# ROSE STATE COLLEGE

## Division Course Syllabus

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<th>Division</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>News Reporting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Prefix and Number</td>
<td>MCOM 2203</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester and Year Submitted</td>
<td>Spring 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared by</td>
<td>Susan Dawson-O'Brien</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours Per Week: Class</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lab</td>
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### Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)

The continuation of MCOM 1203, this course focuses on reporting and writing stories for print and online publications utilizing more advanced techniques. Students will practice interviewing, researching, writing on deadline, conforming to Associated Press style, and editing their stories, as well as those of their peers, with the intent of publication in the student newspaper or online edition. Prerequisite: C or better in MCOM 1203. Lab fee: $10.00.

### Prerequisites

- **Prerequisite:** C or better in MCOM 1203

### Text(s):

- **Title:** News Reporting and Writing (Text/Workbook) 11th edition
- **Author:** The Missouri Group
- **Publisher:** Bedford/St. Martin's Press
- **Copyright Date:** 2014
- **ISBN #:** 9781457653544 / 978-1-4576-6374-1

### Supplemental Materials:

- Required: The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law by the Associated Press (Basic Books) 2013
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale: This course explores more advanced reporting and news gathering techniques, introduces copy editing, and culminates in deadline writing. Students will hone their skills in class then cover stories pertinent to a college community, with the goal of publication in the student-run newspaper.

Expected Outcomes: At the end of the semester, successful students will:
1) Understand, discuss, and demonstrate advanced writing techniques;
2) Brainstorm news/feature print and online story ideas; conduct interviews and do research; then write stories that incorporate relevance, usefulness and interest, and the elements/criteria of news (timeliness, proximity, etc.), as well proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and Associated Press style;
3) Submit work for publication consideration to the college's student-run newspaper's print and/or online editions;
4) Utilize copy editing symbols and editing guidelines and techniques for editing stories;
5) Write complete, accurate stories on deadline; and
6) Show timely knowledge of local, national and international current events.

Methods of Instruction: Class periods will blend discussion, lecture, in-class assignments, and audio-visual materials; a minimum of two hours outside of class is expected for individual reporting and writing, serving as the lab component. Also, students will be assigned stories for publication in the college's student-run newspaper. These will be critiqued by both the professor/ adviser and through feedback from editors and peers. Students will also practice editing stories, utilizing AP style.

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements):
Students will be assessed using homework, in-class assignments, quizzes, and stories written for the student-run newspaper.

Grading scale: A’s are earned for clear and concise writing that is free of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and AP style errors. Work will show good information-gathering skills, organization, and flow, and is ready for publication. B work meets the assignment criteria by the deadline with minimal, minor errors (NO misspelled names, fact errors, quote inaccuracies, etc.) and can be ready for publication with a few changes. C work reflects minimum criteria but needs editing and/or work on organization, structure and clarity; this work is not ready for publication at this time but has potential if more work is done. D’s are earned for work that has poor grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or AP style, and/or major problems with structure, research, and/or presentation; this work is not publishable. F’s are for unpublishable work that has major fact errors, misspelled names, and/or libel, are poorly written, and/or show no thought for Associated Press style. Missing deadlines and being absent will also affect students' grades.

Learning Objectives:
Unit 1: Story Formats, Structures, and Techniques
In presenting their writing for critique, successful students will:
a) Demonstrate knowledge of proper story format; (Outcome 1)
b) Demonstrate knowledge of a variety of advanced story structures; and (Outcome 1)
c) Demonstrate advanced news writing techniques. (Outcome 1)

Unit 2: Brainstorm, Report, and Write News and Feature Stories
In presenting their writing for critique, successful students will:
a) Demonstrate effective story idea brainstorming; (Outcome 2)
b) Demonstrate effective interviewing techniques and perform research necessary in preparation to write the story; (Outcome 2)
c) Consider relevance, usefulness, and/or interest -- as well as elements of news including proximity, prominence, impact, etc. -- in crafting stories for audiences; and (Outcome 2)
d) Demonstrate appropriate use of grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and Associated Press style. (Outcome 2)

Unit 3: Writing for Student Newspaper
Students will receive story assignments from the student newspaper editor and will be expected to build on Units 1 and 2 skills to write accurate, appropriate stories with the intent of publication in the newspaper and/or online edition. Publication will be at editor's and/or adviser's discretion. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5)

Unit 4: Copy Editing Skills
Successful students will be able to:
a) Utilize proper copy editing symbols; (Outcome 4)
b) Follow editing guidelines for news and feature stories; and (Outcome 4)
c) Assist in editing copy of their peers and/or the student newspaper; (Outcomes 3, 4)

Unit 5: Deadline Writing
Students will write stories on deadline to submit to professor in class and/or the student newspaper by the assigned deadlines. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Unit 6: Current Events
By completing weekly quizzes, students will demonstrate their awareness of a variety of newsworthy current events at the international, national, and local levels. (Outcome 6)