Newspaper Production

Course Description
This class will consist of supervised reporting for the Island Waves newspaper. The student must work a minimum of 120 hours during the semester to complete the course. The content will be an introduction to the organization of a student news entity, and will include production, writing, meeting deadlines, managing electronic media and also social media.

Learning Objectives
(Student learning objectives)
1. Students will practice effective communication techniques, specifically in writing and oral aspects.
2. Students will practice project development through completion.
3. Students will practice critical analysis through reporting and creating news and feature articles.

Major Course Requirements
The student will be required to report and submit two stories per week to be published in the Island Waves newspaper. The student will be required to promote stories on social media. The student will work on at least two larger projects that cover a multi-media approach to reporting news and/or feature stories. Student must meet with professor each week to discuss assignments, workshop writing and learn new reporting skills.

Print/Web Writing Assignments (16) ....... 60%
Social Media ........................................ 10% (promote your stories and your peers’ on Social Media)
Multi-Media Project.............................. 15%
Online Portfolio/Professionalism...........5%
Class Attendance/Participation............. 10% (each missed class = 1 point off of final grade)

Required or Recommended Readings
(Lists of required/recommended texts and reading)

Textbook:
Engaged Journalism by Jake Batsell
AP Style Book (Associated Press)

Recommended or Supplemental Reading:
The Caller Times
CNN.com
Any news/media outlet to read examples of professional writing

Course Policies

Attendance/tardiness
The student will be expected to attend all meetings and be on time. If an exception is needed, he/she should contact the editor beforehand. All deadlines should be met and if a deadline might be missed, it is imperative to let the professor and the editor of the newspaper know in ample time to help find a solution.
Late work and Make-up Exams
Late work will not be accepted and there will be no exams to make up.

Extra Credit
There will be no extra credit in this course.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero for that assignment that cannot be retaken or resubmitted. In this class, students must attribute every source uses in stories. Students must **NEVER fabricate** quotations, facts, sources or any other information in their stories, nor may they misrepresent any sources or information. **Plagiarism** and **fabrication** are major offenses in journalism and other professions; if students use them for an assignment in this class they will receive a **ZERO** on the assignment. All work in this class must be original. Students may not use assignments turned in for other classes previously or that are being worked on for another current class without permission from the instructor. The professor reserves the right to give a **failing grade for committing any of these offenses and to refer any academic dishonesty or misconduct to the University.**

Academic Advising.
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation **WILL NOT** automatically result in your being dropped from the class. ( ) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Statement of Civility
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Grade Appeals*
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class

syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

Disabilities Accommodations*
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

*Required by SACS or HB2504
Syllabus
(course outline)

WK1 ()
Introduction. Meet with professor to discuss goals and expectations
Discuss basic writing, introduce textbook, GSP+AP Style Quiz
[No assignment due]
Assignments:
• Read Chapter 2-News as a Conversation by next class
• 3 Online Stories (News/Features/Sports/Etc) [Blackboard Instructions]
• Interview Assignment [Blackboard Instructions]

WK2 ()
Island Waves Budget Meeting, Get 2 story assignments, Discuss Chapter 2, GSP+AP Style Test
[Blackboard assignments were due this past week]
Assignments:
• Write 2 stories due by Friday Email to professor (-10 for each day of missed deadline)
• Read Chapter 3 – [Discussion on Blackboard] by Thursday at Noon

WK3 ()
Island Waves Budget Meeting, Peer Evaluation on Stories, Social Media
[Story Due, Blackboard discussion was due Thursday]
Assignments:
• Write 2 stories due by Friday Email to professor (-10 for each day of missed deadline)
• Read Chapter 4 – [Discussion on Blackboard] by Thursday at Noon
• Come up with at least 2 long feature ideas that will include visuals (photo/video)

WK4 ()
Island Waves Budget Meeting, Peer Evaluation on Stories, Select Multimedia Project, Start researching sources and art for project
[Story Due, Blackboard discussion was due Thursday]
Assignments:
• Write 2 stories due by Friday Email to professor (-10 for each day of missed deadline)
• [Discussion on Blackboard] Research for Multimedia Feature (sources w/contact info, examples of similar stories done by other professional publications, data from the web – could be links, anything else that could help) by Thursday at Noon

WK5 ()
Island Waves Budget Meeting, Peer Evaluation on Stories, Discuss planning and storyboarding for multimedia projects
[Story Due, Blackboard discussion was due Thursday]
Assignments:
• Write 2 stories due by Friday Email to professor (-10 for each day of missed deadline)
• [Blog on Blackboard] Journal about your experience of collecting information for your project (interviews, photography, technical difficulties, fears, challenges, things you are excited about, etc.) at least 3 blog entries by Monday at Noon
• [Discussion on Blackboard] critique a classmate’s storyboard and plan – give any feedback (likes/dislikes, advice on what might make it better or more interesting, visually and script).
WK6 () Island Waves Budget Meeting, Peer Evaluation on Stories, Discuss progress
[Story Due, Blackboard discussion was due Thursday]
Assignments:
• Write 2 stories due by Friday Email to professor (-10 for each day of missed deadline)
• [Blog on Blackboard] Journal about your experience of collecting information for your project (interviews, photography, technical difficulties, fears, challenges, things you are excited about, etc.) at least 3 blog entries by Monday at Noon

WK7 () Island Waves Budget Meeting, Peer Evaluation on Stories, Discuss putting it all together
[Story Due, Blackboard discussion was due Thursday]
Assignments:
• Write 2 stories due by Friday Email to professor (-10 for each day of missed deadline)
• [Blog on Blackboard] Journal about your experience of the video/audio editing process.
• Completed multimedia project is due next Monday at noon (be sure to save whole project)

WK8 () Island Waves Budget Meeting, Peer Evaluation on Stories, Class Critique of videos
[Story Due, Multimedia Project Due, Blackboard Discussion]
Assignments:
• Write 2 stories due by Friday Email to professor (-10 for each day of missed deadline)
• [Blog on Blackboard] Take a break from Blackboard
• Make changes to multimedia project, due next class

WK9 () Island Waves Budget Meeting, Peer Evaluation on Stories, Discussion on online media, portfolios, social media.
[Story Due, Multimedia Project Redo Due]
Assignments:
• Write 2 stories due by Friday Email to professor (-10 for each day of missed deadline)
• [Blog on Blackboard] Take a break from Blackboard

Assign: Create a blog site (WordPress)

WK10 () FINAL DAY – Meet with professor (TBA Time and Place)
Take GSP+AP Style Test
[Due: Web Portfolio, Resume]