



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

Newspaper Journalism 2014-15

Course Description:

In this year-long advanced level course, students will continue to learn and develop journalism and multimedia skills as applied to the publication of the student newspaper, the *Spotlight*. An increased focus will be placed on advanced writing, editing, and page design. Students will use technology on a daily basis to research, write, revise, edit, and publish. Those who have completed the first-year journalism course, possess strong writing skills, and have an interest in news journalism and communications are well suited for this course. Students who wish to be considered for editorial positions on the Spotlight staff are required to take this course. This class may be taken more than once for credit.

Course Content:

News, Features, Opinion, and Sports Writing
Print Newspaper Layout and Design
Online Newspaper Publication
Social Media and the Web in Journalism
Photo and Video Journalism
Ethics, Fair Use, and Copyright
AP Style and Editing

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 will serve as reporters and editors 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, meeting steps in the writing process, etc.
- Participation (20%): class preparation, class discussions, researching and interviewing for articles, and staying on-task during class workshop time

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	20%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There are no summer reading assignments for this course.