

Lantern Independent Study

SP26~100 Journalism
Office: 100 Journalism
Office Phone: 614.247.7030
Office Hours: 9-Noon M,T,Th or
by appointment

Professor: Spencer Hunt
E-mail: hunt.754@osu.edu
Cell: 614.264.5000
Twitter: @spencerhuntosu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to *The Lantern*!

In this course, you will help fill *The Lantern*, or *Lantern TV*, and their websites with professional-quality Arts, Campus and Sports stories, photos or serve as design and 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 overall goal: to grow your skills as a student journalist, through reporting and writing, photography, design and editing.

COURSE GOALS

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

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

AP Style Book

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 video packages for *Lantern TV*, you will pass. The actual grade received is either an "S" for satisfactory, or a "U" for unsatisfactory. These marks do not affect your grade point average, but they do appear on your transcript.

You course grade will be calculated as follows:

- **1 credit (experienced freelancers): one newsroom hour/week, minimum of 4 stories or video packages/semester**
- **1 credit (first time, no experience): 1 hour/week, minimum of two stories or video packages.**
- **Students will not be accepted for more credits without prior experience and approval.**
- **2 credits: two newsroom hours/week, 8 stories or packages /semester**
- **3 credits: three newsroom hours/week, 12 stories or packages /semester**
- **design team: assist with four print night layouts and/or produce graphics per credit hour**
- **photography: provide four photos and 1 photo story per credit hour**
- **copy editing: complete one print night shift per week for eight weeks for 1 credit hour (max two credit hours)**

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

Multimedia

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.

This is an all or nothing grade. Include these elements in a publishable form in every article or package you submit, and you will receive the points.

Reporter Training

If you have never worked as a reporter before, you will spend the semester meeting and working with the Lantern adviser, which is me. These sessions will be scheduled by me. Attendance is mandatory given that we will be working through issues that are fairly foundational to reporting and writing. The sessions will take the place of the time you are expected to work in the newsroom each week.

Story Pitches + Articles/Video packages

For students not working directly with me: By Sunday of each week, you will send me an email detailing your activities with the editors. These will include your story ideas, your progress towards completing these stories and any issues you encounter with meeting deadlines or getting sources to speak with you. These emails are important, as they will document your progress towards meeting the credit hour(s) requirement.

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 count towards your final grade:

1. It is good enough for publication/airing (as per an editor) and is published.
2. It is good enough for publication/airing (as per an editor) and does not get published.
3. A Lantern editor deems the article/package not worthy of publication and sends it back for more work. If timely, meaning the story was tied to a specific date or event, this may mean working on a new story.

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.

DETAILS ON ARTICLES:

- 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 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

Time spent in the newsroom is constructive and informative. So a key condition of this class is that for every credit hour you take, you spend at least that much time in the newsroom each week.

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. For many students, 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.

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 meeting with me in the first two weeks of the semester 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.

LIBEL and PLAGIARISM

Any story that includes libelous material or material that is someone else's work but represented as your own 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 implicate someone not guilty of a crime. Another example would be directly copying Ohio State's written accounts of sports games.

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 3335-5-48.7 \(B\)](#)). For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Open AI

Can you use OpenAI? The answer is, "It depends." We have structured ways that we encourage the use of ChatGPT to maximize your writing and learning, and these assignments will be clear and evident in class. Students are allowed to use Open AI and other language models for certain aspects of this course. This policy outlines the guidelines and expectations for using Open AI.

Purpose of Using Generative AI:

Open AI is designed to help in generating human-like text responses based on given prompts. In this course, you may use AI to brainstorm, generate ideas, improve your writing, or explore complex concepts. However, it is essential to remember that ChatGPT should complement your efforts, not replace critical thinking and the core learning process.

You are permitted to use AI in the following ways:

- **Brainstorming:** Use AI to generate ideas, concepts, or potential solutions to specific problems or assignments.

Writing Assistance: Leverage AI to enhance your OWN writing, receive suggestions on sentence structure, style and grammar. This means making those suggested changes yourself, not letting AI do it for you. By doing so, you learn how to improve your own writing.

Concept Exploration: Use AI to gain insights into challenging topics, explore different perspectives and deepen your understanding of course materials.

Responsible Use and Academic Integrity:

While AI can be an invaluable resource, it is crucial to uphold academic integrity and responsible use. **Plagiarism and cheating are strictly prohibited and will result in a report to COAM.** When using AI, you must always provide appropriate attribution if you incorporate any generated content into your assignments or projects.

Limitations of AI

Keep in mind that an AI tool or agent is a machine-learning model and has its limitations. It may not always produce accurate or reliable information. As such, you must critically evaluate the responses generated by AI and verify the information from reliable sources before incorporating it into your work.

Support and Guidance

If you are unsure about the appropriate use of AI or have any questions related to its implementation, please ASK before you use and submit!

Disability Services

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are ill and need to miss class, including if you are staying home and away from others while experiencing symptoms of a viral infection or fever, please let me know immediately. In cases where illness interacts with an underlying medical condition, please consult with Student Life Disability Services to request reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; or slds.osu.edu.

Religious Accommodations

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential.

With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the [Civil Rights Compliance Office](#). (Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#))

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 come to the newsroom during your regular hour(s) must contact Prof. Hunt *BEFORE* your newsroom time.

Intellectual Diversity

Ohio State is committed to fostering a culture of open inquiry and intellectual diversity within the classroom. This course will cover a range of information and may include discussions or debates about controversial issues, beliefs, or policies. Any such discussions and debates are intended to support understanding of the approved curriculum and relevant course objectives rather than promote any specific point of view. Students will be assessed on principles applicable to the field of study and the content covered in the course. Preparing students for citizenship includes helping them develop critical thinking skills that will allow them to reach their own conclusions regarding complex or controversial matters.

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.

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.

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.