

CST 180 Introduction to Journalism

Blaney Hall, Room 4

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Texts and Supplies: Inside Reporting: A practical guide to the craft of journalism
by Tim Harrower
Associated Press Stylebook edition 2000 or later
Flash drive
Notebook and tape recorder

Description: This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of journalism. Students will analyze, critique and write stories for print journalism. Contemporary issues in journalism are discussed and debated. Students also will learn techniques of news gathering within a socially responsible and ethical framework.

Objectives: To organize and structure news stories coherently and effectively
To acquire information competently and responsibly
To present information with clarity, objectivity and accuracy
To quote, paraphrase and summarize accurately and appropriately
To present copy in accordance with current style criteria
To demonstrate an understanding of the principles relating to libel and journalistic ethics

Attendance and Participation: Repeated, unexcused absences will affect a student's grade. Students are expected to present a note from the college for any extended illness and for any medical or family emergency. Active participation in classroom discussion and debate is expected and failure to participate will affect a student's grade.

Late assignments: Drafts of writing assignments are built into the syllabus to give students an opportunity to have their work edited and returned for rewriting. Grades may only improve from rewrites. Rewrites are **not** permitted on drafts that are turned in late. Late copy will be penalized with a half grade deduction for each day it is late. Students absent from class are still expected to meet deadlines for assignments.

Faculty statement on disruptive behavior (edited): Generally, disruptive behavior in the classroom is any behavior

that interferes with the process of learning. At Cedar Crest, it is the right of every student and faculty member to engage in a classroom experience free of disruptive behavior. Faculty members have the authority to address disruptive behavior under the guidelines set forth in the College Catalog.

Examples of disruptive behavior include:

- Persistent speaking without permission
- Use of cell phones and other electronics
- Threats or harassment
- Working on work for other classes
- Inappropriate personal disclosures
- Sleeping
- Lateness
- Eating, drinking without permission
- Arguing

Plagiarism: Deliberate or accidental plagiarism is a serious academic and professional offense and a violation of the spirit of the Cedar Crest Honor Code philosophy. Depending on the severity of the offense, penalties for plagiarism will range from the assignment of an F for the story to the assignment of an F for the course. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the vice president for academic affairs and the dean of faculty. Under certain circumstances, acts of plagiarism may result in suspension or expulsion from the college.

Learning disabilities: Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss those needs with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations, should contact the Advising Center.

Assignments: Stylebook quizzes 20%; Press release 10%; Crime story 15 percent; Speech story 20%; Profile 25%; classwork and participation 10%
(Stories must be turned in, in person at the start of class and typed in 12-point font, double-spaced.)

Grading scale:	A	93-100	C	74-76
	A-	90-92	C-	70-73
	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
	B	84-86	D	64-66
	B-	80-83	D-	60-63
	C+	77-79	F	0-59

Week 1
Aug. 26

Growing a Nose for News: First half: Elizabeth Ortiz lecture.
Second half: Christine Schiavo on what is news, more about assignments.
Take the news quiz. **Assignments:** Read and be prepared to discuss “A Muslim Leader in Brooklyn, Reconciling Worlds,” *The New York Times*; Text pages 16-19 and 36-45.

Week 2
Sept. 2

The Inverted Pyramid: First half: Elizabeth Ortiz lecture.
Second half: Christine Schiavo on story structure and leads and on using the AP Stylebook; stylebook exercise. Discuss NYT story. **Assignment:** Read Text pages 46-48; 51; 80-83; 180-181.

Week 3
Sept. 9

Putting the Pyramid to Use: First half: Elizabeth Ortiz lecture.
Second half: Christine Schiavo with more on leads and structure. AP Stylebook exercise. Develop info for what will become a press release. **Assignments:** Write a 6-8 paragraph press release, double spaced; study for Stylebook quiz A-F; Read Text pages 94-96; 98-100.

Week 4
Sept. 16

So There’s Been An Accident: First Half: Elizabeth Ortiz lecture
Second half: Christine Schiavo on using inverted pyramid to write an accident story. Exercise in writing accident story. **Due:** 6-8 paragraph press release. **Quiz:** Stylebook A-F. **Assignment:** Read and be prepared to discuss “A World Shattered,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Week 5
Sept. 23

So There’s Been a Murder: Covering murder and mayhem. Present information for crime story. Conduct interview for crime story. Stylebook exercise; PI story discussion. **Assignments:** Rewrite press release; review notes for crime story.

Week 6
Sept. 30

Death on Deadline: Write crime story, 10-12 graphs, on deadline; Stylebook exercise. **Due:** press release rewrite. Assignments Study for Stylebook Quiz G-M; read and be prepared to discuss Meyer Berger’s Pulitzer-Prize-winning 1959 story in *The New York Times*.

Week 7
Oct. 7

Rewrite Death on Deadline: Write crime story, 10-12 graphs, on deadline. Discuss NYT story; **Quiz:** Stylebook G-M. **Assignment:** Read Text Chapter 8; **submit by e-mail** to C. Schiavo, one graph about profile subject and date of scheduled first interview before Oct. 28.

Week 8

Oct. 14

Writing for the Web: Welcome guest lecturer Tracy Jordan, online reporter for *The Morning Call*. **Assignment:** Read Text pages 76-79 and 102.

Week 9

Oct. 21

Building a Speech Story Brick by Brick: Listen to and outline Barack Obama's "The Audacity of Hope" speech; write lead; Stylebook exercise; **Assignment:** Write speech story 2-3 pages.

Week 10

Oct. 28

Everybody Has a Story: Interview classmate, write 6-8 graphs. Scan public records. Stylebook exercise. **Due:** Speech story 2-3 pages. **Assignment:** Study for Stylebook quiz N-S; Read Text. 124-125.

Week 11

Nov. 4

Journalism at Its Finest: View "All The President's Men;" **Quiz:** Stylebook N-S. **Assignments:** Read Text 120-121; read and be prepared to discuss "A Killer's Only Confidant," *The New York Times*; rewrite speech.

Week 12

Nov. 11

Everybody Has a Story Part II: Present interviews. Discuss NYT story; stylebook exercise. **Due:** Speech story rewrite. **Assignment:** Write profile 3-5 pages.

Week 13

Nov. 18

Journalism at Its Worst: Examining the unethical journalist. Stylebook exercise; schedule conferences. **Due:** profiles. **Assignments:** show up for scheduled conference; study for Stylebook quiz T-Z; rewrite profile.

Week 14

Nov. 25

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15

Dec. 2

The Kicker: Present profiles. **Quiz:** Stylebook T-Z; Final thoughts.