or more of the following:

1. A knowledge and application of basic journalism writing styles.
2. The ability to research topics, sources and situations relevant to newsworthy events and assignments.
3. The ability to conduct fact-finding interviews with knowledgeable and pertinent sources.
4. The ability to self-edit news, feature, editorial and/or sports articles.
5. The ability to prioritize and present facts, information and/or anecdotal material in a journalistic style.
6. The opportunity to be published in one or more student publications.
7. The ability to recognize and interpret photographs and graphic images by writing relevant and compelling captions.
8. The ability to meet and work under deadlines.

Course Goals:

The student should acquire a fundamental knowledge of basic journalism techniques, including writing styles and terminology, interview and research methods, editorial skills, and publication production. The student will also learn to work under deadline with other student journalists and photographers in writing and design assignments.

Days and Hours:

During the first week, the student will learn basic journalism styles, including the inverted pyramid, research and interview techniques and opportunities. Writing or work assignments will be given weekly. It is the student's responsibility to contact the assignment supervisor weekly either in person, by telephone or email.

Staff:

Writing supervisor is Steve Lang. Assignment supervisor is Cheryl Zinsmeyer.

Grading:

The student will be graded on the number of assignments completed, deadlines met, and application and quality of work submitted. The student may be required to work with student newspaper staff in contributing to and enhancing press releases and other news articles as assigned. **Failure to contact the assignment supervisor or designee on a weekly basis will result in the lowering of the student's grade by one letter grade regardless of number of assignments completed.**

Lab Hours:

All lab hours will be assigned by Cheryl Zinsmeyer and approved by Steve Lang. The student must complete a minimum of 5 assignments to receive an A. Failure to meet deadline will disqualify the assignment.

Grading Scale:

A: 5 assignments meeting journalistic requirements including interviews with two (2) or more sources.

B: 5 assignments meeting journalistic requirements with fewer than two (2) sources.

C: 3-4 assignments meeting journalistic requirements including interviews with two (2) or more sources.

D: 3-4 assignments meeting journalistic requirements with fewer than two (2) sources.

F: Fewer than 3 (three) completed assignments.

An "I" will be awarded to those students partially completing 5 assignments.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Local Address _____

Phone/Cell Number _____

Alternate Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

"A" Number _____

I have read the course syllabus and understand the criteria for grading.

Your signature:
