

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS
University of Virginia, Academic Sponsor

Voyage: Spring 2016

Discipline:

Course Title: Newswriting

Division: Upper

Faculty Name: Linda Gradstein

Credit Hours: 3; Contact Hours: 38

Pre-requisites:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the reporting, writing, and interview skills that are the basis for good journalism. Students will master basic newswriting techniques; study examples of journalism in our port countries and the U.S.; and produce articles for posting on a class blog.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In class, students will learn and practice the news production process, which includes data collection, organization, revision, documentation, and presentation. Discussions will cover the nature of news; the difference between news and feature writing; credible sourcing; lead writing and the inverted pyramid organizational model; quotations and attribution; and interviewing skills. In ports and at sea, students will do the reporting and research necessary to produce four different types of stories—event, interview, issue, and profile—for a total of seven stories. In addition, students will produce stories on deadline during class on at least three occasions. Outstanding stories will be published on the class blog.

Assigned stories will address both happenings on board ship and upcoming ports in the form of tips, news, and interviews with faculty, students, administrators, and interport lecturers—an activity which will significantly enhance students' experience of ports. Short readings in the required textbook, generally less than 5 pages each, will frame classroom discussions.

But the focus of the course is the acquisition of newswriting skills—reporting, writing, and interviewing. As such, participation in class discussions and activates, and timely completion of writing assignments are the keys to success in this class. The pace will be quick and over the semester students will submit 10 new stories of between 250 and 500 words (one to two full, double-spaced pages). Students must rewrite and resubmit at least two of these stories.

CLASS TUMBLR

The class blog is <http://newswriting1.tumblr.com/>. Before boarding, all students are required to 1.

set up their own tumblr with a url corresponding to their own first name:
yourfirstname.newswriting1.tumblr.com. For example: katie.newswriting1.tumblr.com. Please use
the name you want to be called. 2. follow the class tumblr, <http://newswriting1.tumblr.com/>

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

Reporters notebooks or other conveniently sized notebook for taking notes for stories Regular size
notebook for taking notes during class, and for filling out quizzes

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Tim Harrower

TITLE: Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism, Second Edition

PUBLISHER McGraw Hill

ISBN #: (ISBN: 9780073378916)

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada- January 7:

Class 1-3: What is News: Elements of Good Newswriting

B-1- January 8: Intro: Discuss Syllabus and Expectations

In Class Writing Assignment: Write Your Own Obituary (not graded)

B2-January 10: Obituary: Page 96-97

Assignment: Ship News Story: Cover a Ship Event Due

B-3 –January 13 What is News?, 18-32 Quiz in class, “Parts of a Story,” p. 34. News brief
due; topic assigned C2

HONOLULU: January 12

Classes 4 – 8 Leads. Nut and “but” graphs. The 5 W’s. Newsworthiness. Timeliness. Research
tools. Writing on deadline.

B4-January 15: The Five W's and the Inverted Pyramid p. 36-41

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/21/us-southkorea-china-japan-idUSKBN0MH02Q20150321>

B5-January 16: Basic Leads 42-48

Ship News Story #2: Cover an Event

Study Day: January 19

B6- January 21: What is a Nut Graph p. 48-52

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/03/12/japanese-beauty-trend-sick_n_6855462.html

B7-January 23: Interviewing Techniques: How to Generate a Story

Observation (74-77) Sources (82-85)

Ship News Story #3: Interview

Yokohama: January 26-27

In-Transit: January 28

Kobe: January 29-31

B8- January 30: Deadline Story #1 (In-Class Writing Assignment)

Shanghai: February 3-4

In-Transit: February 5-6

Hong Kong:7-8

Classes 9 – 10 Interviewing Techniques: How to Generate a Story

B9- February 7: Interviewing (78-81)

<http://www.news.com.au/world/asia/aussie-hero-saving-trafficked-vietnamese-kids-sold-as-sex-slaves/story-fnh81fz8-1227273540499>

Ho Chi Minh: February 11-16

B10- February 14: Quotations and Attributions (82 - 85)

Port Story: #1 Event

Singapore: February 19-20

Study Day: February 21

Class 11- 12: Covering Accidents and Disasters

B11-February 17:

Harrower 98- 101

Rangoon: February 24-March 1

B12-February 24 Covering Crime and Courts

Harrower 102-105

Deadline Story #2

Classes 13 – 19 Profile tips. Review: leads and nut/but graphs. Objectivity. Point-of-view

journalism. Headline writing

B13- February 26 Feature Writing (116 - 122)

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/03/10/the-latest-solution-for-womens-safety-in-india-the-selfie-defense-stick>

Cochin: February 27 – March 3

B14-March 5: Rewriting (52-53)

Port Story #2: Profile Due

B15-March 8: Workshopping Stories

We will “workshop” several stories, meaning we will all read and discuss how to improve them. The stories must all be rewritten afterwards.

Port Louis: March 9

B16- March 11: Opinions in journalism, 34-35 Ship news story #4: issue

Study Day: March 12

B17-March 14: Workshopping Ship News Story #4 and Discussion of Photojournalism

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/08/books/review/its-what-i-do-by-lynsey-addario.html>

Cape Town: March 15-20

B18- March 22: Deadline Story #3

<http://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2015-hunting-mutant-big-game-in-south-africa/>

B19-March 24: Writing News for Broadcast (178 - 183)

Class 20 – 23 Long-form newswriting, structure and techniques. Opinion. Careers in writing. Review. Self-assessment

B20-March 25: Enterprise Projects

Harrower pp. 126 – 129

Takoradi: March 27-28

Tema: March 29-31

B21- April 2: Long-form news and magazine writing

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/05/gaza-israel-war/392024/>
http://www.cjr.org/investigation/rolling_stone_investigation.php

B22-April 4: Final Story Due – 750 Words

A23: April 6: Workshop Final Stories

Casablanca: April 7-11

Study Day: April 12

B24: April 14 Re-write of Final Stories Due

April 16: Disembarkation Day

WORK

Experiential course work on Semester at Sea is comprised of the required field lab led by your instructor and additional field assignments that span multiple ports.

FIELD LAB (At least 20 percent of the contact hours for each course, to be led by the instructor.)

Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field lab.

The field lab for this course takes place on: Thursday, March 3 in Kochin, India.

River Cruise in India—Tour the Kerala Backwater by Boat. Observe Details along the way. We will stop at least twice where students will do interviews and take photos for a story. Part of the challenge will be finding English speakers. Write either a profile of someone you meet or a travel piece on the river cruise.

FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

The field assignment will be the basis for the final 750 word story. Students will incorporate all of the techniques learned in the course and use interviews done during the field lab.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

There is a final 750-word writing assignment based on the field lab but no mid-term or final exam. Methods of evaluation consist of:

writing assignments (60%);
reading quizzes (10%);
class participation (10%)
field lab and assignment (20%).

RESERVE BOOKS AND FILMS FOR THE LIBRARY

Film: All The Presidents Men

Mass Media and Society
HM1206 .M37 2000

Death and Life of American Journalism
PN4867.2.M33 2010

Literary Journalism
PS659 .L565 2000

Creative Interviewing
PN4784.I6 M4 1997

AP Stylebook
PN4783 .A83 2009 AUTHOR:

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

<http://lass.purduecal.edu/cca/gmj/sp07/graduate/gmj-sp07-grad-fork-kintz.htm>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/21/us-southkorea-china-japan-idUSKBN0MH02Q20150321>

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/03/12/japanese-beauty-trend-sick_n_6855462.html

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-32006972>

<http://rt.com/news/242985-china-hydrogen-power-tram/>

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/03/19/reuters-blocked-in-china/>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/03/17/asia/china-teen-top-guns/>

<http://www.news.com.au/world/asia/aussie-hero-saving-trafficked-vietnamese-kids-sold-as-sex-slaves/story-fnh81fz8-1227273540499>

http://www.salon.com/2015/03/21/does_hollywood_hate_asia/

<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/mar/10/fifty-shades-of-grey-sex-removed-vietnam-release>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/burmamyanmar/11487316/Photoshop-disaster-over-a-disappearing-umbrella-in-Burma.html>

<http://time.com/3745604/china-burma-kokang-myanmar/>

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/03/12/burma-takes-a-big-step-backwards/>

<http://singularityhub.com/2015/03/19/smart-cities-built-on-emerging-tech-is-indias-latest-initiative/>

<http://www.kxlf.com/story/28461086/bombing-over-show-about-jewelry-is-just-latest-blow-to-free-speech-in-india>

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/03/10/the-latest-solution-for-womens-safety-in-india-the-selfie-defense-stick/>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2015-hunting-mutant-big-game-in-south-africa/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/25/south-africa-spied-government-facts-joint-russian-project>

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=351309>

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/3/22/in-ghana-movies-project-fierce-female-leads.html>

<http://vibeghana.com/2015/03/03/corruption-is-killing-ghanas-soul-ppp/>

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/05/gaza-israel-war/392024/>

http://www.cjr.org/investigation/rolling_stone_investigation.php

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed "[signed]."