

McDaniel College Budapest
ENG 2204: Advanced Newswriting
Course Syllabus Spring 2018

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Class times: Mondays (10.15-11.45am) & Wednesdays (10.45-11.45am)

Course Overview: Participants will continue to develop the skills acquired on the foundation course, putting them into constant practice with the aim of producing accomplished articles, which they can then present to prospective employers. We will continue to focus on developing reporting and writing skills and create different types of stories, but we will also look at how to edit articles. Students will be encouraged to pursue news research in their own selected fields, as well as to work as part of a team. We will also look at other applications of journalistic skills, such as in the field of PR and travel writing.

One of the goals of this course is to help students decide whether a career in journalism would be a good choice for them. 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. Students will also further develop their editing skills with regular practice, including turning the Messenger draft articles into polished, publishable articles.

Course objectives

- To build upon the journalist skills acquired in ENG 1103
- To learn how to write articles in a wide range of journalistic styles
- To develop a portfolio of different kinds of articles
- To further develop reporting and writing skills
- To make students think proactively like journalists
- To better understand emerging trends in journalism
- To further improve creative writing and PR writing skills
- To help students decide whether to pursue a career in journalism

Learning outcomes

- Students will add to the core skills learned in ENG 1103
- Students will be able to write all the main styles of news articles
- Students will also be able to apply their writing skills to other disciplines
- Students will gain a solid understanding of both the practical and theoretical side of journalism
- Students will further develop reporting and newswriting skills and be able to create a wide range of different types of stories
- Students will have sufficient grounding in journalism to possibly consider joining working in the field
- Students will have a portfolio of articles to show to prospective employers

Required Text: The Elements of Journalism By Bill Kovach & Tom Rosentiel.
Available from: <http://www.bookdepository.com/Elements-of-Journalism-the-Bill-Kovach-Tom-Rosenstiel/9780804136785>

Grading: Mid term – 20%, Final – 20%, Course assignments (minimum 6) – 60%.

Attendance and lateness: Participants are strongly advised to attend each class. Grades begin to drop **after three absences**, followed by a letter grade per absence over the three-absence limit. Attendance is expected from the moment a student is enrolled in a course.

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.

Week	Monday	Wednesday
Jan 29/31	Looking back before looking forward. Review of key elements of ENG 1103 and 2017.	Obituary writing and the influence of new media.
Feb 5/7	Writing film reviews.	Practice.
Feb 12/14	Critique of Chapters 1,2 & 3.	Travel writing: putting the reader there.
Feb 19/21	Practice. Critique of Chapters 4, 5 & 6.	Critique of Chapter 7.
Feb 26/28	Gonzo journalism.	Critique of Chapter 8.
Mar 5/7	Sports reporting.	Practice.
Mar 12/14	Writing restaurant/bar reviews: describing sight, smell, taste and sound.	The fact-based opinion piece and the importance of good sources.
Mar 19/21	Mid-term preparation.	Mid-term.
Mar 26 /28	Easter holiday.	Easter holiday.
Apr 2/4	Easter holiday.	Mid-term feedback.
Apr 9/11	Critique of Chapter 9.	Investigative reporting.
Apr 16/18	Critique of Chapter 10.	Developing stories from press releases. Getting the most out of press conferences.
Apr 23/25	Critique of Chapter 11.	Layout: how to plan a magazine/newspaper/website.
Apr 30/ May 2	No class.	Political reporting.
May 7/9	PR writing.	Practice.
May 14/16	Final exam preparation.	Final exam.