

Lantern Independent Study

*1 hour of Lantern Newsroom/week/credit hour
2 hours field work/week/credit hour
Spring 2016~275 Journalism
Office: 275 Journalism
Office Phone: 614.247.7030
Office hours: Monday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in
270 Journalism, or by appointment*

*Professor: Spencer Hunt
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Twitter: @spencerhuntosu*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the writing staff of The Lantern!

In this course, you will help fill *The Lantern* and its website with professional-quality Arts, Campus and Sports stories, as well as columns for Student Voice section, and serve as copy editors. Regardless of your major or prior training, you will build on the fundamental writing, editing, researching and reporting skills you have acquired inside and outside of classrooms and use them to cover the OSU campus. You will get to talk to live human beings and become experts on various campus topics.

The goal: to write clear, concise, organized and accurate news stories using facts.

Depending on the number of credit hours you sign up for, you may have 4-12 solid pieces of published work by the time the class is over.

COURSE COALS

1. Report, write and produced various types of stories for The Lantern, TheLantern.com and Lantern TV.
2. **Work with Lantern and Lantern TV editors** to complete stories suitable for publication or TV packages suitable for airing.
3. Utilize multimedia and produce content beyond words on a page.
4. Behave like a working journalist.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

AP Style Book or Online: <http://www.apstylebook.com/online/>)

The Lantern in print and online and Lantern TV

GRADING

This course is pass-fail. That means if you come in for your newsroom shift and write articles that get published in The Lantern, or produce pieces for LanternTV, you will pass.

You course grade will be calculated:

- **1 credit: one newsroom hour/week, minimum of 4 stories or packages/semester**
- **2 credits: two newsroom hours/week, 8 stories or packages /semester**
- **3 credits: three newsroom hours/week, 12 stories or packages /semester**

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Not all classes fit your schedule or your academic plan, and I understand that. Please know, however, that I very much wish to meet with you before you drop (especially the deeper we get into the semester) to see what we can do to work through any challenges together. If you do have questions about how to drop or the impact on your transcript or financial aid, please visit the Academic Advising website.

ASSIGNMENTS

Professional Conduct

While working on your articles and packages, you represent The Lantern and the School of Communication, as well as Ohio State as a whole. Please act responsibly and professionally. Any conduct unbecoming your role and responsibilities will impact your grade but, more importantly, will also impact your future career opportunities.

Multimedia Training

If you plan to produce packages or perform similar work for Lantern TV, you **must attend a training session** with Lantern TV editors to learn how to properly use video cameras, audio equipment and editing software needed to produce a finished package or the multimedia elements for your Lantern story. This must be done before you can shoot, capture and edit something for the website. I will provide training times the first week of semester.

Most stories, if not all of them, are more compelling with a photo, graphic or other image. For every article you create, you will shoot and submit to your Lantern editor (and me) at least one photo and/or record a video. You will also help coordinate “art” assignments with your Lantern editor.

Story Pitches + Articles/Video packages

By Sunday of each week, you will submit by email two to three pitches to an appropriate Lantern or Lantern TV editor (campus, arts, sports) **and to me at hunt.754@osu.edu**. These pitches will include an idea, a plan of action (including potential interview and other sources), and a proposed deadline. The format for these pitches includes: Slug, Summary, Possible Contacts, Ideal reporter/Lantern personnel involved, Graphic, video and photo suggestions. Ideas deemed news worthy will be developed. If not, editors can also assign a story that can be developed in their place.

Each Lantern editor that you work with will provide an evaluation of your performance (timeliness, availability, willingness to rewrite, quality of story ideas,

receptiveness to constructive comments, etc.) on a 1-10 scale, with one being the lowest and 10 being the highest.

You are responsible for developing original content for The Lantern and Lantern TV. Your goal is not just submission—it is publication. That means each article/package must achieve one of three levels before it will be graded:

1. It is good enough for publication/airing (as per an editor) and gets run.
2. It is good enough for publication/airing (as per an editor) and does not get run.
3. A Lantern editor deems the article/package not worthy of publication.

This means that articles/packages may go through numerous revisions before they are finished, or they may be good to go on your first try.

Submission Guidelines

Every student will submit stories to me via email, hunt.754@osu.edu. You will file your articles with me at the same time you submit to your Lantern editor. Those working for Lantern TV must notify via email of their package completions and provide a link. Thanks.

All stories/packages will be submitted to me as follows, or they will be edited, but not graded:

1. Name the file (this is called a “slug”) with this information: LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, ASSIGNMENT NAME, DATE
2. Save the file ONLY as a .pdf.
3. Put the file in your FOLDER on DROPBOX

Include in the body of each article:

- YOUR NAME
- SUGGESTED HEADLINE
- CONTACT LIST with phone numbers and/or email for your sources, so I can touch base during the semester.

Failure to include any of these items means the article/package will be edited but not go toward your semester count.

DETAILS ON ARTICLES:

- You will be working a “beat” at the university, with the goal of developing expertise, relationships with sources and a deeper understanding of issues.
- You are the master of your own story idea domain. That means the majority of ideas will be generated for you, by you. Some assignments will come from Lantern editors. I encourage you to think outside the box and seek news and features everywhere. Everything is potentially a story idea. We will work together to refine, but don’t be afraid a pitch is “bad.” Let me help you refine it!
- Aim for at least at least two human sources but, more importantly, you must have sources that have expertise to speak on your article topic.
- If you find a great story idea for someone else’s beat, do not be afraid to share. Collaboration is a key to newsroom success.

- We will seek a mix of news and feature stories, and I will guide you on which style to use with which articles.
- As convenient as they may be, we do not use friends, roommates, relatives, etc., as sources for your stories, photographs, graphics etc. This is a conflict of interest.
- Although you may not write about any activities, organizations, projects, companies, etc. in which you are involved in, you can share story ideas with fellow reporters.
- You get to write a headline for all of your articles!
- Please include contact info for the reporter(s) (including cell phone) in case editors have questions.
- As much as we love to share information, we do not share your stories with other classes.
- Stories done for credit/grade in this class cannot be used for credit in any other class.
- We are a paperless class, so all stories will be submitted digitally. No handwritten stories will be accepted.

Libel. Any story that includes libelous material will result in a zero for the assignment. Examples would be if you describe someone as a murderer in your story before he or she has been convicted, or if you misidentify a subject and implicating someone not guilty of the crime.

WORKING HOURS

I know that everyone's schedule is different, but good journalism is a collaborative effort and cannot be done in a vacuum. **To that end, students must work with their editors so that, as much as possible, the one to three hours that must be spent at *The Lantern* is spent working alongside the editors and fellow reporters.**

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS:

College is intended to prepare you for the real world, and for many— especially in journalism—your undergraduate career is like a first job. You can and will make a lot of mistakes here, but the goal is to learn from them and not to make them again.

To that end, I will treat you professionally, and need you to do the same. Behaviors that work in the “real world” and here include:

1. Spend time in The Lantern, and be ready to work on the material for the day.
2. You are missed when you are absent: When you don't come to the newsroom, we notice, and you are missed personally and for your contributions.
3. Treating coworkers with respect: Everyone's ideas have merit, and allowing a civil discussion, even when we disagree, is a key to future success.
4. Dressing for success: I know this is college, but you never know who might come to the newsroom or who you might meet on assignment who could

- help you with an internship or guide your academic or professional career. Pajamas are for sleeping. Swimsuits are for beaches. Please know I don't want to discuss appropriate dress with you, but I will if need be.
5. Deadlines are deadlines: Assignments must be submitted by The Lantern deadlines and will not be graded if late.
 6. Lying, cheating or stealing will get you fired: In this class, if you plagiarize or fabricate anything you will **fail the course**, and I will report you to academic misconduct, even if you accidentally do it while taking your notes. We have no wiggle room here.
 7. Read The Lantern and the other news organizations' Web sites. Listen to at least one news broadcast every day. You cannot be a good writer or reporter unless you see how it is done in the real world.
 8. Ask questions when you don't understand something.
 9. Don't just spell check...PROOFREAD and SELF EDIT!
 10. Have fun. We get to find out a bunch of cool, interesting things and share them with other people who need to know them.

OFFICE HOURS

My office hours are listed on the front of the syllabus, and I would love to meet with you to get you extra, one-on-one article assistance or just to hang out. **Everyone will need to set up a one-on-one meeting with me by the end of the third week to talk about your semester goals. If you do not come during my office hours or schedule that meeting by the end of the third week, it will significantly impact your ability to receive a passing "grade" for the class.**

SYLLABUS

Every effort has been made to create a syllabus that is as comprehensive and accurate as possible, but each class is a living entity and changes may arise. Please know I will notify you in writing as soon as any syllabus change may arise.

SAFE & HEALTHY

Keeping students healthy and preventing the spread of illness is important to The Ohio State University. Students are encouraged to stay home if they are sick and may be asked to leave class if they are coughing/sneezing. Students who are sick and cannot attend class must contact Prof. Hunt *BEFORE* class to receive class any materials and turn in assignments via the drop box or e-mail. If you do not notify Prof. Hunt, your assignment will not be accepted.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty

Rule 3335-31-02). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

MANAGING STRESS

College can be a stressful time, and I am always here to help you—in this class and beyond. If, however, you feel you need more support, I encourage you to reach out to the Student Advocacy Center at 292.1111. They will always work with professors on your behalf.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.