

COM4205: ADVANCED NEWS REPORTING

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Advanced News Reporting

Subject Code

COM - Media and Communication

Course Number

4205

Academic Unit

Media and Communication (COM)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

EN4532 Advanced News Reporting

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course is designed to equip students with advanced news reporting skills and knowledge. Built on previous courses on news writing and reporting, it teaches students in-depth and investigate reporting that goes behind news events, covering various beats, such as politics, law, economy and sports in local and international contexts.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Demonstrate basic knowledge of politics, law, economy and sports	20	x	x	
2	Apply various research and interviewing methods to dig stories behind news events	20		x	x
3	Write publishable in-depth stories on various news beats	60		x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Lectures on the basics of politics, law, economy and sports in the local and international context	1	3 weeks
2	Lectures and exercises	Lectures and exercises on research and interview skills for in-depth reporting	2	2 weeks
3	Writing exercises	Writing exercises on politics, law, economy and sports	3	8 weeks
4	Discussion	Discussion and troubleshooting in the use of English and Chinese	3	Throughout the course

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Quizzes	1	20	-	No
2	Four in-depth stories	2, 3	60	-	No

3	Four class exercises	2, 3	20	-	Yes
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

60

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

News Story Exercises

Criterion

Manage the news angles or not.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Very Good

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate Good

Marginal (D)

Fair

Failure (F)

Bad

Additional Information for AR**Grading Criteria for Writing Assignments**

A - The news story is well written and free of errors. The lead is clear, concise and interesting. The story is well organized and contains effective transitions, quotations, descriptions and anecdotes. It can be published by newspapers.

B - The story contains only a few minor errors of style. The lead clearly summarizes the story, and the body presents all the information for a comprehensive news story. The story is written in a cohesive, well-organized manner. The story is not as detailed, descriptive or interesting as an "A" story. A newspaper could publish the story after minimal editing.

C - The news story is superficial. The lead is too wordy and fails to clearly emphasize the latest, most interesting or most important aspects of the story. The story tends to be disorganized and contains many minor errors. Some parts have to be rewritten because they are repetitious, awkward or confusing. It could be published only after extensive editing.

D - The news story contains all the necessary facts, but those facts are presented so ineffectively that they would have to be rewritten before the story could be published. The story also may contain an unacceptable number of stylistic, spelling or grammatical errors.

F - The news story could not be published by any publication and is so incomplete, confusing or erroneous that the facts in the story could not be rewritten and published.

Grading Criteria for the Use of Language (20% of each writing assignment)

Accuracy = 4 points

Conciseness = 4 points

Expression = 4 points

Grammar = 4 points

Style = 4 points

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Advanced news reporting; Political news; Economic news; News and law; Reporting on international finance and business; Research and interview techniques for investigative reporting.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nicholas G. Apostolou & D. Lawrence Crumbley (2000). Keys to understanding the financial news. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's.
2	Donald L. Shaw, Maxwell McCombs, & Gerry Keir (1997). Advanced Reporting: Discovering Patterns in News Events. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.
3	Brant Houston (2003). Computer-Assisted Reporting: A Practical Guide (3rd ed.). Boston: Bedford/ New York: St. Martin' s Press.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Brant Houston, Len Bruzzese, & Steve Weinberg (2002). The Investigative Reporter's Handbook: A Guide to Documents, Databases and Techniques. Boston: Bedford / St. Martin's Press.
2	Phil Meyer (2002). Precision Journalism: A Reporter's Introduction to Social Science Methods (4th ed.). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
3	Victor Cohn (1989). News & Numbers: A Guide to Reporting Statistical Claims and Controversies in Health and Other Fields. Ames: Iowa State University Press.
4	Bruce Garrison (1995). Computer-Assisted Reporting. Hillsdale, NU: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc.
5	Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel (2001). The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect. New York: Three Rivers Press.
6	Larry Makinson (1994). Follow the Money Handbook. Washington, D.C.: Center for Responsive Politics.