

COM 310  
**NEWSWRITING**  
Spring Semester 2003

MWF: 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

Instructor: Richard Meiers

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## **Course Description:**

In this course you will become a news journalist. During the semester you will go through a series of writing assignments that will test your abilities as a news gatherer, writer and thinker. You can expect to write just about every day. You will also become a producer and sports writer. We will begin with some elementary exercises to acquaint you with journalism's conventions and end with your producing full-blown stories about actual events.

## **Objectives**

By the end of the semester, you should achieve the following:

1. Know how to write a News Story.
2. Become up to date on current events.
3. Become a better writer in general.
4. Learn the FACTS!

## **Attendance:**

Excessive absences will hurt your final grade. Notification of absence and request for make-up work is your responsibility. Class starts at 11 so be on time! I am available to meet with students outside of class-time, by appointment.

## **Grading Breakdown**

**A – PROFESSIONAL/EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY WORK.**

**B- GOOD WORK**

**C- AVERAGE WORK**

**D- BELOW AVERAGE**

**F- FAILURE/UNACCEPTABLE**

## **Semester Outlook**

Here is a list of Semester “projects.”

- Using sources and attribution in stories
- Accuracy and Objectivity
- Print and Broadcast differences/similarities
- News values
- Lead (lede) identification, writing, development-review of Media Writing
- Interviewing/Observation
- Legal & ethical concerns
- Final, (vo, vo/sot,tease &rundown)

## **Text**

**BROADCAST NEWS HANDBOOK: WRITING, REPORTING AND PRODUCING.**

**by C.A. Tuggle, Suzanne Huffman, Forrest Carr**

## Schedule:

The schedule below is an outline of our semester. It is subject to change (like news).

### Week One:

January 13	January 15	January 17
Introduction Description of Syllabus Current Events Quiz	NO CLASS Founders Day	Current Events Quiz Types of media writing. Jobs in media writing. Homework: (Ch. 1)

### Week Two:

January 20	January 22	January 24
NO CLASS	Current Events Quiz Newsriting Story#1	Current Events Quiz Legality Homework (Ch. 2)

### Week Three:

January 27	January 29	January 31
Current Events Quiz Starting to Write Story #3	Current Events Quiz Starting to Write Story #4	Current Event Quiz Tease's & Promo's Story #5 Homework (Ch. 3)

### Week Four:

Febuary3	Febuary5	Febuary7
Current Events Quiz Writing Leads Story #6	Current Events Quiz Writing Leads Story #7	Current Event Quiz Writing Leads Story #8 Homework (Ch. 4)

Week Five:

February10	February12	February14
Current Events Quiz Deadly Sins Story #9	Current Events Quiz Deadly Sins Story #10	Current Events Quiz Test #1 (10 minutes to write story on a topic)

Week Six:

February17	February19	February21
No Class Presidents Day	Current Events Quiz Guest speaker: News Director Homework (Ch.5 )	Current Events Quiz Interviewing Story #11

Week Seven:

February24	February26	February28
Current Events Quiz Interviewing Activity Homework (Ch.6 )	Current Events Quiz Writing Radio News	Current Events Quiz Radio News Activity Homework (Ch.7 )

Week Eight:

March3	March5	March7
Current Events Quiz The VO Story #12	NO CLASS ASH WED.	Current Events Quiz The VO Activity Homework (Ch.8 )

Week Nine:

March10	March12	March14
Current Events Quiz VO/SOT Activity Homework (Ch.9 )	Current Events Quiz The Package Story #13	Current Events Quiz The Package Test #2 (timed vo)

Week Ten:

March17	March19	March21
Current Events Quiz Guest: TV News Reporter	Current Events Quiz Guest: Newspaper Reporter Homework (Ch.10 )	Current Events Quiz Producing Activity

Week Eleven:

March24-28	March24-28
NO CLASSES  SPRING BREAK	NO CLASSES  SPRING BREAK

Week Twelve:

April 2	April 4
Current Events Quiz Guest Speaker Executive Producer	Current Events Quiz Writing Sports Activity

Week Thirteen:

April 7	April 9	April 11
Current Events Quiz Guest Speaker: Sports Anchor Homework (Ch.12)	Guest Speaker: Why we Fight Story #16 -tease	Current Events Quiz Why we Fight Test #3 (timed tease)

Week Fourteen:

April 14	April 16	April 18
Current Events Quiz Guest Speaker News Anchor	Field Trip To News 8	NO CLASS GOOD FRIDAY

Week Fifteen:

April 21	April 23	April 25
Current Events Quiz 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Story #18	Current Events Quiz Art of Resume	WORK ON FINALS

Week Sixteen:

April 28	April 30	
WORK ON FINALS	Turn in Final	