

Adam Bowles
COM 121
Spring 2007
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- Jan. 22 Introduction/ Pursuit of truth
In-class: Overview, basic story discussion.
Assignment: Read Chpt. 1; Write one page on **scene setter/mood piece** - do NOT use first person.
- Jan. 29 Story ideas; story qualities
In-class: Newsroom, story idea discussion; Find the focus.
Assignment: Read Chpt. 2; Write one page on **immigration teach-in**, either advance or cover live event at 11:30 a.m., Feb. 2, use three sources.
- Feb. 5 Leads/nut graphs
In-class: Guest subject - immigrant.
Assignment: Read Chpt. 3, pages 34-44; Write one page advancing first annual **chess tournament**, 3-6 p.m., Feb. 12, Thames Valley.
- Feb. 12 Story structure
In-class: Crime and fire stories.
Assignment: Read Chpt. 3, pages 45-62; Write two pages on TRUE, an **environmental group** that meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays to discuss global warming.
- Feb. 19 NO class.
- Feb. 26 Interviewing/note-taking/quotes **Quiz 1**
In-class: Interview students - Part 1.
Assignment: Read Chpt. 4, pages 66-77; Write two pages **localizing national or world event**.
- March 5 Interviewing/note-taking/quotes
In-class: Interview students - Part 2.
Assignment: Read Chpt. 4, pages 78-88; Write two-page **reaction story**.
- March 12 Beats:
In-class: Mechanics, On assignment (SD.)
Assignment: Read Chpt. 5, Cover a **beat exercise**.
- March 19 NO class. Enjoy Spring Break.

March 26	<u>Story-telling</u> In-class: Songs as stories (Three Wooden Crosses.) Assignment: Read Chpt. 6; write two pages on community leader .	Quiz 2
April 2	<u>Ethics</u> In-class: Discussion. Assignment: Read Chpt. 7; write two-page reaction story .	
April 9	<u>Current events I</u> In-class: Interactive assignment - police. Assignment: Read Chpt. 8, write two pages localizing Iraq war .	
April 16	<u>Current events II</u> In-class: Interactive assignment - tornado. Assignment: Budget for final story, including list of six sources with contact numbers. (Final story must be 3-5 pages.)	Quiz 3
April 23	<u>Final Story I</u> In-class: Discuss final stories. Assignment: First draft of final story.	
April 30	<u>Final Story II</u> In-class: Review first drafts of final story. Assignment: Complete final story.	
May 7	<u>Recap</u> In-class: Film, final story due.	Quiz 4

Goal: The purpose of this course is to learn the basics about what goes into the stories you read in your daily newspapers, either online or in print. You will also be required to write a publishable, entry-level news story by the end of the semester.

Required Text: *Inside Reporting*, by Tim Harrower.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences will result in the loss of a letter grade on your final grade.

Grades: Assignments are due the following week. There is no mid-term or final exam. Of your grade, four quizzes are 25 percent, in-class assignments and class participation are 20 percent, 10 out-of-class assignments are 25 percent, and the final story is 30 percent.

Misc: No eating or drinking in class. No swearing. Assignments must be typed and double spaced. I do not have office hours, but e-mail or call my cell any time for help, or request additional help on class days.

Journalism: Grading Standards

- “A” No fact errors; a first-rate lead; acceptable structure; no major mechanical errors; thorough coverage; excellent writing.
- “B” No serious fact errors; a good lead; acceptable structure; very few mechanical errors; thorough coverage; clear, concise writing.
- “C” No serious fact errors; an acceptable lead; acceptable structure; few mechanical errors; adequate coverage; writing needs considerable revising.
- “D” No serious fact errors; weak lead; poor structure; errors in style, spelling, grammar; inadequate coverage; unclear writing.
- “F” Major fact errors including misspelled names; unacceptable lead; unacceptable structure; omission of important information; numerous errors in style, spelling, grammar; missed deadlines; plagiarism.

(Mechanical errors are errors in style, spelling, grammar, sentence or paragraph structure, as well as typing errors. Copy must be typed, double-spaced, copy-edited with a pencil, and include proper set-up and designation on each page: name/ slug/ page number/ end mark.)

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
F	Below 63