

Department: JOUR

Course No.: 200W

Title: Newswriting I

Credits: 3

Contact: Maureen Croteau

WQ: W

Catalog Copy: JOUR 200W Newswriting I. Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250. One 75-minute lecture and one 2-hour laboratory plus field work. Open to sophomores or higher. Worcester.

Definition of news, newswriting style, community reporting, covering governmental meetings and writing statistical material. Laboratory offers intensive practical writing exercises. Field trips required.

W Criteria: The entire focus of this course is research and writing. This is the fundamental journalism writing course, which prepares students for more advanced courses. **The student cannot pass the course without passing the W component.** The course is built around a two-hour, weekly writing lab during which students write and rewrite in-class assignments, and review their work on outside writing assignments. The writing-lab portion of the course accounts for 70 percent of the grade. Each week students complete out-of-class writing assignments (including three that use original reporting) and closely supervised in-class writing and re-writing assignments. They complete more than 15 pages of revised copy each.

Role of Grad Students: No graduate assistants are used. The department hires professional journalists as assistants to the instructor of record, Professor Wayne Worcester. Most of the assistants have worked for us for many years and are thoroughly familiar with our standards and techniques. Prof. Worcester prepares all class and lab materials and oversees all instruction. The department evaluates each assistant every semester. The department head and Prof. Worcester review the results of the evaluations. If there are significant problems, the assistant is not rehired. If there are minor problems, Prof. Worcester works with the assistant to correct them, monitoring the progress throughout the semester.