

McDaniel College Budapest
ENG 1103: Introduction to Journalism
Course Syllabus Fall 2017

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Class times: Monday (10.15-11.45pm) & Wednesdays (10.15-11.45am)

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Overview: Participants will 'learn by doing', as the class will be organized to approximate the environment and functions of a news organization. Therefore, to try out working in the field, the classroom will be transformed into an editorial newsroom with students as journalists and the instructor as editor/coach. Students should see themselves as a news staff member, each with his/her own story assignment, but also as a member of a team that offers supportive criticism and encouragement to colleagues.

Course objectives

- To acquire and refine the tools needed to produce captivating and thought-provoking works of journalism
- To developing reporting and writing skills
- To make students think like journalists
- To better understand how news is reported
- To learn how to write the most important styles of journalistic articles
- To become more familiar with local and global news
- To help students decide whether future courses and even a career in journalism would be a good choice for them

Learning outcomes

- Students will be able to write the most important types of news articles
- Students will gain knowledge of how the news world operates
- Students will learn writing skills that can be transferred to other disciplines
- Students will improve writing and research skills
- Students will develop reporting and newswriting skills and be able to create different types of stories
- Students will acquire core skills that can be developed via further journalism study

Required Text: [The Elements of Journalism](http://www.bookdepository.com/Elements-of-Journalism-the-Bill-Kovach-Tom-Rosenstiel/9780804136785) By Bill Kovach & Tom Rosentiel

Available from: <http://www.bookdepository.com/Elements-of-Journalism-the-Bill-Kovach-Tom-Rosenstiel/9780804136785>

Grading:

Mid term – 25%, Final – 25%, Course assignments (minimum 4) – 40%, Class Participation – 10%

Attendance and lateness:

Participants are strongly advised to attend each class. Three excused absences are permitted for such reasons as visits to embassies and immigration office, moving flats, etc. Prolonged absence due to documented illness may also be excused.

Grades begin to drop **after three absences**, followed by a letter grade per absence over the three-absence limit. Students are advised not to 'use up' their absences early in the semester. Attendance is expected from the moment a student is enrolled in a course; if, for

example, a student has registered for a given course but is not present during the first week of the semester, then those missed classes will count as absences.

Honor code

You are expected without question to adhere completely to the McDaniel College academic honor code. Any violation will result in a zero for the given assignment or exam, and other possible sanctions. Your attention is drawn in particular to plagiarism.

Week	Monday	Wednesday
Sep 4/6	The 4Cs of reporting and writing news stories. Setting up newsbeats.	Editorial meeting. Evaluation of news sources: where to look for news, finding new angles. Filtering out fake news.
Sep 11/13	Qualities of news stories: what a story should address and making your story relevant. News analysis.	Hard News vs. Soft News. Introduction to the four main kinds of articles to be studied on the course.
Sep 18/20	Hard news story structure: the inverted pyramid. Chapter 1 review.	Hard news story structure continued: how to piece a news story together.
Sep 25/27	Chapter 2 review.	New trends: the changing face of news reporting. The decline of the 'He Said, She Said' model of reporting.
Oct 2/4	The importance of sources and the danger of over reliance on observations.	The opinion piece: how to light up the page, arguing your case intelligently.
Oct 9/11	Opinion piece practice.	Chapter 3 review.
Oct 16/18	Mid-term pre-task.	Mid-term.
Oct 23/25	No class.	Lessons learnt from Mid-term. Chapter 4 review.
Oct 30 /Nov 1	The art of interviewing.	No class.
Nov 6/8	Interviewing continued: Q&A vs. Anecdotal interview styles.	Chapter 4 review.
Nov 13/15	Feature writing: the less newsy, storytelling side of news writing.	Feature writing practice.
Nov 20/22	Generating story ideas. Pitching story ideas to editors.	Chapter 5 review.
Nov 27/29	Introduction to travel writing.	Music reviews.
Dec 4/8	Chapter 6 review.	Practice.
Dec 11/13	Course review.	Final exam.