

CMS 339 Reporting Public Affairs

Credit Hours: 3

Scheduled hours per week

Lecture: 3

Lab:

Other:

Catalog Course Description: This course is an introduction to public affairs reporting, including coverage of local government, public schools, courts, crime, and social services. Students cover anything from town government and school board meetings to trials and the police beat.

Pre-requisites: NA

Co-requisites: NA

Course Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Cover various beats, including local police, courts, government and live speaking events.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of municipal budgets, taxes and bond issues.
3. Explain the process of how cases move through both civil and criminal courts.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of press freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment and libel law.
5. Maintain a blog to archive articles.

Topics to be studied:

At the conclusion of the course, students will have a basic understanding of the following:

- Beat coverage
- Story creation and follow-up
- Municipal government
- Local courts
- Arrest records
- Uniform crime statistics
- Social service agencies
- Blogging for an audience
- Civic journalism
- Journalism ethics

Relationship of Course to Discipline Learning Outcomes	
Students will demonstrate an ability to select the appropriate channels to communicate effective messages.	x
Students will demonstrate an ability to evaluate and critique their own and others' communication.	x
Students will exhibit strong listening skills.	x
Students will demonstrate an ability to produce strategic communication materials that are clear, accurate, thorough, cogent, and fair.	x
Students will demonstrate an ability to apply communication theory and mass communication principles to real-life situations.	x

Students will exhibit creativity and innovation in the delivery of messages.	x
Students will competently analyze an audience to create effective messages.	x
Students will articulate the role of ethics in media and communication.	x

Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes:	
Composition and Rhetoric Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	x
Science & Technology Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	
Mathematics & Quantitative Skills Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
Society, Diversity, & Connections Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	x
Human Inquiry & the Past Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	x
The Arts & Creativity Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	

Special requirements of the course:

Student must maintain a portfolio of all work throughout the semester.

Additional information:

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