

# Middlesex Community College

## COM 226: Journalism I

**Fall 2018**

**3 Credits | Online**

**CRN: 3047**

**Professor Adam Chiara**

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### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to teach students the basics of journalism by analyzing the media and learning to write for the news.

Emphasis will be placed on learning general reporting and writing skills. Students will develop specific journalistic techniques for writing news articles such as researching strategies, exploring newsworthy stories, interviewing techniques, constructing stories, revising and editing techniques, fact-checking, and legal and ethical concerns for journalists.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Students will gain an understanding of the best practices for writing in news publications.
- Students will learn to better analyze the news media they consume and achieve a higher level of understanding of how news is produced.
- Students will produce high-quality work for their portfolios.

### **Grade Breakdown:**

- 7 Chapter Quizzes: **350 points**
- 3 Writing Assignments: **300 points**
- 8 Exercises: **200 Points**
- Final Writing Assignment: **150 points**

**Total: 1,000 points**

**Required Text:** Writing and Reporting News, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition — Carole Rich

**Required Reading:** The news

**Late Work: will not be accepted**, unless the student has a reasonable and provable excuse. Without evidence of the excuse, the student will receive a zero for that particular assignment. If a personal problem does arise that will impact meeting deadlines, **students should contact me directly and early**, so we can work out the best strategy to accommodate for the situation.

**Assignments and Grading:** Plagiarism on any material in the course will result in an F. Instructions for assignments must be followed. Failure to do so on any assignment will result in an F.

**Class Communication:** I will communicate with students using **Blackboard's Messages** feature. That is also how students can contact me.

**Course Schedule and Topics:**  
**This schedule *may* change during the semester.**

<b><u>Week 1</u></b>	Course Introductions. Changing Concepts of News.
<b><u>Week 2</u></b>	The Basic News Story.
<b><u>Week 3</u></b>	Sources and Online Research. Interviewing Techniques.
<b><u>Week 4</u></b>	Leads and Nut Graphs. Story Organization.
<b><u>Week 5</u></b>	AP style.
<b><u>Week 6</u></b>	Understanding Media Issues.
<b><u>Week 7</u></b>	Storytelling and Feature Techniques.
<b><u>Week 8</u></b>	Profile Stories.
<b><u>Week 9</u></b>	Flex week.

**Week 10** AP Style Review.

**Week 11** Op-eds and editorials.

**Week 12** Photojournalism.

**Week 13** Social Media. Mobile and Multimedia Skills.

**Week 14** Constructing Stories for Broadcast, Online, and Public Relations.

**Week 15** Finish Final Story.

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**Grading:**

**A – Publishable.** Style, structure, content, creativity, and clarity are all excellent. It meets all the requirements, and it contains no errors.

**B – Good.** Needs some editing, but the assignment is well organized, has few errors, shows creativity, the content is clear, and it is well thought out. Meets all or most of the requirements.

**C – Average.** Major issues with the structure, there are errors, the content is confusing, and the style is lacking. Directions may not have been followed.

**D – Below Average.** Student obviously put little time or thought into the assignment. There are careless errors, structure is confusing, and content and style are lacking. Directions were not followed.

**F – Failure.** Did not complete assignment, assignment was turned in past deadline, plagiarized, or falsified material.

*If you have questions about a grade on an assignment, or your final grade for the course, please contact me. If a mistake is discovered, I will change your grade accordingly, but some evidence to support your claim is needed.*