Mondays through Fridays, 9:30 a.m. until 10:20 a.m.
Building 5, Room 112
Instructor: Jason Nix
Contact info: 533-4185; JasonN@spokanefalls.edu
Office hours: 1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. and by appointment

**WEEK ONE**

*Reading for Week One: Chapters 1 and 2*

**Wednesday, Jan. 3**
Class introductions
- What exactly do we do in this class?
- What do my classmates bring to the class?

**Thursday, Jan. 4**
News Business 101
- So why do you want to be a reporter (or not)?
- What can I expect to get out of Journalism 220?

**Friday, Jan. 5**

*Assignment Due:* Diagnostic Writing Assignment

*Special Instructions for this class:* Bring one copy of a newspaper to class (for example: The New York Times, The Spokesman-Review, or USA Today).

The anatomy of a newspaper
- What are the sections of a newspaper?
- Why is a paper constructed this way?
- How do online papers differ?

**WEEK TWO**

*Reading for Week Two: Chapter 3 and 4*

**Monday, Jan. 8**
The Nature of News (Part One)
- Let’s define what we mean by news. What is news? Who decides what becomes news and what doesn’t?
- How do journalists define “news judgment”? How do consumers of news view the news product? What roles do age, race and social status play in stories covered and the stories people read/watch?
- What are some of the different types of writing reporters do?
- What are the “five W’s”?
Tuesday, Jan. 9

The Nature of News (Part Two)
- What’s all this talk about balance, accuracy and fairness, anyway? (We’ll revisit this topic in the chapter on Ethics after mid-semester.)
- Why do journalists claim to be objective?
- What is civic (public) journalism, and how is it different from traditional journalism?
- What does it mean to frame a story? How does this affect the way a story is told?

Wednesday, Jan. 10

The Changing News Business
- What is convergence? How will this affect me as a journalist or as a consumer of news?
- What does a modern newsroom look like? How does the paper get to my door in the morning? How does the newscast come together on time?
- What is copy? How does a story go from an idea to a finished story on the page?
- Can a writer make a living without a newsroom? For that matter, can I work in a newsroom and not be a reporter?
- What are some other kinds of news writing? What are my career options if I pursue a degree in journalism?

Thursday, Jan. 11

Assignment Due: News Analysis

Interviewing basics
- What should I ask?
- What can I do to prepare?
- Why would anyone want to tell me anything?
- What’s in a reporter’s notebook? How does a reporter turn all this information into a story?
- How do I set up an interview? What should I ask the subject?

Friday, Jan. 12

In Their Own Words (quotations)
- Do I really sound like that?
- Why did you take my quote out of context?
- What do you mean by accuracy and verification?
- How do I paraphrase? Do I have to quote every single thing the source says during the interview?
- When will an editor allow me to use dialect and/or slang?

Week Three

Reading for week three: Chapter 7 and 9
Monday, Jan. 15  
No Class!!! Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday

Tuesday, Jan. 16  
In Their Own Words  
- Is it OK to “fix” their quote to keep them from looking uneducated?  
- Why should I delete profanity? It’s what they said, isn’t it?  
- How do I attribute an indirect quote? When should I do this?  
- Should I let the person read the story before it’s printed?  
- What if she says everything’s off the record after the interview is over?  
Interviewing continued

Wednesday, Jan. 17  
Peer Review using the First draft of the interview with a stranger  
Read selected interview responses and interview questions. Edit a student’s interview in class.

Thursday, Jan. 18  
Review day for Test One  
You have the entire class period to ask me questions about everything we’ve discussed so far. Your first test is tomorrow.

Friday, Jan. 19  
**Assignment One Due:** Final draft of the interview with a stranger  
**TEST ONE:** Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4

**WEEK FOUR**

**Reading for Week Four:** Chapters 11 and 12

Monday, Jan. 22  
Introduction to Associated Press (AP) Style: Part One  
- Why is this different from the way I write in my other classes?  
- How do I keep this all this stuff straight?  
- In-class writing exercises and questions

Tuesday, Jan. 23  
Peer review for **Major Writing Assignment Two: The Profile Piece**

Wednesday, Jan. 24  
**Assignment Two Due:** Finished Profile Piece due at the beginning of class  
In class: Discuss story ideas and research SFCC events

Thursday, Jan. 25  
The Inverted Pyramid
• What is an inverted pyramid and how can it help me tell a story?
• Why is this so important? How to reporters actually use this in their writing?
• Did you just say “nut graf”? What the heck does that mean?
• What is a “lede,” and why does my instructor spell it like that?
• What are some different kinds of ledes? Which one should I use the most?

**Friday, Jan. 26**
Beyond the Inverted Pyramid
• How do I make it seek more like a story than a report? When do I do this?
• How do reporters use literary techniques to tell a story?
• I thought the service journalism stuff we talked about at the beginning of the quarter sounded pretty interesting. How do I do that?
• How do I end a story?

**Week Five**

**Reading for Week Five:** Chapters 13 and 14

**Monday, Jan. 29**

*Assignment Due:* Drafts of story idea list
Peer review of story ideas (bring three copies). In groups, you’ll talk about each other’s story ideas. After talking to your group, you need to keep only those five story ideas you think are the strongest and most feasible.

**Tuesday, Jan. 30**

*Assignment Due:* Bring instructor copy of revised story idea list
Feature Writing
• What’s the difference between feature writing and hard news reporting?
• This feature writing sounds like fun. If I want to do this, why is it important to first learn how to do hard news reporting?
• How do feature writers get their story ideas?

**Wednesday, Jan. 31**
Speeches, News Conferences and Meetings
• How do I prepare?
• What needs to be included in such a story?
• How do I get everyone’s name?
• What should these stories look like?

**Thursday, Feb. 1**
Peer Review for Major Writing Assignment Three

**Friday, Feb. 2**

*Assignment Three Due:* Covering a speech or meeting
Review for **TEST TWO:** Chapters 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14
**WEEK SIX**

*Reading for Week Six: Chapter 20*

**Monday, Feb. 5**
TEST TWO: Chapters 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14

**Tuesday, Feb. 6**
TBA
Possibly a tour of the Spokesman-Review Building

**Wednesday, Feb. 7**
Peer review for Assignment Four

**Thursday, Feb. 8**

*Assignment Four Due: Covering a public event*

Using all this in the Real World
- How do I generate story ideas?
- Can I get a story published in *The Communicator*?
- What kinds of stories would I write if I got a job at a newspaper? What about as an intern?
- What do I do with all these obituaries and news releases?

**Friday, Feb. 9**
Reporting/Writing Day

**WEEK SEVEN**

*Reading for Week Seven: Chapter 6 and 21*

**Monday, Feb. 12**
Reporting with Numbers (Part One)
- I’m no good at math. Can I still have a career in journalism or public relations?
- Do you have a handout or something to help?

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**
Reporting with Numbers (Part Two)
- So how do I use all this stuff in my stories?

**Wednesday, Feb. 14**
Reporting/Writing Day

**Thursday, Feb. 15**
TEST THREE: Chapters 6, 20 and 21
**Friday, Feb. 16**

Other Types of Stories

- I want to cover the exciting stuff, murders and crime and all of that. How can I get a job where that’s my beat?
- What about accidents and disasters?
- What about covering a court story?
- What laws pertain to covering this sort of thing?

**WEEK EIGHT**

*Reading for Week Eight: Chapter 22*

**Monday, Feb. 19**

No Class!!! Presidents Day

**Tuesday, Feb. 20**

Peer Review for Assignment Five

**Wednesday, Feb. 21**

Peer Review for Assignment Five

**Thursday, Feb. 22**

*Assignment Five Due: Hidden Spokane*

Beat Reporting

- How is beat reporting different from general assignment (GA) reporting?
- How do I get a beat?
- How do I learn all that stuff about a single topic? Doesn’t it get boring after a while?
- Who was Deep Throat during the Watergate scandal? How did that reporter get him to talk?
- How do reporters get information from a source when this source seems to have nothing to gain?

**Friday, Feb. 23**

Gathering Information: The Internet as you’ve never used it before

- Who is Al, and how can he help me?
- You promised you’d show us some cool websites. How do reporters find out all that stuff about people? Do they have rights we don’t have?
- All that information about *me* is public record? Are you kidding me?

**WEEK NINE**

*Reading for Week Nine: Chapter 23*
Monday, Feb. 26
Media Law
• I hear a lot about libel and slander. What does all that mean? How does the National Enquirer get around it?
• Is there a such thing as invasion of privacy if I’m a reporter doing my job?
• So what if somebody is offended by my story. I have First Amendment rights to say whatever I want. Don’t I?

Tuesday, Feb. 27
Ethics: Part One
• My editor pulled my photo or cut part of my story. Isn’t this censorship?
• What does philosophy have to do with my job as a reporter?

Wednesday, Feb. 28
Reporting/Writing Day

Thursday, March 1
Ethics: Part Two
• What is checkbook journalism?
• Can I be friends with my sources? Where do I draw the line?
• How does an editor decide that a photo is or is not appropriate?

Friday, March 2
Slant, Spin and Bias
• Who is this Noam Chomsky I keep hearing about?
• Can corporate America ever be truly objective in giving me information?
• A look at examples from the class

WEEK TEN

Required viewing Manufacturing Consent (available in the SFCC Library)

Monday, March 5
Peer review for Major Writing Assignment Six

Tuesday, March 6
Peer review for Major Writing Assignment Six

Wednesday, March 7
Reporting/Writing Day

Thursday, March 8
Assignment Six Due: Subculture Feature
Public Radio, the Internet, and Alternative media
• Why is this so different?
• How do I get involved in all of this?

Friday, March 9
TBA

Week Eleven

Monday, March 12
Review for TEST FOUR

Tuesday, March 13
TEST FOUR: Chapters 22 and 23

Wednesday, March 14
TBA

Thursday, March 15
TBA

Friday, March 16
No Class!! Dead Day.

Final Exam

Tuesday, March 20
9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Notes/ Adjustments: