

NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DUBLIN, VIRGINIA

COURSE PLAN

Course Number and Title: ENG 221, Advanced Journalism I (3 credits)

Prepared by: English Faculty Fall, 2017  
(Instructor) (Date)

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Fall, 2017  
(Dean) (Date)

**I. Course Description**

Provides instruction in news and feature writing and other aspects of journalism. Prerequisite ENG 122. Part I of II. Lecture 3 hours per week. 3 credits

**II. Introduction**

ENG 221 will provide the student with the knowledge and skills required to report and to write news and feature stories for newspapers and magazines, will introduce the importance of the role of editor in the journalism process, and will provide the student with practice in editing as a creative process.

**III. Student Learning Outcomes**

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

ENG 221 will help students to understand the conventions and norms of journalistic writing and reporting. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- A. Write inverted pyramid and other story structures
- B. Apply principles of accuracy, fairness, and objectivity to writing and reporting
- C. Interview sources and gather information from electronic and other sources to write articles
- D. Write a variety of types of leads
- E. Use the target publication's style and audience to shape the article's style and content

**Goal Two:** Newspaper Writing

ENG 221 will help students to tailor articles for newspapers. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- A. Write "spot" or "breaking news" with a tight deadline
- B. Understand the role of beats in organizing news gathering
- C. Develop methods for adding online components to the print version of the article

- D. Identify key aspects of newspaper style
- E. Identify different types of newspaper jobs

**Goal Three: Magazine Writing**

ENG 221 will introduce students to the conventions of magazine writing for staff writers and freelancers. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- A. Plan, report, and structure longer articles
- B. Write different types of feature articles
- C. Identify the role of advertising and the relationship with news
- D. Write a query letter

**Goal Four: Role of the editor**

ENG 221 will introduce students to the editor's role in editing articles and shaping content. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- A. Copy edit carefully for AP Style, grammar, and spelling, using newspaper copy editing symbols
- B. Edit for accuracy and thoroughness
- C. Develop a better sense of which stories are newsworthy
- D. Work collaboratively with editors and possibly other writers
- E. Understand the editor's role in a newspaper and in a magazine
- F. Write headlines

**Goal Five: Media law and ethics**

ENG 221 will help students to develop a better sense of the legal and ethical challenges facing journalists and how to respond to these challenges.

- A. Review media law and key ethical challenges
- B. Identify key ethical dilemmas for newspaper and magazine writers
- C. Apply ethical principles to key dilemmas

**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**

- Review of lead writing and news story structure
- Writing for a newspaper
- Writing for a magazine
- Writing under a deadline
- Objectivity and fairness in reporting
- Types of features
- Feature leads
- Using quotations
- The organization of longer stories
- Libel and its defenses
- Sources
- Headline writing
- Editorial writing
- Layout

## **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.**