

Journalism 2302 Feature and Editorial Writing Spring 2016
12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, ACR, Room 203
Steve Lang, Instructor slang@sulross.edu Phone x8062; cell (432) 294-4540
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m., BAB, Room 108, or by arrangement

Suggested Text: *The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law*

Class Intent: *To provide a basic but comprehensive exposure to the aspects of feature and editorial writing and to provide students with the opportunity to improve their writing and interviewing skills through active participation. Students will:*

***Demonstrate the ability to research, write, and edit relevant feature stories and editorials acceptable by a professional news outlet.**

***Understand the history of journalism, be familiar with coverage of diverse groups in society and learn the role of journalism in society.**

***Understand the ethical guidelines and practices that govern the profession and the legal implications and considerations that inform the profession.**

***Demonstrate the ability to apply tools, concepts and technology appropriate for the presentation of images and information in the profession.**

***Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the profession.**

***Apply basic numerical and statistical concepts.**

Course will include numerous guest speakers who will both lecture and be interviewed as subjects for feature stories and editorials. Course may include assignments outside of class, including attendance at a local government meeting, such as Brewster County Commissioners Court, Alpine City Council meeting or Alpine Independent School District board meeting, and possibly on-campus guest speakers/events. Student stories may be selected for publication in The Skyline and other media outlets. This course is intended to stimulate interest in writing for Sul Ross student publications, including The Skyline news magazine and The Brand yearbook.

Tuesday, Jan. 19: *Introduction to Feature and Editorial Writing, class objectives*

Thursday, Jan. 21: *Draft Editorials (subject by choice)*

Tuesday, Jan. 26: *Mock interviews for feature stories*

Thursday, Jan. 28: *Write feature stories based on mock interviews*

Tuesday, Feb. 2: *Interview Yvonne Realivasquez, Director of Administration*

Thursday, Feb. 4: *In-class feature story on Yvonne Realivasquez*

Tuesday, Feb. 9: *Interview Avinash Rangra, Mayor of Alpine*

Thursday, Feb. 11: *In-class feature story on Avinash Rangra*

Tuesday, Feb. 16: *Interview Aida Luevanos, Director of Alumni Relations, and Ana Luevanos, Admin. Coordinator*

Thursday, Feb. 18: *In-class feature story on the Luevanos sisters*

Tuesday, Feb. 23: *Interview Pete P. Gallego, Sul Ross grad, former State Rep. and Congressman*

Thursday, Feb. 25: *In-class feature story on Pete P. Gallego*

Tuesday, March 1: *Interview Dr. Jenny Penland, Director of Experiential Learning*

Thursday, March 3: *In-class editorial on the benefits/drawbacks of Experiential Learning*

Tuesday, March 8: *Random editorial assignments (by choice or drawing)*

Thursday, March 10: *In-class Mid-term exam based on editorial assignments*

Tuesday, March 15: *Spring Break, no classes.*

Thursday, March 17: *Spring Break, no classes.*

Tuesday, March 22: *Interview Bret Scott, Assistant Professor of Communication*

Thursday, March 24: *In-class feature story on Brett Scott*

Tuesday, March 29: *Interview Dr. Bonnie Warnock, professor of Natural Resource Management*

Thursday, March 31: *In-class feature story on Dr. Bonnie Warnock*

Tuesday, April 5: *Interview Lonny Taylor, writer and historian*

Thursday, April 7: *In-class feature story on Lonny Taylor*

Tuesday, April 12: *Interview Mary Beth Marks, Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management*

Thursday, April 14: *In-class feature story or editorial on Sul Ross enrollment management success*

Tuesday, April 19: *Interview Hugh Garrett, Brewster County Commissioner*

Thursday, April 21: *In-class feature story on Hugh Garrett*

Tuesday, April 26: *Interview Carol Fairlie, professor of Art*

Thursday, April 28: *In-class feature story on Carol Fairlie*

Tuesday, May 3: *Interview Dr. Bill Kibler, Sul Ross President*

Thursday, May 5: *In-class story on Dr. Kibler ;Last Class Day, final exam information.*

Thursday, May 12: *Final Examination, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., ACR 203*

GRADING CONSIDERATIONS:

Attendance/Classroom participation: 25% *this class will be regarded as a workplace, and like a job, attendance is important in this learning environment. More than 4 absences for any reason will lower the overall grade by 20%. Make-up work will be allowed if students are absent due to participation in official university functions. Please notify me in advance if you will be absent because your attendance is required at a university function. According to University Policy, effective Fall Semester 2014, attendance records will be kept, and a student will be dropped from the class with a total of nine (9) absences. An absence is defined as non-attendance in 50 minutes of class; non-attendance in a one-hour and 15-minute class, such as Feature and Editorial Writing, constitutes one and one-half absences.*

Daily Assignments: 25%

Mid-term exam: 25%

Final exam: 25%

UNIVERSITY RULES/REGULATIONS: *rules and regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonesty, and other issues concerning classroom participation can be found in the University Rules and Regulations and Student Handbook.*

ADA NEEDS: *It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Accessibility Services Coordinator, Mary Schwartz, M.Ed., LPC, Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112, (432) 837-8203 or mschwartz@sulross.edu. You should relate all requests for special accommodations to the instructor by the third class period.*

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY (Revised Fall 2014)

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term. The instructor will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. A student will be dropped for excessive absences in remedial courses after nine absences.

An absence is defined as non-attendance in 50 minutes of class: for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hours class will constitute one and one-half absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence.

Every effort will be made by departments to minimize missed class time of students by careful scheduling of authorized University activities. When a student has to miss a class due to an authorized University activity, it will be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of the class in advance. The department responsible for the authorized University activity will also notify instructors through the Student Life Office by providing an explained absence list to the office. Instructors will give students participating in an authorized University activity the opportunity to make up class work, including tests, within a reasonable time and at the convenience of the instructor.

A student who is dropped from a course for excessive absences will be notified in writing by the Director of Records and Registration after the drop has been approved by the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. **Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive either an "F" or a "W" depending on the faculty member's discretion.**