

JOURNALISM

Course Outline

Teacher: Mr. Jarrett Ketterling
Subject: Journalism
Periods per cycle: 4.5
Room: 211
Website: <http://vweb.loyola.ca/ketterling>

Course Description

Journalism is an essential activity, and whether exercised through traditional or more recent media, it evolves and develops all the time. The journalism program at Loyola emphasizes the training of writers, reporters and editors for the news media that includes newspapers, magazines, radio and digital media. The program also seeks to prepare and guide students interested in pursuing careers in a wide range of informational and interpretive multimedia environments. As well, students will gain a working knowledge of the skills, concepts, values and ethics needed to succeed as professional communicators.

The Journalism course is designed to provide students with a fundamental journalism background, emphasizing the development of the essential process of communication. Students will be expected to develop related skills needed to describe, explain, argue, narrate, perceive and analyze, accurately and clearly. Computer writing skills will be developed and encouraged.

Units of study include journalism writing skills, interviewing skills, journalism technology, digital photography, journalism research skills, print media, electronic media and the ethics of journalism.

Specific Objectives

The educational goals of this course are multifold:

- Introduction to skill development in writing, listening, note taking, research and editing
- The basic structures of news, feature, and editorial writing
- Building character through mock and real editorial choices and decisions
- Improving listening and note taking skills through news situations
- Publishing of student work
- Introduction to the use of technology in journalism
- Case studies in ethics
- Photojournalism
- Design and layout
- Theory and practice of the six journalistic writing forms: editorial, obituary, feature, news, sports, arts and entertainment
- Learning the basics of using technological tools to find, write, record, edit, mix and publish news and other recorded sounds for a local news show produced in this class.

Course Constitution

In any democracy, journalism is arguably the most important and legitimate branch of communications. Students of journalism need several key qualities, qualities they also continue to strengthen over time. Of course, natural curiosity and a passion for facts and information head the list. In addition, true journalists are not out to serve a specific cause, but rather to serve the public good.

To that end, students of journalism must also strive to share nothing but the best-quality information available. Then, obviously, there is the insistence on truth and relevance, on thorough, in-depth research and on rigorous presentation. In turn, good presentation means an ability to speak and write impeccably, and to wield both of these abilities as a technical tool and as an art form.

Finally, fairness and integrity are a journalist's passport to credibility and legitimacy, and it is on the strength of credibility that he or she can claim to provide the public with its rightful serving of reliable, thought-provoking news.



Lois Lane, 1972

Required Materials

- One hardcover three-ring binder (ring radius should be 6-8 cm or 2-3 inches) to be used solely for Journalism class
- 10-12 labeled dividers for the binder
- 100 sheets of loose leaf
- Four Hilroy copybooks (32-40 pages each, no spiral bindings)
- An equipment case filled with ballpoint pens (blue, black and red ink), pencils, colored pencils, ruler, highlighters, black Sharpie, hand sanitizer, etc.
- Carry a writer's notebook and pen at all times. Make sure that the notebook can fit comfortably in your blazer pocket.

Text

Journalistic Writing by Robert M. Knight

Website

Please refer to the Journalism website at <http://vweb.loyola.ca/ketterling> for additional course information, homework, marks and resources.

Office Hours

Mr. Ketterling is available to meet with students during most lunch hours and often after school between 3:15 and 4:00 PM in room 211. Students may also schedule alternate times to meet.

Evaluation

Student activities will include both minor and major assessments, using individual and group work. Assignments will include submissions to the Loyola News newspaper and online news site.

Term 1:

September 3 – November 1

75% term work

10% homework

15% participation

Summary: 20%

Term 2:

November 4 – February 7

75% term work

10% homework

15% participation

Summary: 20%

Term 3:

February 10 – June 4

75% term work

10% homework

15% participation

Summary: 60%

Homework and Assignments

Always take pride in your work and hand in your assignments by the due date. If an assignment is one day late, you will lose 20%. More than one day late results in a zero.

Office Hours

Mr. Ketterling is available to meet with students during most lunch hours and often after school between 3:15 and 4:00 PM in room 211. Students may also schedule alternate times to meet.

Rules of Engagement and Expectations

- Always bring assigned reading and class materials to class.
- Students must keep their electronic devices on airplane mode and stored in their backpacks when entering class. Students may use them only when permission is given.
- Always respect your teacher, yourself, your fellow classmates, and your environment (this means always being on time for class and respecting the learning process of your peers and keeping the classroom clean).
- If you are absent for a class, you are responsible for acquiring class notes and assignments provided on that day and must make arrangements to hand in your assignment on time. Being absent does not absolve you from submitting an assignment on the due date. If you know you will be absent, it is your responsibility to get the assignment to the teacher on time or before the due date.
- Avoid plagiarism. Please refer to the Moodle site under “Library Resources” for more information.
- Always be prepared (failing to prepare is preparing to fail).

The Four Agreements

Inspired by the work of Don Miguel Ruiz, students are encouraged to keep four agreements:

- Be impeccable with your word.
- Do not take anything personally.
- Do not make assumptions.
- Always do your best.