

Course Outline
MCOM/JOUR 150
Introduction to Journalism
3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Introduction to Journalism

Introduces the skills, principles, and ethics of news reporting and news writing; covers different types of journalistic writing (feature, editorial, and news story) and news gathering, interviewing, and writing.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish among news, feature and opinion writing
2. Identify biased writing
3. Write effective news leads
4. Write effective news and feature stories for print journalism
5. Write effective broadcast news stories
6. Understand and practice journalistic ethics
7. Understand libel and slander law and avoid those legal problems
8. Know the reason for, respect and meet deadlines
9. Prepare for conducting interviews
10. Conduct interviews
11. Accurately report information from interviews
12. Know when and how to use the Associated Press Style Book
13. Use standard copy editing marks

Major Topics

- < Introduction to journalism; what it was and is now. Parts of a newspaper.
- < Copyreading. AP style.
- < The news story. Leads. Nut graf development, proportion, completeness. Quotation and attribution.
- < Collecting information. Checking sources. Angles. Internet.
- < Interviewing.

- < Development of stories; leads, middle, endings. Structures. Types of stories.
- < Features.
- < Ethical and legal considerations. Social considerations.
- < Jobs and job hunting. Resumes.
- < Broadcast journalism.
- < Advertising; its role in influencing paper and public.
- < Special interest publications. Press releases. Online publishing. Other forms and topics.

Course Requirements

Papers will be graded A to F on the basis of attached ACriteria. Quizzes will be graded numerically. The final course grade will be based for the most part on the student=s papers. A rough estimate of percentages:

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| 1. | Writing assignments | 50% |
| 2. | Field work, quizzes, exercises | 30% |
| 3. | Final exam (required) | 20% |

PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT=S RECEIVING NO CREDIT (F) FOR THE COURSE.