



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

Introduction to Journalism

2014-15

Course Description:

In this half-year introductory level course, students will learn journalism and media basics including reporting/interviewing, writing in all journalistic styles, editing in AP style, first amendment law, ethics in journalism, fair use and copyright, photography, layout design, and video shooting/editing. Students will use technology on a regular basis to research, write, revise, edit, and publish. Those who have a strong interest in writing and multimedia are well-suited for this course. INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM is a prerequisite for those who wish to take Newspaper Journalism, Yearbook or Mass Media.

Course Content:

Brief History of Journalism
The First Amendment
Ethics, Fair Use, and Copyright
News, Features, Opinion, and Sports Writing
Headline and Caption Writing
Photojournalism
Storyboarding and Multimedia
Layout and Design

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

The following texts will be used and/or referenced during this course, along with many online professional and high school newspapers and other supplemental sources. Students will also be using several programs online and on their laptops, including, but not limited to, SpartanDocs, Adobe PhotoShop, and Adobe InDesign.

The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law by Associated Press. Basic Books, 2013.

Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism (Third Edition) by Tim Harrower. McGraw Hill, 2013.

The Newspaper Designer's Handbook (7th Edition) by Tim Harrower and Julie M. Elman. McGraw Hill, 2013.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to meet all deadlines and complete assignments, interviews, articles, and evaluations in a professional and timely manner. Students may serve as reporters for The Spotlight, and as such, are expected to act professionally when representing our student

publication beyond the classroom. During class, students should be prepared with all materials, a positive work ethic, and the willingness to communicate and collaborate with others.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on a variety of assignments including written articles, multimedia projects, interviews, research, news analysis, editing, page design, self-evaluation, class participation and more. Grades will fall into the following weighted categories:

- Assessments (60%): final draft articles, final draft projects, and quizzes or tests
- Assignments (20%): classwork, homework, self-evaluations, etc.
- Participation (20%): class preparation, discussions, researching, interviewing and staying on-task during class workshop time

Each marking period is worth 40% of a student's overall grade. The final exam is worth 20% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	40%
Quarter 2	40%
Final	20%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There is no assigned summer reading for this course.