

Department: JOUR

Course No.: 201W

Title: Newswriting II

Credits: 3

Contact: Maureen Croteau

WQ: W

Catalog Copy: JOUR 201W. Newswriting II. Either semester. Three credits. One 75-minute lecture and one 2-hour laboratory plus field work. Prerequisite: JOUR 200; English 105 or 110 or 11 or 250. Open to sophomores or higher. Dufresne.

Provides in-depth explanations and demonstrations of what reporters can expect to find, and report, in the courts, schools, town halls, land use agencies and other civic offices, boards and commissions.

W Criteria: This is one of our fundamental writing and reporting courses. It is a prerequisite for other writing courses. Most of the grade for this course is based on writing assignments, which include five out-of-class assignments (all involving original reporting) and eight or more in-class writing assignments. Students complete more than 15 pages of revised work per semester. The weighting of the writing portion of the course is clearly spelled out in the syllabus. Students can not pass the course if they do not pass the writing portion.

Role of Grad Students: No graduate assistants are used. The department hires professional journalists as assistants to the instructor of record, who is always a fulltime faculty member. (This year it is Assistant Prof. Robert Wyss.) Most of the assistants have worked for us for many years and are thoroughly familiar with our standards and techniques. The instructor of record prepares all class and lab materials and oversees all instruction. The department evaluates each assistant each semester. The department head and the instructor of record review the results of the evaluations. If there are significant problems, the assistant is not rehired. If there are minor problems, the instructor of record works with the assistant to correct them, monitoring the progress throughout the semester.