

Adam Bowles
English 126
Spring 2011
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REVISED

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.

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| Jan. 21 | <u>Introduction/ truth with responsibility</u>
In-class: Overview, basic story discussion.
Assignment: Read Chpt. 1. | |
| Jan. 28 | <u>Story ideas; story qualities</u>
In-class: Newsroom, elements of news.
Assignment: Read Chpt. 2. Current events. | |
| Feb. 4 | <u>Leads/nut graphs</u> | |
| Quiz 1 | | In-class: 9/11
Assignment: Read Chpt. 3, Profile of community leader. |
| Feb. 11 | <u>Story Structure</u>
In-class: Crime story
Assignment: Read Chpt. 4, Current events. | |
| Feb. 18 | <u>Interviewing/note-taking/quotes</u>
In-class: Interview students part 1
Assignment: Read Chpt. 5, Write interview story. | Quiz 2 |
| Feb. 25 | <u>Interviewing/note-taking/quotes</u>
In-class: Interview students part 2
Assignment: Read Chpt. 6 Write interview story. | |

March 5	<u>Beats</u>	
Quiz 3		In-class: Mechanics, on assignment (SD)
Assignment:	Read Chpts. 7 and 8, Beat Ideas	
March 12	<u>No class</u>	
March 19	<u>On assignment:</u>	
	In class: observation, song as story	Quiz 4
	Assignment: Current events	
March 26	<u>Film study 1: Ethics</u>	
	In-class: Watch Shattered Glass.	
	Assignment: Write reaction to movie.	
April 1	<u>Film study 2: Interviews</u>	
	In-class: Watch Frost Nixon.	
	Assignment: Write reaction to movie.	
April 8	<u>Film study 3: Perspective</u>	
	In-class: Watch Control Room	
	Assignment: Write reaction to movie. Budget for final story, list of six sources with contact numbers. (Final story must be 3-5 pages.)	
April 15	<u>Final story:</u>	
	In-class: Discuss final story ideas.	
	Assignment: First draft final story.	
April 22	<u>Current events 1:</u>	
	In class: Interview guest or live assignment	
April 29	<u>Current Events 2:</u>	
	In class: Interview guest or live assignment	
May 6	<u>Current Events 3:</u>	
	In class: Interview guest or live assignment	
May 13	<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, five quizzes are 25 percent, in-class assignments and class participation are 25 percent, 10 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