

**Student Publications Workshop: Tues & Thurs 1-2:15 Briscoe 305
Spring 2026**

Sidney Balman Jr, Writer In Residence & Professor

P:202.368.4545

Email: sid.balman@sulross.edu

Office Hours: M-Th By Appointment

1. Instructional Materials

- Associated Press Style Book; Scoop by Evelyn Waugh, and She Said by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey.
- Supplemental reading materials available online or provided by instructor
- Access to streaming movie services to watch movies as assigned, including Goodnight and Goodluck, All The President's Men, and Civil War (2024)
- Facebook and Instagram to promote Skyline newspaper stories on social media.

2. Course Overview

- This course is designed for students with an interest in journalism and good writing skills who want practical experience in writing for publication.
- Over the course of the semester, students will serve as reporters and editors for the Skyline student newspaper. They will be required to report and write 4 stories for the newspaper and to edit two stories.
- Students are required to attend through Zoom the weekly meeting of Skyline staff.
- By the end of this course, you will be a functional reporter able to identify, research, and write a professional news story, and to edit the stories of other staff members.

3. Course Primary Learning Objectives

- By the conclusion of this course the student should be proficient in:
 - i. News Writing in AP style
 - ii. News Editing in AP style
 - iii. Editorial Writing
 - iv. Story selection
 - v. Interviewing
 - vi. Research and Investigation
 - vii. Promoting Skyline stories on social media
 - viii. Understanding the nuances of the law as it relates to media
 - ix. Understanding the critical role journalism plays in a democracy

4. Student Learning Outcomes

- The successful student will have developed the skills listed above.

5. Course Requirements

- Attend class or weekly Skyline staff meetings, which will often be in lieu of class as directed by the professor.
- Write four news stories for the Skyline student newspaper and edit two stories prepared by a staff member
- Attend through Zoom weekly Skyline staff meetings

6. Criteria for Grade Evaluation

- Each student will be graded on the basis of adherence to the assignment's guidelines in an effective, timely and comprehensive way. Effort and improvement over the course of the term are the two most important criteria for grading.
- Evaluation of performance in this class is largely subjective, and as such this aspect of the class will be solely at the professor's discretion.

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).
- Syllabus will be posted on Blackboard

