

Common Course Outline

MCOM/ENGL 151

Introduction to Journalism

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

MCOM/ENGL 151 – Introduction to Journalism introduces the skills, principles, and ethics of reporting. Students learn different styles of journalistic writing (feature, editorial, and news) as well as researching and interview skills.

3 Credits

Prerequisite: ENGL 101

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. distinguish between news, feature and opinion writing;
2. identify biased writing;
3. generate story ideas;
4. write effective news leads using Associated Press (AP) Style;
5. write effective news and feature stories using AP Style;
6. write effective commentaries using AP Style;
7. practice journalistic ethics;
8. apply libel and slander law and avoid those legal problems;
9. demonstrate the ability to meet deadlines;
10. prepare for and conduct effective interviews;
11. accurately report information from interviews; and
12. use quotes and attribution effectively.

Major Topics

- I. Parts of a newspaper and news website
- II. AP style
- III. News writing
- IV. Feature writing
- V. Various forms of opinion writing
- VI. Leads and nutgraphs
- VII. Different story structures
- VIII. Interviewing

- IX. Collecting information
- X. Checking sources
- XI. Ethical and legal considerations
- XII. Advertising; its role in influencing journalism and society
- XIII. Different types of media outlets
- XIV. Blogs

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading/exams

- Attendance and active participation in class discussions
- A minimum of one news article using AP style (500 words minimum)
- A minimum of one feature article using AP style (750 words minimum)
- A minimum of one editorial/commentary (500 words Minimum)
- One interview assignment
- Two examinations or four small assignments/quizzes

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is a Mass Communication elective.

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