

Newsriting
Room S-54/A-004/A-004 ENG 116 SU 110 -- M/W 10 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.
July 6 to August 10
Delta College Class Syllabus
Summer 2009

Instructor: **Kathie Marchlewski Bachleda**

Office: A-004 (Main Campus) Thursday, 9:30 or 10 a.m. to noon
and by appointment.

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Contact information:

The best way to contact me is by e-mail at kathiebachleda@delta.edu. If you need to contact me at home feel free to do so, but please do not call after 8 p.m. I will do my best to respond to you ASAP. Be aware: I may or may not check e-mail on Saturdays or Sundays. I am also available to you by appointment and after class.

About this class

This class will operate as a working newsroom/workshop. You are the reporters, and I am the editor. I am also your mentor, and want to help guide you through the process of not just writing news, but coming up with story ideas, deciding what is news, and finding sources and background information. Since we have just 5.5 weeks, we are going to move quickly, much like a real-world newsroom. You will have reading and writing to do daily. Plan to spend four to six hours outside of class after each class meeting.

If you have concerns or questions about this format, please let me know so I can assist you!

Attendance

Attendance is critical to your success in this course. This is a skills course, not a lecture course, so you must be here. Much of the work will take place in our classroom “newsroom.” That work cannot be made up. Additionally, because I cannot (and don't want to) judge what are acceptable or unacceptable reasons for missing class, I do not distinguish between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. Because this is a time-intense, speedy spring course, you must be here every day. Of course, emergencies arise, but you may not miss more than 3 hours of course instruction, or one class.

Your grade will be affected by absences.

Note: I reserve the right to drop students from this course for lack of attendance, or for failing to complete the required coursework.

Required Texts:

Inside Reporting Tim Harrower
Associated Press Stylebook, 2009 edition

Required Materials

1. Access to a computer and the Internet
2. A reliable printer and lots of paper and ink
3. A three-ring binder or folder within which you can keep all of your course materials
4. A comfortable pen or pencil for note taking
5. Access to a reliable computer/printer and lots of ink and paper
6. Access to news articles (in print or on-line).

Please Note: While each of these things is important, you should know that perhaps the most important will be access to the Internet, ink and a printer. All of your work for this class will be typed. You will also need to check Educator and e-mail daily. We will be using the textbook website, along with others, regularly.

Support Opportunities

Please know that Delta offers you free tutoring services to help with preparation for this and other classes. The Teaching Learning Center (TLC) is located in the LLIC on Delta's main campus.

Tardiness

Tardiness is rude and reflects poorly on character. In your role as reporter, it's simply unacceptable. Your sources are busy people with limited time to provide you with information. They won't wait around for you to arrive for an interview. If you are late, you will miss the story. If you miss the story, you will lose your job! This class will operate under that same standard. Don't be late.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, just as plagiarism is not tolerated in the newsroom. When reporters steal words and work, it damages their credibility at a time when the public already harbors quite a bit of distrust for media and journalists. Plagiarism will result in failure of this class and can also result in your dismissal from Delta College. See your college catalogue for details on plagiarism of published sources.

The most important thing to remember about plagiarism is that while it is perfectly acceptable to use someone else's ideas or words, you **MUST GIVE THEM CREDIT!**

Policy on Late Work:

Late work will not be accepted. If you are unable to attend class on the day an assignment is due, please make arrangements with beforehand so that your instructor has a copy of your assignment in-hand before the start of class on the due date. Obviously, completing the work is critical to your success in the class!!

Again, remember that the daily activities we do in class cannot be made up, thus adding to the penalty for being absent. Moral of the story: Be here.

******* NOTE***** It is absolutely unacceptable to come to class with your work or reading saved on a flash drive. It must be printed prior to class!**

“Make Up Work”

- If you elect to miss a class, it is your responsibility to gather information about what you missed from other students.
- No work may be “made up” outside of class. If you miss class or in-class work, you will miss valuable points! The points awarded each day may seem minimal, but they add up quickly and can have a serious material effect on your grade!
- In the event of severe or prolonged illness, injury, or crisis, if your extended absence will inevitably lead to your earning less than what you find an acceptable grade in the course, you should drop the class and re-take it at a later time.

Classroom Expectations.

- You can expect to stay active in this class. I incorporate many discussion teams and group activities. I expect you to be active learners and team players in these activities. Stay focused on assigned tasks and ask questions.
- Delta has a Disruptive Student Policy. Disruption is defined as anything interfering with student learning. Expectation violations will result in a verbal warning, a written warning, and finally, if necessary, removal from the classroom.

****Cell/Picture Phones****All pagers, cell phones, and/or camera phones are to be turned off before you come into the classroom.

Other Course Policies

Always bring your texts, all materials, and all course work (completed and in progress) to class. Prepare all daily reading assignments *before* coming to class. Follow your **Course Calendar**.

- Put your first **and** last name (your byline!) on all submitted work. If it doesn't feature both of those, you won't get credit for it.
- Certain course activities and policies may be revised at my discretion. The syllabus is a plan, but the course reflects your needs, and concentrates on areas where you need work.
- Because you do so much practice, you may not receive back every piece of homework you submit. However, I do evaluate each piece you do. If at any time you wish to go over any of your practice assignments with me, make an appointment. I am happy to go over the practice work with you in detail.

Please note that I won't make exception to any of the following expectations:

1. You must attend class. You must be on time.
2. You must do the work and it must be typed.
3. You must be prepared for each class.
4. You must present work professionally.
5. You must treat me, fellow students, our guests, and yourself, with respect.

Grading

| Type of Assessment | Points Possible |
|---|--|
| 1. AP style quizzes 8@10 pts each | 80 |
| 2. Final Cumulative AP style test | 50 |
| 3. Notes from interviews/visitors | 100 |
| 4. Lede writing exercises | 70 points |
| 5. Weekly Participation and Preparation points -- 5 weeks @20 points each | 100 (Points available vary weekly. Also includes consideration for attendance) |
| 6. News stories in edited form -- 5@60 pts each | 300 (Grading rubrics will be provided) |
| 7. Final news story/interview project | 150 (Grading rubric will be provided) |
| 8. Final exam | 150 |
| Total Points All Course Work | 1000 Total Points |

Grading Scale

Your final semester grade will be calculated using this scale:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|
| (100-94%) | A | (93-90%) | A- | | |
| (89-88%) | B+ | (87-84%) | B | (83-80%) | B- |
| (79-78%) | C+ | (77-74%) | C | (73-70%) | C- |
| (68-69%) | D+ | (67-60%) | D | (59% ↓) | E |

Schedule of Events

Week 1

Focus on: History. The newsroom. What is news? AP Style and the basics.

Monday, July 6

In Class: Intros and syllabus. What to expect and what is expected of you
A little bit of history. Also, what is news? Inverted pyramid. Column writing.

To do:

- ___ Read Harrower: 16 to 21, 28 to 32, and Chapter 3
- ___ Explore AP stylebook. Prepare for first AP style quiz: The basics.
- ___ *** Bring in 3 news articles
- ___ Write draft of opinion column
- ___ Prepare for visitors

Wednesday, July 8

In Class: AP Quiz #1. The basics. Interviewing. Visitors Cheryl Wade and Angela Lackey, *MDN*.

To do:

- ___ Read Harrower: Chapters 4 and 5
- ___ ***Bring 3 news articles
- ___ Explore AP style. Prepare for Quiz 2
- ___ Choose writer to follow (fill out worksheet, get contact information)
- ___ Write: Revise opinion column (finished product due Monday)
- ___ Write: Practice the inverted pyramid (Write short story).
- ___ Prepare for Sue White visit

Week 2

Focus on: Covering the news. Beats and genres. Building sources and getting what you want from them.

Monday, July 13

In Class: AP quiz #2.

AP Quiz #2. 11 a.m. Visitor: Sue White, *The Saginaw News*.

To Do:

- ___ Read Harrower: Chapter 5
- ___ *** Bring 3 news articles
- ___ Explore AP Style. Prepare for Quiz #3
- ___ Write:

Wednesday, July 15

In Class: AP Style Quiz #3

To Do:

- ___ Read Harrower: Chapter 6
- ___ **** Bring 3 articles
- ___ Explore AP Style. Prepare for Quiz #4.
- ___ Prepare for Jeff Kart visit
- ___ Write:

Week 3

Focus on:

Monday, July 20

In Class: AP Style Quiz #4. Visitor, Jeff Kart, *The Bay City Times*

To Do:

- ___ Read Harrower: Chapter 7
- ___ Explore AP stylebook. Prepare for Quiz #5
- ___ Write:

Wednesday, July 22

In Class: AP Style Quiz #5

To Do:

- _____ Read Harrower: Chapter 8,
- _____ Explore AP Stylebook. Prepare for Quiz #6
- _____ Write:

Week 4

Focus on:

Monday, July 27

In Class: AP Style Quiz #6

To Do:

- _____ Read Harrower: Chapter 9
- _____ Explore AP Style. Prepare for Quiz #7
- _____ Write:

Wednesday, July 29

In Class: AP Style Quiz #7

To Do:

- _____ Read Harrower: Chapter 10
- _____ Explore AP style. Prepare for Quiz #8

Week 5

Focus on:

Monday, August 3

In Class: AP Style Quiz #8

To Do:**Wednesday, August 5**

In Class: AP workshop. Editing final project (get first and second reads).

To Do:

- _____ Prepare for final AP exam
- _____ Prepare for final (on-deadline story)
- _____ Prepare for final course exam

Week 6

Focus on: **Final projects due (enterprise project and reporter/mentor project)**

Monday, August 10

In Class: Cumulative AP exam. Deadline writing exam. Final course exam.