

**Editorial & Feature Writing Journalism 2302: MW 3:30-4:45 In Person and Zoom/Blackboard
Spring 2021**

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Office Hours: M-Th By Appointment

1. Instructional Materials

- Required Textbook: The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law
- Blackboard/Zoom viewings and discussions
- Supplemental reading materials available online or provided by instructor
- Outside research for articles
- Access to Netflix, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

2. Course Overview

- This course is designed as an introduction to editorial and feature writing; and to broaden your understanding of current international, national and regional issues. Further, it will hone your ability to present opinions in a cogent editorial as well as to write lively, meaningful feature stories.
- By the end of this course you will be an informed consumer of news and current underlying issues; and mastered the basics of writing editorials and feature stories.
- There will be periodic presentations of video depicting both real and fictional situations in journalism: television interviews, Facebook Live, Dramas etc.
- Assignments and tests will be administered in person and on Zoom/Blackboard.

3. Course Primary Learning Objectives

- By the conclusion of this course the student should be proficient in:
 - i. Editorial and Feature Writing
 - ii. Current international, national and regional issues
 - iii. Associated Press Style for writing
 - iv. Terms and tools used in journalism and newsroom management
 - v. Media Law
 - vi. The principles of ethical journalism

4. Student Learning Outcomes

- The successful student will be able to:
 - i. Write a polished editorial and feature story
 - ii. Understand, discuss and write about current events
 - iii. Write in AP style
 - iv. Understand newsroom management

- v. Understand media law and principles grounded in the US Constitution, how they have been adjudicated by the courts and how they are applied to everyday journalism

5. Course Requirements

- Students are expected to come to every class having reviewed and prepared to discuss current international, national and regional news of that day. There will be short, unannounced pop quizzes that will be graded and discussed in class.
- Assignments are due on the day indicated in the syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted without a medical excuse from a doctor or a verified family emergency.
- Final Project
- Participation in class discussion required.
- Students in this class must abide by appropriate online behavior.

6. Criteria for Grade Evaluation

- Each student will be graded on the basis of adherence to the assignment's guidelines in an effective and comprehensive way. Effort, improvement and class participation are the three most important criteria for grading.
- Evaluation of writing is subjective, and as such this aspect of the class will be solely at the professor's discretion.
- Quizzes: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=0-59

7. Students with Disabilities:

- It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility, who is located in FH 112 or call Mary Schwartze at 432.837.8203. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor prior to the second week of classes.

8. Academic Honesty:

- "The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials."
– Excerpt from the Student Handbook

9. SRSU Library Services

- The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

10. A copy of this syllabus will be posted on the Department of Fine Arts and Communications' web page and on Blackboard.

See Following Page For Course Calendar/Syllabus

Course Calendar/Syllabus

(Subject to Change at Instructor's Discretion)

Date	Assignment Due	Class
Mon, Jan 11	Introduction. Review the Syllabus. Come to class with the textbook, Associated Press Style Book at bookstore.	
Wed, Jan 13	Review and discuss current International, National and Local Issues in the News	Familiarization with AP Style Book. Discuss Issues
Mon, Jan 18	No Class Martin Luther King Day	
Wed, Jan 20	Review and Discuss Current News Read: https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-write-an-editorial Read: https://www.thoughtco.com/all-about-writing-feature-stories-2074355	What is an Editorial; What is a Feature
Mon, Feb 1	Review and Discuss Current News Read all editorials on links below https://www.pulitzer.org/winners/jeffery-gerritt-palestine-tx-herald-press	Discuss Gerritt Editorials
Wed, Feb 3	Review Current News Read all editorials on link below https://www.pulitzer.org/winners/brent-staples-new-york-times	Discuss Staples Editorials
Mon, Feb 8	Review Current News Bring three ideas on which to write editorials	Discuss Editorial Ideas and decide on five topics for editorials.
Wed, Feb 10	Review Current News Write first paragraph (lede) for editorial	Present and Discuss First Paragraphs
Mon, Feb 15	Review Current News Write 400-word editorial	Present and Discuss Editorials. Select topic for next editorial.
Wed, Feb 17	Review Current News Write lede for editorial	Present and Discuss Ledes.
Mon, Feb 22	Review Current News Write 400-word editorial	Present and Discuss Editorials. Select

		Topic for next editorial
Wed, Feb 24	Review Current News Write lede for editorial	Present and discuss ledes
Mon, March 1	Review Current News Write 400-word editorial	Present and Discuss Editorials
Wed, March 3	Review Current News	Watch Nobody Speak. Documentary is 15 minutes longer than class.
Mon, March 22	No Class Spring Break	
Wed, March 24	No Class Spring Break	
Mon, March 29	Review Current News Mass Media and the Law https://open.lib.umn.edu/mediaandculture/chapter/15-3-the-law-and-mass-media-messages/	Discuss Journalism and the Law
Wed, March 31	Review Current News Read: http://www.randomhouse.com/kvpa/talese/essays/dimaggio.html https://www.pulitzer.org/winners/eli-sanders	Discuss Features
Mon, April 5	Review Current News Three Ideas for Features	Discuss Feature Ideas
Wed, April 7	Review Current News Write first three paragraphs of a feature story	Present and Discuss First Three Grafts
Mon, April 12	Review Current News Write 600-word feature story	Present and Discuss Feature Story
Wed, April 14	Review Current News Write first three paragraphs of a feature story	Present and Discuss First Three Grafts
Mon, April 19	Review Current News Write 600-word feature story	Present and Discuss Feature Story
Wed, April 21	Review Current News	

	Bring ideas for the final project: 800-word feature story; or two related 400-word editorials	Discuss Final Project
Mon, April 26	Review current news Prepare outlines or rough drafts of final project	Discuss outlines or rough drafts of final project
Wed, April 28	Last Day of Class Review Current News Progress so far on final project	Individual consult on final project with professor, as needed