



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	JOUR
Course Number:	8
Descriptive Title:	Investigative Reporting, Editing, and Entrepreneurship
Division:	Humanities
Department:	Journalism
Course Disciplines:	Journalism
Catalog Description:	This course will provide students with instruction in explanatory and investigative journalism and opinion writing, and will incorporate the study of editing principles, style, and design to conform with professional models. Problems of law and libel will be discussed. Students will also be given hands-on instruction in print and digital design, including graphics and multimedia. Leadership and management training, social media skills, and discussion of the business of journalism will also be provided.
Prerequisite:	Journalism 1 with a minimum grade of C or equivalent
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	prior to 1992
Transfer UC:	no
Effective Date:	
General Education: ECC	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	

	Other:	
	IGETC:	
	Term:	
	Other:	
	CalGETC:	
	Term:	
	Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Upon completion of the course, students will be able to create a single-page feature package using Adobe InDesign that includes art, a headline and at least 10 inches of text. SLO #2 Upon completion of the course, students will be able to apply news judgment and rank 10 news stories in order of most newsworthy to least newsworthy and create a production budget for a news publication using that ranking. SLO #3 Upon completion of the course, students will be able to copy edit a multi-item calendar listing so that the items adhere to the Associated Press style.	
Course Objectives:	1. Edit a story according to Associated Press (AP) Stylebook requirements. 2. Organize information into the inverted pyramid style of journalism, identifying problems in leads and correcting them to shorten and lengthen articles. 3. Research, compose, and write opinion articles. 4. Produce deadline-driven assignments utilizing basic multimedia skills, such as creating captions, working with audio/video, and shooting photo galleries. 5. Show editorial leadership by arguing libel, ethics, and other professional problems. 6. Identify cases pertaining to professional and student press law. 7. Compose headlines according to the standard rules of professional journalism. 8. Crop photographs, identify problems in photos, and write photo captions. 9. Locate information about professional news organizations and then evaluate the content and design of these publications using the professionally based standards for journalism. 10. Find, report, write, and edit deadline-driven on- and off-campus stories for all sections of publications including public affairs, such as education-based meetings, police beat, civil and criminal court cases, etc.	
Major Topics:	I. Editing the story (8 hours, lecture) 1. Assessment of student skills with pre-style, pre-grammar, pre-spelling diagnostic test 2. Tightening the lead and identifying and solving problems with structure and format 3. Identifying and correcting problems with missing information in stories and leads 4. Identifying and solving problems in ethics, libel, and good taste in news reporting and writing	

5. Developing enterprising story ideas and reporting them using investigative methods, such as public record requests and source cultivation
6. Retesting the lead and evaluating the overall effectiveness of the headline

II. Running a newspaper and resolving editorial problems (6 hours, lecture)

1. News organization decisions and how they impact the community
2. Editorial leadership and the community
3. Libel and ethics considerations and the professional standards applied to each
4. Cases impacting the professional media and the significant legal cases affecting college media
5. A college press law update
6. Coordinating, reporting, and publishing breaking news and other real-time events across multiple platforms
7. Managing updates, corrections, retractions, take-down requests and other post-publication changes.

III. Writing in-depth and opinion articles (12 hours, lecture)

1. Defining and discussing the types of editorials and the formats for opinion writing
2. Researching the opinion piece and discussing investigative reporting, including identifying and defining the investigative formats, dealing with difficult sources, conducting research, and requesting records
3. Identifying and analyzing enterprise reporting, beat reporting, and other areas of specialized coverage such as public affairs (public safety, public agencies, public education etc.), and citizen journalism
4. Producing news and publishing across multiple platforms, including print, digital, social media, multimedia, and push notifications
5. Promoting content through social media and learning to create a brand.

IV. Production skills (10 hours, lecture)

1. Use of computer applications for editing, headline writing, and selecting photographs, including identifying effective photos and understanding photo essays, photo cropping, sizing, and caption writing.
2. Application of typography and design principles.
3. Demonstration of ineffective and effective designs.

V. Evaluating good and bad professional papers and college papers (6 hours, lecture)

1. Discussion of the law regarding the professional press and the student press

VI. Production activities necessary for a feature package of at least one-half page of a broadsheet newspaper (12 hours, lecture)

1. Formulating
2. Designing
3. Assigning
4. Writing
5. Editing
6. Producing

Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Write and edit a 500-word (not counting social media updates) news story covering the Board of Trustees meeting and publish it online as well as across social media platforms. Update the story as necessary.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	After evaluating the newsworthiness of the 10 stories and eight photographs assigned, demonstrate news judgment in picking the best five stories and the best two photos. Then design the front page of a standard size newspaper, demonstrating both the soundness of your evaluation/analysis as well as your editing and production skills. Present your selections and story package to your instructor for evaluation.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Evaluate and edit a set of three stories for content, style, grammar, libel, and length. Write two headlines with decks for each story: one digital and one print.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Class Performance, Completion, Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Multiple Choice, Performance Exams, Quizzes, Reading Reports, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Problem solving activity, Required reading, Skill practice, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual. Associated Press, 2021.
Alternative Texts:	The Los Angeles Times
Required Supplementary Readings:	Webster's New World Dictionary
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	Prerequisite
Category:	sequential
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	Journalism-1

Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	This course requires prior knowledge of basic journalistic interviewing, reporting, writing, and Associated Press-style guidelines. The required entry skills can be obtained through the prerequisite course; however, journalism skills also can be obtained in other ways. For instance, high school journalism courses or internships at area newspapers will provide the student with comparative entry skills. Because Journalism 8 demands that a student interview, write, publish, and manage the college news organization, students without the requisite entry skills will not be able to immediately start interviewing, writing, and publishing. These students are highly unlikely to succeed in the course. Construct a basic news story, a basic feature story and a basic sports story using industry-standard techniques and guidelines. JOUR 1 - Construct a basic news story, a basic feature story and a basic sports story using industry-standard techniques and guidelines. Demonstrate interviewing and related professional news-gathering techniques needed to write a news, a feature and a sports story. JOUR 1 - Demonstrate interviewing and related professional news-gathering techniques needed to write a news, a feature and a sports story. Recognize and apply professional legal and ethical rules when gathering information for stories and when writing stories. JOUR 1 - Recognize and apply professional legal and ethical rules when gathering information for stories and when writing stories. Recognize and employ Associated Press-style guidelines in preparing journalistic writing. JOUR 1 - Recognize and employ Associated Press-style guidelines in preparing journalistic writing.
Requisite Skill:	Prerequisite
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
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Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	W. A. Kamrath
Date:	09/01/1973
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Kate McLaughlin
Date:	10/06/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026