

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR**  
**DEGREE CREDIT COURSE**

Transfer course     A.A. degree applicable course  
(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** JOUR 210 ADVANCED NEWSWRITING AND REPORTING

**UNIT VALUE:** 3

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:** 48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:** (Appropriate language and computational skills)

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**PREREQUISITE:** JOUR 205

**COREQUISITE:** JOUR 110L

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

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Practical newswriting experience through work on *The Telescope* staff. All journalistic skills are refined and augmented in this course. Accurate reporting and development of compelling, clear and concise writing technique are stressed.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Successful students will:

1. Demonstrate the necessary skills to write effective newspaper stories.
2. Be able to identify criteria of news value and apply these criteria to their own news judgment and writing.
3. Demonstrate a complete knowledge of journalistic ethics and professional standards.
4. Apply knowledge of journalistic practices to their own writing and demonstrate accurate reporting and compelling writing style.
5. Be able to analyze news sources and demonstrate the ability to produce complete, fair and balanced articles.
6. Be able to research and organize facts logically and to present them concisely, rapidly and interestingly in a news or feature story.

7. Be able to identify and practice effective interview techniques: ask meaningful questions, pursue unexpected avenues of inquiry, and take effective notes.

**CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I. Selecting and Reporting the News
  - A. Definitions of news
  - B. Types of news
  - C. Characteristics of news
  - D. Objectivity
  - E. The changing nature of news
  - F. Accuracy
  - G. Fairness
  - H. Use of reference materials
  
- II. Story Organization
  - A. The inverted pyramid
  - B. Alternatives to the inverted pyramid
  - C. Writing the second paragraph
  - D. Transitions
  - E. Conclusions
  
- III. Quotations and Attribution
  - A. Using quotes effectively
  - B. The need for attribution
  - C. Identifying sources
  - D. Word choice in attributing statements
  
- IV. Newspaper Style
  - A. News story format
  - B. Copyediting symbols
  - C. Avoiding sexual and other stereotypes
  - D. Associated Press Style
    - 1. Capitalization
    - 2. Abbreviations and acronyms
    - 3. Punctuation and hyphenation
    - 4. Numerals
    - 5. Grammar, spelling and word usage
  
- V. Polishing Newsgathering and Writing Skills
  - A. Writing clearly
  - B. Use of details
  - C. Importance of examples
  - D. Habits to avoid
  
- VI. Communication Law
  - A. Libel
  - B. Privacy
  - C. The free press/fair trial dilemma
  - D. Shield Laws
  - E. Censorship

- VII. Ethics
  - A. Ethical philosophies
  - B. Plagiarism
  - C. Payola
  - D. Conflict of interest
  - E. Withholding Information
  - F. Deceit
  
- VIII. Specialized Reporting and Beat Reporting
  - A. Social indicators
  - B. Using surveys
  - C. Using documents
  - D. Freedom of information laws
  - E. Computer Assisted Reporting
  
- IX. Features and Human-Interest Stories
  - A. Sources of features
  - B. Use of creative language
  - C. Importance of description
  - D. Writing the feature lead

**REQUIRED READING:**

The Telescope Handbook.

Goldstein, Norm. The Associated Press Stylebook. New York: Perseus Publishing, 2002.

**SUGGESTED READING:**

Brooks, Brian, James Pinson, and Jean Gaddy Willson. Working with Words. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003.

Friedlander, Edward Jay and John Lee. Feature Writing for Newspapers and Magazines. New York: Longman, 2000.

Houston, Brant. Computer-Assisted Reporting. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999.

Wicker, Tom. On The Record: An Insider's Guide to Journalism. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2002.

Local San Diego and North County newspaper publications, including the San Diego Union Tribune, the L.A. Times, the North County Times, and The Vista Press.

**REQUIRED WRITING:**

Published stories in The Telescope adding up to semester minimum of one story per week of 2-4 typewritten pages in length for a total of 11 stories. These are usually news stories, but students must also write at least one feature story and editorial or column each semester.

After the first issue, at midterm and at the end of the semester, students turn in a "Stringbook," or compilation of all their published work to be evaluated.

## OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

**Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.**

Cover assigned beats (news areas of the school) on a weekly basis. This includes interviewing, writing the story and entering it into the computer system. Students will work a minimum of 3 hours per week for each unit of credit.

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

**Check all that apply:**

- X lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

## DISTANCE LEARNING:

**This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.**

Yes  No  X

**If yes, check all that apply.**

- Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)
- Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS** (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Grading is based on the following:

1. A minimum of one story published weekly in The Telescope campus newspaper, or 11 stories.
2. Students may earn a higher grade by having more stories published.
3. Each story is graded according to professional journalistic standards.
4. Each published story is considered a test. There may be as many as four or five journalistic tests per publication.
5. Students demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter by the quantity and quality of their stories throughout the semester. Grading is also based on ability to work with others, general attitude and effort.
6. Five style quizzes are also given throughout the semester.
7. An evaluative grade is given to a "stringbook" or compilation of all the student's published work at midterm and the end of the semester.

Published work	60%
Style quizzes	20%
Stringbook and participation	20%

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes \_\_\_ No X                      Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

58161 (c) (2) (A and B)

**CONTACT PERSON: Wendy Nelson ext. 2451**

<b>SIGNATURES ON FILE</b>
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