Monday through Thursdays 10:50 a.m. until 12:30 a.m.
Building 5, Room 112
Instructor: Jason Nix
Contact info: 533-4185; JasonN@spokanefalls.edu
Office hours: 12:30 p.m. until 1:15 p.m. and by appointment

SYLLABUS

WEEK ONE (JUNE 25-28)

Class introductions/expectations

From Chapter One:
The story of journalism
6 ➢ Newsroom heroes, legends and folklore
8 ➢ The birth of journalism
10 ➢ News in the 19th century
12 ➢ News in the modern age
14 ➢ The student journalists’ news attitude survey

Supplemental reading:
190 ➢ A Bloody Massacre Near Carson, by Mark Twain
195 ➢ Old Constan, by Ernest Hemingway

Test: Chapter One (Thursday)

WEEK TWO (JULY 2-5)

From Chapter Two:
How newsrooms work
16 ➢ What is news?
18 ➢ What readers want
20 ➢ How a story gets written
22 ➢ How the news comes together
24 ➢ Who’s who in the newsroom
26 ➢ What it’s called
28 ➢ Tools, talent and temperament

Supplemental reading:
198 ➢ The Kentucky Derby is Decadent and Depraved, by Hunter S. Thompson

On the Web (optional):
Annenberg Video Series ➢ What is News?

Test: Chapter Two (Thursday)

Diagnostic Writing Assignment Due: (Wednesday)
WEEK THREE (JULY 9–12)

From Chapter Three:

Newswriting basics

34 > Just the facts, ma’am
36 > The five W’s
38 > The inverted pyramid
40 > Writing basic news leads
42 > Beyond the basic news lead
44 > Leads that succeed
46 > After the lead ... what next?
48 > Story structure
50 > Rewriting
52 > Editing
54 > Newswriting style
56 > Making Deadline
58 > Newswriting tips
60 > Test yourself

Supplemental reading:

230 > City Makes a U-Turn: Speed Zone Set for Country Club, by Alandra Johnson
232 > The City has $548 Million: What do You Want?, by Bryan Gilmer
252 > All This Ice, and the Captain is Hot, by Judd Silvka

On the Web (optional):

Annenberg Video Series > Hard News Leads

Test: Chapter Three (Thursday)

Major Writing Assignment One Due: (Thursday)

Peer review on Wednesday

WEEK FOUR (JULY 16–19)

From Chapter Four:

Reporting basics

66 > Where stories come from
68 > Finding and using sources
70 > Using the Internet
72 > Observation
74 > Taking notes
76 > Interviewing
80 > Quotations
82 > Attributions
84 > Math for Journalists
88 > Test yourself

Supplemental reading:

202 > Oregon Pays Tribute to Its Vietnam Vets, by Don Hamilton

On the Web (optional):

Annenberg Video Series > Development and Organization of a Story

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Test: Chapter Four (Thursday)

Major Writing Assignment Two Due: (Wednesday)
   Peer review on Tuesday

WEEK FIVE (July 23-26)

From Chapter Five:
   Covering the News
   90 > Covering a beat
   92 > Writing obituaries
   94 > Covering accidents and disasters
   96 > Covering fires
   98 > Covering crime
   100 > Covering courts
   102 > Covering speeches
   104 > Covering meetings
   106 > Covering politics
   108 > Covering sports
   110 > Test yourself

Supplemental reading:
226 > Rampaging Rooster Attacks Girl, by Kelley Benham

On the Web (optional):
Annenberg Video Series > Beat Reporting

Test: Chapter Five (Thursday)

Writing Assignment (Story Idea List) Due: (Monday)
Major Writing Assignment Three Due: (Thursday)
   Peer review on Tuesday

WEEK SIX (July 30-Aug. 2)

From Chapter Six:
   Beyond Breaking News
   112 > The world of features
   114 > Generating story ideas
   116 > Feature style
   118 > Feature story structures
   120 > Writing profiles
   122 > Enterprise stories
   124 > Investigative reporting
   126 > Package planning
   128 > Short-form alternatives
   130 > Writing editorials and columns
   132 > Writing reviews
   134 > Test yourself

On the Web (optional):
Annenberg Video Series > Feature Writing Styles
Supplemental reading:
244➢ Girl’s Last Gifts Bring Smiles to Kid’s Faces, by Colleen Kenney

Test: Chapter Six (Thursday)

WEEK SEVEN (Aug. 6–9)

From Chapter Seven:
Law and Ethics
136➢ Press rights
138➢ Press wrongs
140➢ Understanding libel
142➢ Invasion of privacy
143➢ Copyright law
144➢ Taste and decency (and censorship)
146➢ The Seven Deadly Sins
148➢ Journalistic Ethics
150➢ Ethics survey
152➢ Test yourself

On the Web (optional):
Annenberg Video Series ➢ The Ethics of Journalism
Annenberg Video Series ➢ Media Law

Test: Chapter Seven (Wednesday)

Major Writing Assignment Four Due: (Thursday)
Peer review on Tuesday and Wednesday

WEEK EIGHT (Aug. 13–16)

From Chapter Eight:
Online Reporting
154➢ From print to the Web
156➢ Media convergence
158➢ Online storytelling options
160➢ Writing for online media
162➢ The future of news

From Chapter Ten:
Public Relations
176➢ What is public relations?
178➢ Planning a PR strategy
180➢ Writing news releases
182➢ Balance, bias and media manipulation
186➢ Test yourself

Test: Chapter Eight (Wednesday)
Test: Chapter Ten (Wednesday)

Supplemental reading:
272 > Spears’ Stripper Act an Unfocused Bore, by Doug Elfman
Handout > Movie reviews by A.O. Scott of the New York Times
Class website > A primer on Noam Chomsky and the Propaganda Model
275 > Quoted: On Liberal Bias in the Media

On the Web (optional):
Annenberg Video Series > Public Relations Writing

Major Writing Assignment Five Due: (Wednesday)
Peer review on Monday and Tuesday

FINAL EXAM:
Thursday, Aug. 17 10:50 – 12:30
Same room