



Journalism 234-00A
Spring 2012
12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. TTH
Jindra Fine Arts 202

Instructor: Kristi Nies
Office: Jindra Fine Arts 139
Phone: 2281; home, 402-872-7405; cell, 765-993-2737
Email: knies@peru.edu

Office Hours:
MW: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.; 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
TTH: 8 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
F: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
And other times by appointment

Required Materials:

News Reporting and Writing, 10th Edition, The Missouri Group

Workbook for News Reporting and Writing, 10th Edition, The Missouri Group

Pen and paper – bring these and textbooks to every class.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 101

Course Description:

This course will education students in the fundamental principles of gathering and

writing news. Students will also practice in reporting campus news and their work may appear in the *Peru State Times*, the college's student newspaper.

Course Objectives:

This course is an overview of newspaper journalism. It will introduce you to the news gathering process and to the news writing style. You will gain experience by researching, interviewing, observing and writing. We will examine how news is presented by today's media and discuss current events and their news coverage.

Points Possible:

Current events quizzes (13 @ 5 pts. each): 65

News Stories: (2 @ 100 pts. each): 200

Profile Story: 100

Feature Story Project Package: 50 pts.

Worksheets: (2 @ 20 pts. each): 40

Total points possible: 455

Please note: the number of points possible is subject to change.

In-class work:

In-class work will earn you points above and beyond what is listed above. In-class work cannot be made up.

Grading Scale:

455 points – 355 points = A

354 – 255 = B

254 – 155 = C

154 - 55 = D

54 and below = F

Please note: this grading scale is subject to change.

Attendance Policy:

Be here. I will take attendance at the beginning of every class session. You may have three (3) unexcused absences before your grade is negatively impacted. Four (4) unexcused absences will lead to a drop of one (1) letter grade in your final grade. Five (5) unexcused absences will lead to a drop of two (2) letter grades in your final grade. Six (6) or more unexcused absences will lead to a final grade of "F" for the semester. In-class work may NOT be made up. Current Events quizzes may only be made up if the absence is excused. In order for an absence to be excused, you must contact me BEFORE you will be absent.

College's Incomplete Coursework Policy

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the

course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

College's Academic Integrity Policy

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.

NSCS Board of Trustees Policy 4220 states that each College “. . . will establish a distance learning assessment policy that will include, at a minimum, a substantial culminating experience that is proctored.” Peru State College's policy is that each course that is offered entirely online will feature a proctored final exam that substantially measures the extent the course's stated learning objectives are achieved. Online course syllabi will clearly state that, regardless of grades earned previously, the proctored final exam must be passed in order to receive credit for

the course. Courses which feature graded site-based activities (e.g., teaching demonstrations) and/or video-taped presentations that occur near the end of the term, and that are designed to substantially assess the achievement of learning objectives, can be considered in compliance with this policy. Project-based capstone and graduate courses utilizing real-time discussions held by web-cam, phone or in person with the faculty member as part of the assessment process can also be considered in compliance with this policy.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend students for two semesters found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student's transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.

Title IX Compliance Notice

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

BlackBoard site

This class does have a BlackBoard site that you are able to access. The primary purpose of this site is for the recording of grades, so you are able to monitor your own progress. The Instructor may also use BlackBoard to send emails to the entire class, if need be. The BlackBoard site is NOT a substitute for the syllabus, and no BlackBoard assignments are required for this class.

Course Outline

Please note that this outline is subject to change. I will announce the changes in

class, and you are responsible for noting those changes.

Current events quizzes will be every Thursday the class meets (exceptions: Week 9 and 16) at the start of class. If you have an EXCUSED absence on a Thursday, you may make up a current events quiz.

All assignments, except for in-class work, must be typed and double-spaced.

First person (I, me, mine, etc.) may NOT be used in any assignment, unless otherwise specified.

News means the assigned reading comes from *News Reporting and Writing*. Have the reading assignments done before coming to class.

Workbook exercises will be done in class.

Week One

Jan. 10: Welcome; introduction to the class

Jan. 12: *News* Chapter 1; practice Current Events quiz

Week Two

Jan. 17: *News* Chapter 9

Jan. 19: Present Inverted Pyramid story; workbook exercises

Week Three

Jan. 24: *News* Chapter 6

Jan. 26: Present News Story I ideas; workbook exercises

Week Four

Jan. 31: *News* Chapter 4

Feb. 2: Workbook exercises

Week Five

Feb. 7: News Story I DUE; peer review

Feb. 9: News Chapter 5; News Story DUE I for grading

Week Six

Feb. 14: Workbook exercises

Feb. 16: Present News Story II ideas; workbook exercises

Week Seven

Feb. 21: *News* Chapter 9

Feb. 23: *News* Chapter 11

Week Eight

Feb. 28: New Story II DUE; peer review

March 1: News Story II DUE for grading; news photography (handouts)

Week Nine

March 6: Mid-Term Break: no classes. You are sad.

March 8: Mid-Term Break. Continue with the being sad.

Week Ten

March 13: Convergent journalism (handout)

March 15: Keyword writing (handout); present Profile Story subject

Week Eleven

March 20: Convergent journalism (handout)

March 22: Fisher Grid for Profile Story (handout)

Week Twelve

March 27: Profile Story DUE; peer review; set up Worksheet I

March 29: Profile Story DUE for grading; Worksheet I DUE

Week Thirteen

April 3: *News* Chapter 16

April 5: Workbook exercises

Week Fourteen

April 10: Set up Feature Story Package Project: news website (in class)

April 12: Celebrity/Lifestyle journalism (in class); distribute Worksheet II

Week Fifteen

April 17: Worksheet II DUE; present Feature Story Package Project ideas

April 19: *News* Chapter 10

Week Sixteen

April 24: Present Feature Story Package Project

April 26: Present Feature Story Package Project; discuss Final Exam

Final Exam: The Final Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in our classroom. You must be there.