

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CMNS-160-Digital Journalism

CLASS SECTION: B01

TERM: 2024F

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): BLENDED

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Robyn Quinn

EMAIL: QuinnR@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Young 315B

HOURS: Thursdays 1:30-2:30 pm

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the basic principles of journalistic writing for a variety of digital formats such as e-zines, digital newspapers and podcasts. Students discuss genres, research sources, news value, editing, interview techniques, ethics and legal issues. Students will apply this knowledge to research and write accurate news stories to communicate information to a specified audience, while adhering to legal and journalistic principles.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C+ in English 12

C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Write accurate, genre-appropriate news stories in a variety of digital formats.
2. Apply interview and research techniques to gather information.
3. Re-write and edit stories for conciseness and clarity.
4. Discuss ethical and legal issues in journalism and apply an understanding of these to writing assignments.
5. Define news topics and intended audience, and apply appropriate criteria to determine journalistic value and mode of communication.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Readings shared in class

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
September 3	Introductions What is journalism? Trusted news sources Curiosity defined. Who is your audience? <i>* Journal Assignment: Write a weekly observational journal of class. Not a synopsis but your experiences.</i>	Assignment Due September 3 (today): Trusted News Sources. Where do you get your news Journal Assignment Due Weekly on Mondays
September 10	Research basics and writing Interviews – top tips Rules of engagement. Start writing as you research and uncover.	Assignment Due September 16: Write a 100 word biography
September 17	Ethics: How digital has changed the face of journalism.	In-class Quiz 1

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	<p>Discuss the biography assignment</p> <p>Ethics discussion - truth vs buzz</p> <p>Favourite journalists - why? Streaming versus traditional</p>	<p>Ethics</p>
<p>September 24</p>	<p>Finding your voice. Audiences. Writing as a professional- How does journaling help you write better?</p> <p>Sentence structure, grammar, Canadian Press Style Guide</p> <p>Reading in class - <i>Economical Writing</i></p> <p>Guest Speaker Janet Pollock, Camosun Writing Centre</p> <p>9:45 am</p>	<p>Interview Assignment Due September 30: Examine an article based on an interview and dissect it.</p>
<p>October 1</p>	<p>The interview - From A to Z.</p> <p>Discuss the assignment</p> <p>Revisit the first class and how you interviewed each other for the introduction. Discuss the various approaches and question frameworks (handout)</p> <p>What happens when an interview uncovers a totally unexpected story idea?</p>	<p>Assignment Due October 7 : Story elements-Cover a YouTube, podcast or live stream presentation as an assignment.</p>
<p>October 8</p>	<p>Elements of a Story - Part 1</p> <p>What makes a good story? (handout and in class exercise)</p> <p>Research standards</p> <p>Guest Speaker Greg Pratt, Managing Editor Nexus campus newspaper</p>	<p>Individual story assignments - draft ready for October 15 class</p>
<p>October 15</p>	<p>Elements of a Story - Part 2</p> <p>Review fellow student stories - act as editors for partners in class. Explain the story.</p> <p>Using quotations, visuals, graphics, videos in a story</p> <p>Guest Speaker Chad Hipolito Stringer Photographer for Canadian Press and the Globe and Mail</p>	<p>Individual Feature Article Assignment Due November 25</p>
<p>October 22</p>	<p>Artificial Intelligence</p> <p>Breaking news and situational coverage versus lifestyle. Discuss the value behind each genre. How has digital and AI changed the perceptions of hard/soft news?</p>	<p>In class Quiz 2</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence</p> <p>Group research assignment. Due December 2</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
October 29	<p>Legal Impacts</p> <p>Scary stuff - libel, defamation, copyright, plagiarism, fraudulent sources, using images without permission</p> <p>Boo: Discuss AI - ethical and professional standards</p>	<p>In class Quiz 3</p> <p>Legal Impacts</p> <p>Journal discussion</p> <p>Assignment Due November 4 reading (url)</p>
November 5	<p>Ethical journalism continued.</p> <p>Discuss reading.</p> <p>Pick a side. Is PR the Dark Side?</p> <p>How can a journalist use and trust sources?</p> <p>Guest Speaker TBD</p>	<p>Assignment Due November 11: Ethical journalism: Find an article or current news item. Are sources properly identified, is personal data secure?</p>
November 12	<p>Writing clearly</p> <p>Editing like a Disney villain.</p> <p>Grammar hacks, tricks to a good edit.</p> <p>Discuss Ethical Journalism Assignment.</p> <p><i>How is the feature assignment going?</i></p>	<p>Mini practice edit in class/lab</p> <p>Assigned reading: Nicely Said</p> <p>Journal update</p>
November 19	<p>Other perspectives</p> <p>Respectful reporting and interviewing Indigenous, people of colour, women, immigrants etc</p>	<p>In class Quiz 4</p> <p>Other Perspectives</p> <p>Check in on Journal</p>
November 26	<p>Following a story</p> <p>Press releases, news conferences, other news coverage, trusted sources, leads, interviews</p> <p>Curiosity as a skill to develop as a journalist</p> <p>Guest Speaker TBD</p>	<p>Final Journal entry due.</p>
December 3	The future of journalism.	Discuss Journal

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	Review and discuss group research assignment.	Final group research due

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Trusted news sources	5
Biography assignment	5
Quiz 1 Ethics	5
Quiz 2 Artificial Intelligence	5
Quiz 3 Legal Impacts	5
Quiz 4 Other Perspectives	5
Individual feature article	20
Writing: Weekly Journal	10
Interview review assignment	5
Writing: mini practice edit	5
Group research	15
Writing: in class story assignment/editing	5
Ethical journalism assignment	5
Attendance	5
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Students should attend classes and actively participate in group work as well as submit assignments on time.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of instructor office hours to discuss questions regarding assignments and class work.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Arts and Sciences

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international

Support Service	Website
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:

<https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.

