

COMMUNICATION 370  
NEWSWRITING  
SYLLABUS  
INSTRUCTOR: FASSIOTTO  
Keiffer Hall 1  
**739-4674** (Business)  
923-3609 (Home)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will discuss the nature and process of news writing. It will concentrate on the process by covering mastering of the patterns of newswriting, developing story ideas, completing research, shaping articles, writing, editing, and evaluating production values. Students will learn how to vary the style and content of their writing in terms of the intended audience.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To provide an understanding of the news writing process
2. To introduce students to the various types and conventions of news stories
3. To develop grammatical and stylistic accuracy
4. To learn how to complete writing assignments based on the needs of the audience

**COURSE COMPETENCIES:**

All written work must be typed.

Late papers will not be accepted.

Because the class will be handled as a writing workshop, attendance is mandatory. Final grades will be lowered one half point (from an "A" to an "A-") for each day missed. Two unexcused absences will lower the final grade by a full grade point.

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**The final grade for this course will be based on the average of all units.**  
**The unit distribution which will be used to determine grades is attached.**

**The number and value of assignments may be changed during the course of the semester depending upon the needs of the class.**

**OFFICE HOURS:** I am available before class and by appointment at any time.

**SCHEDULE:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>
<b>1/18</b> <b>Week 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>  <b>Newswriting</b> <b>Service learning</b> <b>The newsletter project</b> <b>The biography project</b>  <b>The communication process</b> <b>The function and uses of the media</b> <b>Knowing your audience</b> <b>The basic news story structure</b> <b>The importance of a lead</b> <b>Quotes and attribution</b>	

1/25 Week 2	<p>Developing background</p> <p>What is biography? (George Simson)</p> <p>Personal timeline</p> <p>How does a newsletter function?</p> <p>Determining the content</p> <p>Interviewing the client</p> <p>Collecting Information</p> <p>Interview skills</p> <p>Research:</p> <p>Archives</p> <p>The Library</p> <p>The Net</p>	NEWSWRITING: Rough draft Assignment I
2/1 Week 3	<p>Who are the Marianists? (Brother Stefanelli, Archivist, Marianists of the Pacific Province)</p> <p>The Weed and Seed project (Brother Tom Spring)</p> <p>Writing about events</p>	<p>NEWSWRITING: Assignment I due</p> <p>NEWSLETTER: Client interview</p>
2/8 Week 4	<p>The Marianists in Hawaii (Father John Bolan, Vicar General Honolulu Diocese)</p>	<p>NEWSWRITING: Rough Draft Assignment II</p> <p>NEWSLETTER: Determining the content</p> <p>BIOGRAPHY: Pre-interview</p>
2/15 Week 5	<p>Shaping the Story (Malia Zimmerman, Pacific Business News)</p> <p>Writing about people</p>	<p>NEWSWRITING: Assignment II due</p> <p>BIOGRAPHY: Pre-interview completed</p>

2/22 Week 6	Writing Biography (George Simson)	NEWSWRITING: Rough Draft Assignment III  NEWSLETTER: All data gathered  BIOGRAPHY: Interview outline
2/29 Week 7	Designing Publications (Blair Thorndyke, Waikiki News)  Writing about ideas	NEWSWRITING: Assignment III due  NEWSLETTER: Rough draft newsletter article  BIOGRAPHY: Interview completed
3/7 Week 8	Shaping Biography (Craig Howes, Director of the Biographical Research Center; Editor, <i>Biography</i> )	NEWSWRITING: Rough Draft Assignment IV  NEWSLETTER: Newsletter article due  BIOGRAPHY: Rough Draft biography
3/14 Week 9	Odds and Ends  Writing the extended article	NEWSWRITING: Assignment IV due  BIOGRAPHY: Article due
3/21 Week 10	Production	NEWSWRITING: Article V due  NEWSLETTER: Review the newsletter  BIOGRAPHY: Review the website

## NEWSWRITING ASSIGNMENT SHEET

1. **Write your own obituary. This should be an extended obituary with at least one quote. You may make up the facts for this one. This should be at least 250 words long.**
2. **Write an article about an event. You will need at least one cited source for this one. The article must at least 250 in length.**

**Write an article about a Person. This article will need to cite at least two other sources besides the subject. The article must be at least 500 words.**

4. **Write an article about a concept or idea. A concept or idea includes an academic program, a school policy, a new fad, or, in fact, anything that catches your fancy. The article must be at least 500 words in length.**
5. **The last assignment is an article on a subject of your choice. Three sources, with at least one coming from a non-live source (i.e. another paper, the library, the net) must be included. This article should be at least 1000 words long.**

## UNIT DISTRIBUTION FOR GRADING

ASSIGNMENT	NUMBER OF UNITS
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### NEWSWRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment I	1
Assignment II	1
Assignment III	1
Assignment IV	1
Assignment V *	2

### NEWSLETTER ASSIGNMENTS

Meeting all **deadlines**

Final article*	2
Final newsletter	1

### BIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS

Meeting all deadlines	1
The subject's timeline, biographical data sheet, surroundings sheet, sample questionnaire, and tape	2
Final article*	2

\* The student must submit these to pass the course