

# Beginning Journalism

## Course Syllabus

**Course Description:** The course is an introduction to journalistic writing, editing and design. The basics of journalistic writing will be covered first semester and computer design and desktop publishing will be our main topics second semester. Journalism counts for an elective English credit.

- Course Goals:**
1. Students will be able to identify and write each of the four main types of journalistic stories.
  2. Students will learn to convey a clear, focused main ideas supported by accurate and relevant details in ways appropriate to topic, audience and journalistic purpose.
  3. Students will be able to organize and conduct effective interviews.
  4. Students will become familiar with computer programs commonly used in newspaper production. Macintosh computers are used.
  5. Students will become familiar with the basics of publication design.
  6. Students will gain knowledge of media history, law and ethics.
  7. Students will synthesize skills in producing Cub edition of school newspaper.

**Major Units:** **First Semester:** Newswriting, Interviewing, Covering Beats, Feature Writing, Review and Editorial Writing, Sports Writing, Media History and Law, Writing Portfolio. **Second Semester:** Typography, Modular Design, InDesign Basics, Headline Writing, PhotoShop Basics, Cub Edition, Journalism Careers.

**Texts:** There is no assigned text for the class. Students will instead “create a text” by keeping a detailed notebook of assignments and information.

**Materials Needed:** **ALWAYS** bring paper, pen or pencil, your journalism notebook and a positive attitude to class..

- Class Expectations:**
1. Students are expected to abide by all school rules as listed in their planners.
  2. Because journalism is a field in which one’s work is often read by others, students are expected to be courteous and encouraging when critiquing peers.
  3. Students are expected to assume responsibility for their education by asking for any missing or make-up work.

**Grading:** A grade list will be posted periodically and students are expected to track their own progress. Assignments will be accepted for **FULL CREDIT** until a specific day before grades or progress reports are due. Assignments will be given a point value and can be redone as many times as the student wishes. This policy also includes all tests. Term grades will be determined on a percentage scale of total points with 90% and above an A, 80% and above a B, 70% and above a C, 60% and above a D, and 59% and below an F.