

JOUR 426

Advanced Reporting

Spring 2021

Thursdays, 4-6:45 p.m.

Jody Richards Hall Room 236

Dr. Rich Shumate, Assistant Professor

Office: JRH 225

Email: rich.shumate@wku.edu

Office Hours: This semester by appointment

Class Format

This class will meet in person

What You'll Need

Stylebook

Associated Press Stylebook (2019 or later edition)

Washington Post

Subscribe at :

<https://subscribe.washingtonpost.com/acqlite/edu-offer/>

Society of Professional Journalists Membership

Join at:

<https://www.spj.org/join.asp>

Twitter account (free)

Other Books will be assigned in class.

Masks

Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations to face coverings must be determined by the Student Accessibility Resource Center and documented before a student may attend class.

Grading Scale

A= 89.5 or higher

B=79.5 or higher

C=69.5 or higher

D=59.5 or higher

F=Lower than 59.5

Purpose

This capstone class hones the skills needed to perform as a journalism professional. Students will become proficient in finding and executing high-quality, newsworthy stories under deadline pressure. Topics related to sound journalistic practice and ethics will be addressed. Students will prepare for the job market.

Benchmarks

When you have completed this class, you will be able to:

- Find, report and write high-quality news stories.
- Produce news stories and projects that have publication and awards potential, both individually and as part of a team.
- Gain appreciation for some of the current issues in the field of journalism, including ethical issues.
- Appreciate the value of diversity in news delivery and serving non-majority and underserved communities.
- Explore data journalism and digital reporting tools.
- Meet weekly deadlines for producing high-quality, multiple source news stories and pursue their publication.
- Conceive and execute an in-depth individual news project with publication and awards potential.
- Work as part of a team to create and execute a news project with a multimedia element.
- Create a resume and online personal journalism showcase to prepare for the job market.

On Learning

- Learning is a journey, not a destination.
- Focus on the journey, not the destination.
- We learn to live. We live to learn.
- Learning makes us better people, not just better students.
- Be goal focused (learning), not performance focused (grades)
- Be curious. Be diligent.
- Ask questions. Make connections.
- Never settle. Rise to every challenge.
- Start each day asking what you'll learn.
- End each day answering what you've learned.
- Remember—an education is more gotten than given.
- What you take from this experience is up to you.

Keys To Success

Come to class. There is no substitute for being here.

Read assigned texts. This information provides the class foundation.

Complete assignments and news stories: Class work is not optional, and deadlines are important.

Be professional. Get in the habit of treating your classes like you would a job.

Arrive on time. A lot will happen in the first 10 minutes.

Participate. Class and online discussions are your chance to learn, and to shine.

Be respectful. Class should be a safe space.

Go visit Dr. Shumate. If you're stuck, overwhelmed or bewildered, I'm here to help you. I don't bite!

Class Flow

Weekly News Stories: Each week, you will conceive, report and write a high-quality, publishable, multiple source news story.

- Due end of day on Sundays; deadlines will not be extended.
- Graded as follows:
 - Accept with Publication** = 110% Credit
 - Accept without Publication** = Full Credit
 - Reject or Deadline Not Met** = No Credit
 - Reject with Rewrite** = Credit (and publication credit) if rewrite successfully completed
- Final news story grade will be based on the number of stories accepted/total number of deadlines with publication credit (For example, if there are 14 deadlines and you have completed 12 stories, your grade would be 12/14 or 86%; if four of those stories are published, the grade would be 12.4/14 or 89%)

Individual News Project: You will conceive, report, and write an in-depth news enterprise or feature project suitable for awards submission.

Team Multimedia Project: You will work as a member of a team to conceive, report, and create an in-depth reporting project with a multimedia element suitable for awards submission. Grade will be based on the quality of the project and your classmates' evaluation of your contribution.

Assignments & Quizzes: You will complete assignments and quizzes that will be given periodically during the semester.

Grading

Your final grade will be weighted as follows:

- **Weekly News Stories:** 40 percent
- **Individual News Project:** 25 percent
- **Team Multimedia Project:** 25 percent
- **Assignments & Quizzes:** 10 percent

Blackboard

As a student, you automatically have access to Blackboard (at wku.blackboard.edu) and are also automatically enrolled in this course. Log in to Blackboard with your NetID and password and navigate to **JOUR 426-001 (Sp21): ADVANCED REPORTING**.

If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, you can enroll in the Blackboard Student User Training by logging into Blackboard and selecting the IT Training tab along the top menu. Next, select **IT: Blackboard Student User Training**

Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for successful completion of JOUR 302. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. If you miss attendance, it is your responsibility to check in with Dr. Shumate after class.

Students can have a maximum of three (3) unexcused absences. On the fourth absence and for every absence afterward, your final grade will be reduced by three (3) percent.

Excused Absences

Accepted excuses for absences include illness, family emergencies, university activities, jury duty, military obligations, and religious observances. Dr. Shumate may ask for documentation to verify the excuse. If you have any questions about whether something qualifies as an excused absence, please consult Dr. Shumate before the absence, if circumstances allow.

Students who miss a quiz or in-class assignment must have an excused absence in order to make it up.

Dropping Class

The last day to drop this class with a grade of W is Friday, March 26.

Policies

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism: To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offence. The academic work of a student must be his or her own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism.

Cheating: No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment, or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination.

Penalties: Students who commit an act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the University Disciplinary Committee through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary sanctions.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at

<https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at <https://www.wku.edu/eoo/titleix/titleixpolicyprocedure2018.pdf>

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Students With Disabilities

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004 [270.745.3030 V/TTY] or email at sarc@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center."

AEJMC Professional Values and Competencies

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) requires that, irrespective of their particular specialization, all graduates should be aware of certain core values and competencies and be able to:

- Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances;
- Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
- Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
- Think critically, creatively and independently;
- Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
- Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
- Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.

Class Deadlines

Note: Schedule subject to change. Please monitor email and Blackboard regularly for updates.

Weekly News Stories Due (on Blackboard by 11:59 p.m.)

Wednesday, 1/20: Presidential Inauguration

Sunday, 1/24: Deadline 2

Sunday, 1/31: Deadline 3

Sunday, 2/7: Deadline 4

Sunday, 2/14: Deadline 5

Sunday, 2/21: Deadline 6

Sunday, 2/28: Deadline 7

Sunday, 3/7: Deadline 8

Sunday, 3/14: Deadline 9

Sunday, 3/21: Deadline 10

Sunday, 3/28: Deadline 11

Sunday, 4/4: Deadline 12

Sunday, 4/11: Deadline 13

Sunday, 4/18: Deadline 14

Individual News Project

No later than 3/31

Team Multimedia Project

No later than 4/15

Capstone Materials

No later than 4/22