

Adam Bowles
English 126
Fall 2010
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Goal: The purpose of this course is to learn how to write a basic news story and storytelling techniques that have universal, practical applications even in this time of revolutionary change in news presentation. Finally, you will be required to write a publishable, entry-level news story by the end of the semester.

Concepts to remember during entire course: Do NOT write in first person; one or two sentences per paragraph; tell-a-friend technique; show don't tell; two basic kinds of leads; attribution creates authority/credibility.

Aug. 27	<u>Introduction/ truth with responsibility</u> In-class: Overview, basic story discussion. Assignment: Read Chpt. 1.	
Sept. 3	<u>Story ideas; story qualities</u> In-class: Newsroom, elements of news. Assignment: Read Chpt. 2.	
Sept. 10	<u>Leads/nut graphs</u> In-class: Find the focus Assignment: Read Chpt. 3, Write profile of community leader.	Quiz 1
Sept. 17	<u>Story structure</u> In-class: Crime and fire stories. Assignment: Read Chpt. 4	
Sept. 24	<u>Interviewing/note-taking/quotes</u> In-class: Interview students - Part 1. Assignment: Read Chpt. 5 Write interview story.	Quiz 2

Oct. 1	<u>Interviewing/note-taking/quotes</u> In-class: Interview students - Part 2. Assignment: Read Chpt. 6 Write interview story.	
Oct. 8	<u>Beats:</u> In-class: Mechanics, On assignment (SD.) Assignment: Read Chpt. 7. Write observation.	Quiz 3
Oct. 15	<u>Story-telling</u> In-class: Songs as stories (Three Wooden Crosses.) Assignment: Read Chpt. 8.	
Oct. 22	<u>Current Events 1:</u> In class: Interview guest or live assignment Assignment: Write guest story.	Quiz 4
Oct. 29	<u>Film study 1: ethics</u> In-class: Watch Shattered Glass. Assignment: Write reaction to movie.	
Nov. 5	<u>Film study 2: interviews</u> In-class: Watch Frost Nixon. Assignment: Write reaction to movie; Budget for final story, including list of six sources with contact numbers. (Final story must be 3-5 pages.)	
Nov. 12	<u>Final story:</u> In-class: Discuss final story ideas. Assignment: First draft final story.	
Nov. 19	<u>Film study 3: Perspective</u> In-class: Watch Control Room Assignment: Write reaction to movie.	
Nov. 26	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving recess)	
Dec. 3	<u>Current Events 2:</u> In class: Interview guest or live assignment	
Dec. 10	<u>Recap</u> In class: Final story due; overview quiz	

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 25 percent, out-of-class assignments are 25 percent, and the final story, including draft and story budget, is 25 percent.

Misc: No eating or drinking in class. No profanity. Assignments must be typed and double spaced.

I do not have office hours, but e-mail or call me 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

