**COURSE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Course Number:  COM 110-01  
Course Title:  Journalism: Organization & Practice  
Section:  T,TH 8:00 – 9:25 a.m.  
Semester:  Spring 2019  
Number of Credits:  Three (3)  
Prerequisites:  ENG 110/ENG 111.  

Instructor:  Roger Puchalski  
Availability:  Email: roger.puchalski@gmail.com  or phone : 835-9454 x2 to schedule an appointment.  

Statement on Disabilities  
Any student with a disability who believes he/she needs accommodation(s) in order to complete this course should contact Disability Services as soon as possible. The Coordinator will determine what accommodations are appropriate and reasonable under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Disability Services is located in Huber Hall, Room 122, and can be reached by phone at (716) 566-3088.  

Academic Integrity  
Medaille College expects students to fulfill academic assignments independently and honestly. Any cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty at Medaille College will be penalized, with sanctions ranging from an “F” on a specific assignment to expulsion from the College.  

Campus Emergency Closure  
In the event of a campus emergency closure, please log on to your Blackboard course link at [http://blackboard.medaille.edu](http://blackboard.medaille.edu) to continue with your course requirements and to communicate with your instructor. You should access this course link early in the semester to familiarize yourself with it. Report any access or usage problems to the course instructor.  

A. Catalog Description of Course:  
Through lecture and textbook readings, the course will examine the principles of journalism, news writing and reporting techniques, and the structure of news organizations. Writing assignments will assist students in developing and understanding of the inverted pyramid, leads, interviewing, copy editing and various types of stories. Current events quizzes are geared toward developing a heightened sense of awareness for the beginning student.
B. Objectives:

General: To have students develop an understanding of journalism and to obtain the basic skills necessary for a journalist.

Specific:
1) To share with students information on how news gathering operations operate (with an emphasis on print journalism).
2) To develop in students the basic writing and reporting skills necessary for a journalist.
3) To obtain an understanding of the peripheral issues surrounding journalism and gathering news.

C. Outline of Course Content:

History of Journalism – Chapter 1
How Newsrooms Work – Chapter 2
Writing Leads and The Inverted Pyramid – Chapter 3
Newswriting Basics – Chapter 3
Reporting/Interviewing – Chapter 4
Cover the News – Chapter 5
Beyond Breaking News – Features/Packages/Editorials/Copy Editing - Chapter 6
Law – Chapter 7
Ethics – Chapter 7
Digital Journalism – Chapter 8
Broadcast Reporting – Chapter 9

D. Method of Evaluating Students:

Assignments: 45%  No work will be accepted after the deadline.
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 30%

E. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is fundamental to a student's success. Because deadlines are critical to the work of journalists, no work will be accepted after the deadline. Because some assignments will be conducted during the class period it is important for students to attend all classes. Three unexcused absences will result in the student's grade being dropped a letter grade.

F. Textbook:

G. Suggested Reading List & Websites:

http://onthemedia.weebly.com (this site will have course related material and links)

American Journalism Review

Buffalo News

Grammar Now – www.grammarnow.com

Guide to Grammar and Writing – http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar

Poynter News University www.poynter.org/newsu/

Wall Street Journal

Working with Words (Brooks and Pinson)

H. Other Requirements:

Students are expected to have basic English and word-processing skills.

Writing assignments will be graded on the following penalty-point scale:

- Error in fact-15
- Missing/misleading information-10
- Unclear reference-10/-5
- Poor/missed lead-10
- Missed inverted pyramid-10
- Improper attribution-5
- Value judgment-5
- Too wordy-5
- Backing into sentence-5
- Style error-5
- Typo/Spelling error-5
- Poor word choice-2
- Punctuation error-2
- Grammatical error-2

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make any changes in the above disclosure that he feels will better serve the objectives and/or organization of the course.