

**Chaminade University**

COM274: Writing for Mass Media

Spring 2008

**Instructor: Christopher Pala**

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**Textbooks:** None required. Access to AP Style guide recommended.

**Description:** Learn, develop and understand the writing skills used in newspapers, magazines, television and radio.

**Requirements:**

☐ **Attendance.** Regular, on time attendance is expected. Failure to attend class will negatively affect your grade. Absence due to illness must be accompanied by a doctor's note. Athletes should have a letter from his/her coach prior to missing class.

☐ **Participation.** There will be ample opportunity for group discussions. Positive participation is expected.

☐ **In-Class Assignments.** There will be in-class assignments once a week.

☐ **External Assignments.** This is a writing course, so students can expect many writing assignments. There will be at least one assignment due each week.

☐ **Exams.** There will be a final examination for this class: an exercise in news writing.

☐ **Final Portfolio.** The final project for this class is a portfolio of writing, including at least one story published in the Chaminade Times.

☐ **Outside Reading.** You are expected to read at least the headlines and the leads of the front-page stories of the Honolulu Advertiser and The New York Times each day.

**Grading:**

10 % attendance

10% each for four writing exercises, and 20% for the final exam

30%: The Chaminade Times story. The first one or ones to publish will get an A for that percentage.

**Month one:** Introduction to news writing, the lead and the inverted pyramid. How to order and reorder news stories, using real stories taken from real media.

**Month 2:** Learning how to do it: making a hodgepodge of facts into an interesting newspaper story.

**Month 3:** Paring it down: writing for radio and news agencies.

**Month 4:** Stretching it out: writing for magazines