

College of Micronesia -FSM

COURSE MODIFICATION REQUEST

MM101 Introduction to Journalism
Course Number and Title

Languages & Literature
Department

MM101 Introduction to Journalism
Recommended Course Number and Title

Languages & Literature
Department

New Course Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in research skills.
2. Students will demonstrate proficiency in news interviewing skills.
3. Students will demonstrate proficiency in news writing skills.
4. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills about ethical issues.

New Course Description:

This course will prepare students to become print journalists. Students will focus on improving their research, interviewing, critical thinking and writing skills. The course will provide the students with the basic skills necessary to write factually correct, concise, readable news copy.

Justification for Revising the Course:

The outline for this course has been lost. Consequently, a new outline is needed. Major revisions include a change of prerequisites from ESL089/ESL099 to EN110/EN120a. The research component of the course requires a higher level of reading competency than Reading V, and since the course is writing intensive, students need to have completed the first of their Expository Writing courses prior to taking the course.

Also the textbook has been changed. The old textbook is somewhat out of date; it has not been revised since its issue in 1996. The fifth edition of the new textbook *Writing and Reporting News* was just issued. This text is widely used as a introductory Journalism text in a number of US colleges such as Eastern Oregon University, San Diego Community Colleges and the California State University system.

Division Chairperson

November 19, 2007

Date

Chairperson, Curriculum Committee

Date

President, COM-FSM

Date

Official Use Only
New Course Number and Title: _____

College of Micronesia-FSM

COURSE OUTLINE COVER PAGE

Introduction to Journalism
Course Title

MM101
Division & Number

Course Description:

This course will prepare students to become print journalists. Students will focus on improving their research, interviewing, critical thinking and writing skills. The course will provide the students with the basic skills necessary to write factually correct, concise, readable news copy.

Course Prepared by: Languages & Literature **Campus Site:** National

Course Type (see definitions of course types)	Hours per Week	x	No. of Weeks	=	Total Hours	/	Divisor	=	Semester Credits
Lecture	<u>3</u>	x	<u>16</u>	=	<u>48</u>	/	<u>16</u>	=	<u>3</u>
		x		=				=	
Total Semester credits									<u>3</u>

(Hours per week x number of weeks = total hours) (Total hours/divisor = semester credits)

Divisors

Lecture:	/16	Co-op education:	/30	Workshop:	/48
Practicum:	/48	Lect./Lab:	/16	Internship:	/48
Field Study:	/48	Studio:	/48	Lab:	/48

Purpose of Course:	Degree Requirement	<u>X</u>
	Degree Elective	<u> </u>
	Certificate	<u> </u>
	Other	<u> </u>

Prerequisite Course(s): EN120a Expository Writing I with C or better
EN110 Advanced Reading

Signature, Chairperson, Curriculum Committee	Date Approved by Committee
Signature, President, COM-FSM	Date Approved by President

MM101 Introduction to Journalism

Course Outline

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will prepare students to become print journalists. Students will focus on improving their research, interviewing, critical thinking and news writing skills. The course will provide the students with the basic skills necessary to write factually correct, concise, readable news copy.

I. COURSE OUTCOMES

Program Learning Outcomes – Media Studies:

Students will be able to:

1. Recognize and appreciate the role of mass media in communication, in contemporary society, and in their personal lives.
2. Demonstrate the ability to practice journalism within a Micronesian setting.
3. Plan, produce, and design print, radio, photo, computer and video media projects.

General Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in research skills.
2. Students will demonstrate proficiency in news interviewing skills.
3. Students will demonstrate proficiency in news writing skills.
4. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills about ethical issues.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

- 1.1 Students will locate and select factually correct background materials by:
 - searching the Internet.
 - using the library (or other repository) for print materials.
 - viewing visual media/multimedia (movies, CD-ROMs, etc.).
 - conducting surveys and/or observational field research.
- 1.2 Students will distinguish primary and secondary sources.
- 1.3 Students will discriminate facts from opinions.
- 2.1 Students will demonstrate note-taking strategies to record information from interview subjects.
- 2.2 Students will demonstrate correct and ethical use of commonly used recording devices in public venues and with interview subjects.
- 2.3 Students will prepare appropriate interview questions in advance, and will develop follow-up questions as necessary during interviews.
- 2.4 Students will demonstrate correct and ethical practices in scheduling and carrying out interviews in a variety of settings.
- 2.5 Students will demonstrate knowledge of and sensitivity to issues of language and culture in the interview setting.

- 3.1 Students will organize the information according to the needs of the story, e.g., inverted pyramid for standard news copy.
 - 3.2 Students will revise their writing as necessary to produce written work free from grammatical and mechanical errors.
 - 3.3 Students will synthesize facts gleaned from a variety of sources, along with their own observations, into cogent prose.
 - 3.4 Students will write samples of a wide variety of news stories.
 - 3.5 Students will write in accordance with an accepted manual of style.
 - 3.6 Students will attribute sources correctly and will quote accurately.
 - 3.7 Students will demonstrate a professional knowledge of and attitude toward assignments and deadlines.
- 4.1 Students will identify the major components of a newspaper.
 - 4.2 Students will identify the major components of a news magazine.
 - 4.3 Students will identify the information source(s) of a story and classify the source's information as fact or opinion and as firsthand or hearsay.
 - 4.4 Students will present controversial material impartially.
 - 4.5 Students will define plagiarism and take the steps necessary to avoid it.
 - 4.6 Students will demonstrate knowledge of and sensitivity to the role of a free press in a democratic society.
 - 4.7 Students will identify the major defenses against defamation claims.

II. COURSE CONTENTS

The course covers various aspects of journalism. Content includes

- Understanding news and the impact of journalism
- Elements of the basic news story
- Strategies for collecting information
- Construction of stories
- Understanding media issues and ethics

Working through a variety of writing exercises, the students will practice each of the skills noted in the objectives. The writing topics will be assigned by the instructor but may reflect student interests or current events. This is a writing class, and students should be expected to write every day of the semester. Initial assignments may be as short as one paragraph, but by midterm students should be writing at least one feature-length story per week.

III. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook:

Rich, Carole. *Writing and Reporting News*. 5th Ed. (or current) Cengage Learning/Wadsworth (formerly Thomson Learning), 2007. ISBN-10: 0495004235; ISBN-13: 978-0495004233.

Supplemental Materials:

The publisher Cengage Learning provides a book companion site with resources for instructor and students at http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?Fid=M20bl&flag=instructor&product_isbn_issn=9780495004233&discipline_number=49
This site includes an Instructor's Manual, Style Guide and other useful ancillaries.

A huge amount of supplemental material is available through the Internet to support this course. Students will use the Internet as a research tool and instructors can use on-line tutorials to present and reinforce course content. Sites change frequently, but two examples of the latter are:

- www.journalism.org/resources/j_tools, www.poynter.org -- to practice identifying and avoiding plagiarism
- www.concernedjournalists.org/tools, www.asne.org/credibilityhandbook/ -- to cover a wide variety of issues in journalism best practices

Handouts will be provided by the instructor, which may include but are not limited to writing assignments, sample interview materials, and source texts for various uses.

IV. REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Dedicated electronic storage device such as USB flash drive.

V. REFERENCE MATERIALS

Cappon, Rene J. Associated Press Guide to Newswriting. 3rd ed. NY: ARCO, 2005.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL COST

There are no special costs associated with this course.

VII. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Instructor may use, but is not limited to, lecture, group discussion, on-line groups, web-based documents, and research activities.

Instructors may call upon faculty from other Divisions and/or experts from the community to guest lecture in specialized content areas that the class is researching. Instructor may arrange for field trips to local media outlets.

VIII. EVALUATION

Students will be assessed (yielding standard A, B, C, D, F letter grades) based upon how well their written work satisfies the SLOs for the course. Assignments may take the form of in-class or homework writing assignments of various lengths, quizzes,

tests, and in-class participation. The bulk of the grade (50% or more), however, will come from the various writings. Extra credit is recommended for any student work published in either the *Kaselehlie Press* or *Pacific Magazine*.

IX. CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

None.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY

The COM-FSM Attendance Policy applies to this course.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

The COM-FSM Academic Honesty Policy applies to this course. Because this is a required writing course that equips Media Studies majors for writing tasks in successive Media courses and in their post-graduation careers, extra emphasis will be placed on academic honesty, particularly in the area of plagiarism.