



SYLLABUS: COMM 2221 WRITING AND EDITING FOR MEDIA AUTUMN 2022-HYBRID

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides an in-depth study of the foundational skill necessary to become a professional journalist in the ever-changing media landscape. Students will create content with the intention of becoming published by the end of the semester.

Instructor

Instructor: Bethany Barker
Email address: barker.332@osu.edu
Office hours Tuesday 10:00-11:00 or by appointment
Link to office hours is in the Welcome module on Carmen

Course description

Designed to help students develop the fundamentals of news reporting, writing, and editing across news platforms.

Course Mode

This course will be presented in a hybrid format with in-person meetings every Tuesday and Thursday in Journalism 281 with some Zoom meetings. See the course schedule for Zoom or asynchronous Online dates. This is a flipped, active learning classroom. Students can expect to watch a lecture or video prior to class time and come prepared to engage in activities related to the week's topic. Students should be prepared to leave the classroom at any time during sessions to conduct interviews, take photos or practice other journalism-related skills.

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Course learning objectives

1. Write and produce professional news content, displaying a command of grammar, spelling, syntax and Associated Press style.
2. Understand the need for fairness, accuracy and expediency in news stories.
3. Demonstrate basic skills of interviewing and researching.
4. Adhere to ethical journalistic practices.
5. Begin to understand how social media and multimedia augment and enhance reporting, and utilize those skills in our reporting.
6. Walk into a newsroom and contribute as an editor and/or multimedia journalist on your first day by being proficient in reporting, writing, social media and multi-media elements.

Course learning outcomes

1. Write news articles in the inverted pyramid and feature style.
2. Tell factual stories across platforms.
3. Identify and execute articles that contain news value.
4. Interview appropriate live human experts in person, and take accurate notes that are utilized in articles to provide paraphrased facts and supporting quotes.
5. Develop story ideas.
6. Utilize social media in a professionally constructive way.
7. Get published in The lantern and TheLantern.com, or get footage on LanternTV.

Course materials

- “Always Get the Name of the Dog: A Guide to Interviewing” (available in iTunes store) \$1.99
- AP Style Book (book, app or online) \$26 <https://www.apstylebook.com/>
- The Lantern (print or online)
- Readings provided on Carmen

Course technology

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- **Carmen:**
 - Carmen, Ohio State’s Learning Management System, will be used to host materials and activities throughout this course. To access Carmen, visit

[Carmen.osu.edu](https://carmen.osu.edu). Log in to Carmen using your name.# and password. If you have not setup a name.# and password, visit my.osu.edu.

- Help guides on the use of Carmen can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmen>
- **This course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.**

- **[Carmen accessibility](#)**

- **Mobile device**

- Students in this course should have a device that has word processing capability and can take photos and videos. Devices can be checked out at no charge through the [Student Technology Loan Program](#).

Grades

Assignment or category	Points
In-Class assignments (150 points—10 points each) You will have a variety of hands-on experiences on which to write in class. Your participation in and completion of these activities is key to your skill development, and will each be worth 10 points. They include simulated news events, coverage, write-ups on guest speakers, video and audio storytelling assignments, etc. These points can only be earned if you are in class for the activities, as they cannot be made up.	150
AP Style/ Reading / Grammar Quizzes (100 points—10 points per quiz/11 quizzes Most weeks we will work on our AP Style and news consumption with a quiz style game. We will be divided into teams, and you will work with your team to determine the answer to questions provided in class. We will then come together to discuss. To be successful, you must begin to write everything you can in AP Style and read news from a variety of sources, including legacy (Columbus Dispatch, New York Times, CNN, USA Today, Washington Post) and new media (Huffington Post, Slate, BuzzFeed). Questions on assigned readings for the week should be expected.	110

Assignment or category	Points
<p>News Story Almost anything can be considered news somewhere in the Ohio State community. We will find a story idea around campus and develop that idea into a news story using research, real-life, in-person interviewing and journalistic writing in the “inverted pyramid” style for submission to The Lantern. We will keep the story simple— something that is newsworthy to Ohio State readers. We will focus on the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of each story. Examples would be action by president’s office, new fee, new business, new appointment, sporting event, etc.</p>	100
<p>Pin the tail on the Campus (100 points) This in-class activity will test your reporting skills in the real world on deadline. It is a game and a challenge, and will include reporting, writing, photography, videography and interviewing.</p>	100
<p>Feature Feature articles have more of a “lifespan” than news articles and provide for more descriptive writing with a focus on people. These do not utilize the “inverted pyramid,” but a style called the “writing hourglass,” which features anecdotes, a “nut graph” and a body filled with descriptions and facts. You will write one feature article this semester on a topic related to the Ohio State community.</p>	150
<p>Schoolhouse Rock Assignment Your team will be provided with a topic that is crucial to your work as a student journalist, but can be very dry to read. As a team you will create a 5-10 presentation that represents the topic in an accurate manner, yet entertains the audience. Audience members will also receive a digital “tip sheet” handout.</p>	15
<p>Exam This will be made of two parts Part 1: Deadline writing a story on a topic provided in class for submission to The Lantern Part 2: Carmen exam on topics covered up to the midterm. A study guide will be provided. Questions are multiple choice, true/false or fill in the blank.</p>	200
<p>Final Project</p>	175

Assignment or category	Points
The final project will allow you to show off your new skills. You will work as a part of a team to research a journalism-related topic and create a comprehensive project that is displayed on a Wordpress/ Wix or equivalent blog.	
Total	1,000 Points and 100%

See course schedule, below, for due dates

Attendance

Attendance is expected for every class period, no matter the format. This is a flipped classroom where all readings and videos are expected to be completed prior to class. In-class assignments will help students to gain the skills necessary to complete the learning objectives. These activities may not be made up without a valid medical or university excuse. Documentation must be provided.

Late assignments

A deadline is a deadline. Assignments turned in after the deadline will only be accepted with a valid medical or university excuse. It is the student's responsibility to be sure the assignment submitted correctly. **Please check your Carmen folder after submission to ensure the upload is there and complete. Additionally, drafts must be completed on time in order for a final submission to be accepted for a grade.**

Students who know of an impending excused absence should notify the instructor with documentation ahead of the absence to arrange a makeup. **Makeups must be requested and turned in within 1 week of the original due date.**

Extra credit

There is a maximum of 20 extra-credit points available in this class, which will be applied to the final class point total. It may earn it by:

1. Participating the outside class activities identified during the semester. Points will be assigned according to depth of the activity.
2. If you submit a story **BEYOND** the ones you write for this class to The Lantern, and it gets published with only your by-line! All extra credit must be reported via Carmen by the last day of class.

Grading scale

93–100: A
90–92.9: A-
87–89.9: B+

83–86.9: B
80–82.9: B-
77–79.9: C+
73–76.9: C
70 –72.9: C-
67 –69.9: D+
60 –66.9: D
Below 60: E

Please note: Carmen and Buckeyelink do not round up grades. Your grades will be exactly what you have earned and **will not be rounded up**. Extra credit will be offered for students who wish to earn a chance to improve grades.

Faculty feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

Grading and feedback

For larger assignments, you can generally expect feedback within **10-14 days**. In-class activities and quizzes are graded in batches. These will be updated at least once per month.

E-mail and text

I will reply to e-mails within **24 hours on school days**. You will receive my personal phone number for urgent text or calls when out on a story or conferences regarding stories. Please use sparingly and for situations where time is of the essence. I will respond as I am able.

Instructor communication

Announcements will be made to the class via Carmen Announcements and sent through a Carmen message. Please regularly check both to ensure you do not miss a communication. Make sure your Carmen messages are not sent to your Clutter folder. In the event of my illness or a weather-related incident, I will send out an email no later than noon.

Attendance, participation, and discussions

Communication guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Please visit the Professionalism page in the Week 1 module. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** This course is intended to prepare you for future communications as a professional. Assignments should be approached in this manner. Please proofread, edit, and include appropriate language.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Furthermore, rude or impatient communications are generally not appreciated in professional situations. Please consider your words as if you were a professional when communicating with other students and the instructor.

Other course policies

Please note that these policies may be updated to reflect changes in the epidemic, changes in our understanding of the disease, and changing University, local, state, and federal recommendations/mandates.

Attendance

Given the continued high prevalence of COVID, including breakthrough cases among vaccinated individuals, **students should not attend class if they are feeling sick**. It is very important that individuals avoid spreading the virus to others. Most students should be able to complete a successful semester despite illness-induced absence. If you are absent due to illness, including but not limited to COVID, I will give you a reasonable opportunity to make up missed work. **You do not need to provide a physician's document of illness, but you should advise me via email as soon as you are safely able to do so.**

Other related resources

Food Security (<https://www.buckeyefoodalliance.org/>, 614-688-2508). The Ohio State University is committed to ensuring that all students have access to adequate and healthy food. Any undergraduate or graduate student with a BuckID may confidentially use the Buckeye Food Alliance food pantries. No proof of need is required. The pantry is located in Lincoln Tower, Suite 150 (1800 Cannon Dr., Columbus, OH 43210). Check the website or call for current hours.

Student Academic Services

Arts and Sciences Advising and Academic Services' website provides support for student academic success. Information on advising issues such as tutoring, transfer credits, academic standing, and contact information for Arts and Sciences advisors can be obtained through this website. The site is: <http://advising.osu.edu/welcome.shtml>

Student Services

The Student Service Center assists with financial aid matters, tuition and fee payments. Please see their site at: <http://ssc.osu.edu>

Copyright Disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

Academic integrity policy

Policies for this course

- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.
- **Collaboration and informal peer-review:** The course includes many opportunities for formal collaboration with your classmates. While study groups and peer-review of major written projects is encouraged, remember that comparing answers on a quiz or assignment is not permitted. If you're unsure about a particular situation, please feel free just to ask ahead of time.
- **Group projects:** This course includes group projects, which can be stressful for students when it comes to dividing work, taking credit, and receiving grades and feedback. I have attempted to make the guidelines for group work as clear as possible for each activity and assignment, but please let me know if you have any questions.

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 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

Requesting accommodations

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know via email immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu ; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu ; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue. Students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process (slds.osu.edu/covid-19-info/covid-related-accommodation-requests/), managed by SLDS.

Course schedule (tentative)

Reporting isn't always a scheduled event. As journalists, we must be nimble and able to adapt to the situation. This calendar was created in good faith that we will be able to complete these tasks on these days. However, we will be flexible to accommodate any situations that may enhance the learning experience.

Week	Dates	Tuesday	Thursday	Due
1	8/20-8/22	Welcome and expectations	News Value and intro to AP Style	Beat selections Quiz 1 Type of Reporter assignment

2	8/27-8/29	Inverted pyramid writing/ Lantern newsroom visit	Inverted pyramid writing	Quiz 2
3	9/3-9/5	Interviewing and working with sources	Finding story ideas/ Interviewing (Online)	Quiz 2
4	9/10-9/12	News Story Pitches	Writer's Toolbox	Quiz 3
5	9/17-9/19	Features and headlines	Schoolhouse Rock Intro	Quiz 4
6	9/24-9/26	Photography for journalism	News Story Workshop (Zoom)	Quiz 5 News Story Draft Due 9/23 News Story Peer Review Due 9/25 News Story Final Due 9/27
7	10/1-10/3	Feature Story Pitches	Working with video	Quiz 6
8	10/8-10/10	Public Records and Research (Online)	Autumn Break No class	
9	10/15- 10/17	Schoolhouse Rock Work Choice Article Pitch	Final Project intro/ Disinformation	Quiz 7
10	10/22-10/24	Schoolhouse Rock	Feature Story Workshop (Zoom)	Feature Story Draft Due 10/21 Feature Peer Review Due 10/23 Feature Story Final Due 10/25

11	10/29-10/31	Photo Walk	Pin the tail on the campus (PTTOTC)	PTTOTC due end of class 10/26
12	11/5-11/7	Election coverage (Online)	Collecting and writing with data	Quiz 8
13	11/12-11/14	Choice Article Workshop (Zoom)	Exam (Online)	Choice Story Draft Due 11/13 Choice Story Final Due 11/15
14	11/19-11/21	Ethics and Liability	Final Project Workshop	Quiz 9
15	11/26-11/28	Final Project Workshop (Zoom)	Thanksgiving Break	Quiz 10
16	12/3-12/6	Final Project presentations		Final projects due in Carmen 12/6