

**NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DUBLIN, VIRGINIA**

**COURSE PLAN**

Course Number and Title: ENG 121, Introduction to Journalism I (3 credits)

Prepared by: English Faculty Fall, 2017

(Date)

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Fall, 2017

(Dean)

(Date)

**I. Course Description**

Introduces students to all news media, especially news gathering and preparation for print. Prerequisite ENG 111 OR 112 or divisional approval. Part I of II. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**II. Introduction**

ENG 121 will prepare students to write for news media and help students better understand the news media so they can be knowledgeable and informed journalistic consumers.

**III. Student Learning Outcomes**

**Goal One:** Conventions of journalistic writing and reporting

ENG 121/122 will help students understand the conventions and norms of journalistic writing and reporting. Upon successful completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- A. Identify the differences between news, features, and editorial writing
- B. Master basic principles to determine whether a story is newsworthy
- C. Write news stories using story forms appropriate to journalism
- D. Demonstrate basic mastery of the conventions of journalistic writing
- E. Report and write articles about varying topics and in varying styles
- F. Read and discuss news stories
- G. Edit stories for grammar and content

**Goal Two:** Law and ethics in journalism

ENG 121/122 students will understand the necessity to engage in ethical journalism and to follow key laws. Upon successful completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- A. Recognize the role of ethics and law in modern journalism
- B. Evaluate issues relating to freedom of the press
- C. Identify laws that limit freedom of the press, especially libel laws
- D. Apply ethical principles to journalistic dilemmas

**Goal Three:** The media in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

ENG 121/122 students will understand key factors that impact news gathering and delivery. Upon successful completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- A. Identify historical changes that have impacted modern news gathering and delivery
- B. Distinguish online and broadcast journalism from printed traditional versions
- C. Identify and employ strategies for composing multi-media stories

**IV. Instructional Procedures**

A variety of instructional procedures will be used, including lectures, discussions, collaborative learning, audiovisual presentations, writing assignments, and varied assessments.

**V. Materials**

Individual instructors will indicate required materials. This information will be shared with students at the beginning of the semester.

**VI. Course Content**

Conventions of journalistic writing  
Distinctions between news, features, and editorial writing  
Interviewing and gathering information  
Writing leads  
Copy editing  
Media ethics  
Media law  
Changes in 21<sup>st</sup> century media

## **VII. Evaluation**

Individual instructors will indicate specific evaluation policies. This information will be shared with students at the beginning of the semester.

The following grading scale will be used:

A = 90-100
B = 80- 89
C = 70- 79
D = 60- 69
F = 0- 59

## **VIII. Attendance**

Regular attendance at classes is required. When absence from a class becomes necessary, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor prior to the absence whenever possible. The student is responsible for the subsequent completion of all study missed during an absence. Any instruction missed and not subsequently completed will necessarily affect the grade of the student regardless of the reason for the absence.

NOTE: Attendance policies will vary according to individual instructors. These policies will be distributed in each class at the beginning of the semester.

## **IX. Cheating Policy**

Cheating includes:

1. Giving or receiving information pertaining to tests; and
2. Plagiarizing, which is defined as taking and using as one's own the writing or ideas of another. (Definition adapted from the American Heritage Dictionary.)

Any student found cheating on an assignment may receive a grade of zero for that assignment with no opportunity to make it up. Blatant plagiarism can result in a grade of "F" for the course.

## **X. Withdrawal Policy**

### **Student Initiated Withdrawal Policy**

A student may drop or withdraw from a class without academic penalty during the first 60 percent of a session. For purposes of enrollment reporting, the following procedures apply:

- a. If a student withdraws from a class prior to the termination of the add/drop period for the session, the student will be removed from the class roll and no grade will be awarded.

- b. After the add/drop period, but prior to completion of 60 percent of a session, a student who withdraws from a class will be assigned a grade of “W.” A grade of “W” implies that the student was making satisfactory progress in the class at the time of withdrawal, that the withdrawal was officially made before the deadline published in the college calendar, or that the student was administratively transferred to a different program.
- c. After that time, if a student withdraws from a class, a grade of “F” or “U” will be assigned. Exceptions to this policy may be made under documented mitigating circumstances if the student was passing the course at the last date of attendance.

A retroactive grade of “W” may be awarded only if the student would have been eligible under the previously stated policy to receive a “W” on the last date of class attendance. The last date of attendance for a distance education course will be the last date that work was submitted.

Late withdrawal appeals will be reviewed and a decision made by the Coordinator of Admissions and Records.

### **No-Show Policy**

A student must either attend face-to-face courses or demonstrate participation in distance learning courses by the last date to drop for a refund. A student who does not meet this deadline will be reported to the Admissions and Records Office and will be withdrawn as a no-show student. No refund will be applicable, and the student will not be allowed to attend/participate in the class or submit assignments. Failure to attend or participate in a course will adversely impact a student’s financial aid award.

### **Instructor Initiated Withdrawal**

A student who adds a class or registers after the first day of class is counted absent from all class meetings missed. Each instructor is responsible for keeping a record of student attendance (face-to-face classes) or performance/participation (DE classes) in each class throughout the semester.

When a student’s absences equal twice the number of weekly meetings of a class (equivalent amount of time for summer session), the student may be dropped for unsatisfactory attendance in the class by the instructor.

Since attendance is not a valid measurement for Distance Education (DE) courses, a student may be withdrawn due to non-performance. A student should refer to his/her DE course plan for the instructor’s policy.

In accordance with the No-Show Policy, a student who has not attended class or requested/accessed distance learning materials by the last day to drop the class and receive a refund must be withdrawn by the instructor during the following week. No refund will be applicable.

When an instructor withdraws a student for unsatisfactory attendance (face-to-face class) or non-performance (DE class), the last date of attendance/participation will be documented. Withdrawal must be completed within five days of a student’s meeting the

withdrawal criteria. A grade of “W” will be recorded during the first sixty percent (60%) period of a course. A student withdrawn after the sixty percent (60%) period will receive a grade of “F” or “U” except under documented mitigating circumstances when a letter of appeal has been submitted by the student. A copy of this documentation must be placed in the student’s academic file.

The student will be notified of the withdrawal by the Admissions and Records Office. An appeal of reinstatement into the class may be approved only by the instructor.

#### **XI. Disability and Diversity Statement**

If you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodations in this course, please register with the Disability Services Office located in the Advising Center in Rooker Hall for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

The NRCC community values the pluralistic nature of our society. We recognize diversity including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, social class, age, gender, sexual orientation and physical or mental capability. We respect the variety of ideas, experiences and practices that such diversity entails. It is our commitment to ensure equal opportunity and to sustain a climate of civility for all who work or study at NRCC or who otherwise participate in the life of the college.

**Evacuation Procedure: Please note the evacuation route posted at the classroom doorway. Two routes are marked in case one route might be blocked.**