Middlesex Community College
COM 226: Journalism I

Spring 2015
3 Credits
Online Course

CRN (section): 1903
Professor: Adam Chiara
Email: achiara@mxcc.edu
Class Website: professorchiara.com

Course Description:
This course is designed to teach students the basics of journalism by analyzing the media and learning to write for the news. Students will also contribute to The Flying Horse, MxCC’s student newspaper.

Emphasis will be placed on learning general reporting and news gathering skills. Students will learn specific writing techniques for news articles, like: researching strategies, learning how to judge appropriate news content, interviewing techniques, constructing stories, revising and editing techniques, fact-checking, and legal and ethical concerns for journalists.

Required Text:

Grade Breakdown
(4) Stories 35%
Classwork/ Discussions 25%
Chapter Readings 25%
Final Assignment 15%

* See the Discussion Guidelines and Discussion Rubric for more information.
# Course Calendar:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
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| Week 1 | Introductions  
Journalism in the Modern Era  
Journalism Basics |
| Week 2 | What is News?  
What Makes Something "Newsworthy?"  
How to Conduct an Interview  
The Basic Structure of an Article  
Introduction to AP Style |
| Week 3 | Story Structure: Inverted Pyramid (Lead, Nutgraph & Quotes)  
Practice AP  
Write a Profile Piece |
| Week 4 | Finding Story Ideas  
Note Taking  
Style and Voice  
Start Your Feature Story |
| Week 5 | News vs. Opinion  
Bias  
Practice Writing Leads |
| Week 6 | Media Law  
Libel and Slander  
Inaccuracy  
Begin Your Hard News Story |
| Week 7 | Developing Sources  
Researching  
Editing Clutter and Subjective Words |
| Week 8 | Photojournalism  
Tools for Journalists  
Choosing Quality Quotes |
| Week 9 | Opinions  
Editing Review  
Begin Writing Your Opinion Story |
Week 10  Public Information
         Freedom Of Information (FOI)
         Investigative Journalism

Week 11  Press Releases
         On and Off the Record
         Begin Your Final Story

Week 12  Ethics
         News Values
         Internet News
         Social Media

Finals  Final Assignment

- Schedule and deadlines are tentative, and may be adjusted during the semester if needed.

Grading:

A – Publishable. Style, content, and construction are all excellent. Word count adheres to requirements. No errors.
B – Great. Needs some editing, but the piece is well organized, few errors, and well thought out.
C – Average. Has to be rewritten. Issues with structure, errors, content. Story may be too long or too short.
D – Below Average. Student obviously put little time or thought into this assignment. There are careless errors. Has to be rewritten and possibly re-reported.
F – Failure. Did not complete assignment, plagiarized, falsified quotes.

- 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.
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For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/ or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/.

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The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

- **Primary Title IX Coordinator**
  Dr. Adrienne Maslin
  Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator
  amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123

- **Secondary Title IX Coordinator**
  Ms. Mary Lou Phillips
  Director of Human Resources, Middlesex Community College
  mphillips@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5751; Founders Hall Room 115

- **Secondary Title IX Coordinator**
  Ms. Queen Fordham
  Coordinator of the Meriden Center Welcome Desk
  qfordham@mxcc.edu; 203-608-3011