

Journalism 3 Honors

UC/CSU "g" approved/Not NCAA approved

Grade Level: 12

Estimated Work Outside of Class: 3 hrs per week

Course Description:

Journalism 3 Honors is a capstone course, which exposes students to advanced topics of digital journalism, such as making ethical decisions in leadership roles, planning and managing an online news site, online layout, long-form storytelling, and enterprise reporting. Students take on leadership positions, as they become editors-in-chief, beat editors, or advanced/experienced staffers in the fast-paced newsroom setting. Students are treated like working journalists and held to industry standards.

Prerequisite:

Completion of Journalism 2 Honors with a B or higher

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:

- High-level reading comprehension
- Time management and organizational skills
- Confidence in writing non-fiction
- Strong leadership skills

Course Grade Categories:

- 40% News Writing
- 30% Tasks/Independent Practice
- 30% Team Performance

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:

1) Making Tough Decisions - Leadership in Digital Journalism

Students will uphold all policies and procedures for the newsroom. Students will organize and ensure the flow of the workroom. Students will continuously evaluate how well our student newspaper covers a diversity of groups, topics, and perspectives. Also, students will manage controversial issues in the workplace and make tough decisions as they arise. They will lead editorial board meetings to manage the story selection process. Finally, students may be asked to teach mini-lessons about topics of their choice to first and second-year journalism students.

2) Planning and Managing an Online News Site

Students will understand the goals and the different technical functions of the website. Students will make sure they publish using a standardized design, layout, colors, etc. Students may be asked to create their own digital portfolios to showcase their work as working journalists.

3) Social Media as a Tool for Digital Journalists

students will analyze how social media is used as a tool for news reporting and will write ethically appropriate social media posts. In doing this, students will evaluate the role of citizen journalists and will compare and contrast the effectiveness of citizen journalists to working journalists as it pertains to social media. Students will synthesize their understanding of the pros and cons of social media as a news reporting tool.

4) Branding and Outreach

Students will continuously evaluate if the student publication is sticking to consistent branding that aligns with the publication's and school's values. They will work on outreach with other student groups and stakeholders in the Dons community to persuade others to read our news site and sponsor our news site.

Textbooks

The Associated Press Guide to News Writing, Rene J. Cappon, Peterson's, 3rd

Writing for the Web, Lynn Felder, New Riders, 2012

The Radical Write, Bobby Hawthorne, Jostens, Inc, 3rd/2011, theradicalwrite.com