

## SYLLABUS

### JOURNALISM 470: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

2 UNITS

Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. – 11:20

**INSTRUCTOR:** Joe Domanick

**THE COURSE:** Analysis, reporting and writing about the influence of economic, class and social issues in the education of low income, inner-city students.

**METHOD:** Observation through teaching and writing.

1) J470 members will tutor junior high school students in the surrounding community in reporting and writing stories for their school newspapers.

2) J470 members will report and write about their observations and experiences.

**THE PURPOSE:** To give USC students direct, hands-on experience in teaching journalism to Junior high school students in the south Los Angeles neighborhood surrounding USC; and in reporting on inner city schools. More specifically:

- 1) A) To contribute to the education of the children of the local community by teaching them how to report, construct and write a news story.
- B) To inspire the children to attend college.
- C) To work with students to produce and publish at least two stories per issue of the Foshay Times.

The course instructor will be available during the class, afterwards in arranged office hours, and anytime by e-mail, telephone and fax. He will serve as a guide and advisor, and assist in problem solving. But the actual teaching and responsibility for the completion of the student's stories, and then their editing, will be your responsibility.

#### **THE SCHOOL:**

1) Foshay Learning Center (FLC)

3751 S. Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles, Ca. 90062

Second Floor Library

**COURSE GRADE:** Grades will be determined in the following manner: fifty percent will be for the teaching and preparation of the students' newspaper stories, which will appear in "The Foshay Times." Regarding this portion of your grade:

You'll turn in at least two your students' final edited stories to me, ready to go to print.

This final, edited version should show evidence of your careful editing, without changing your students' voice and style. You will assure that the story's content is complete; that is -- that it has all the elements of a newspaper story. Grammar and spelling should be perfect. Your grade on these stories will be determined by the quality of the edited stories you turn in. The more mistakes, the lower your grade.

- 2) Twenty-five percent of your class grade will be based on a profile you will write about one of your students. This profile will count as your mid-term.
- 3) The final twenty-five percent of your grade – the written final -- will be based on a list of questions about your observations and experiences at Foshay. These questions will include much of what we've discussed at the end of each class, i.e. -- how we, as journalists, can do a better job of covering poor inner-city neighborhoods; your insights into your students, and how their lives are impacted larger social, political and economic issues.

## **J470: SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

**WEEK ONE:** Orientation on campus.

- 1) Review of syllabus and the concepts and goals of the class.
- 2) Discussion on how to interact with students; and how to assist them with story selection.

Homework Assignment: Look in newspapers and magazines for story ideas and bring them to class.

**WEEK TWO:** Meet on campus.

- 1) Learning how to teach the story concept to students.
- 2) How to edit student papers for final submission.
- 3) Practice session.

**WEEK THREE:** Class will meet at Foshay Learning Center.

During your first class at Foshay, you will:

- 1) Discuss the school's recent and up-coming special events with the children with a view towards story assignments for the Foshay Times.
- 2) Suggest topics for student-conducted surveys, profiles of new teachers and other personnel, and current headline stories and profiles from outside the community. Please note that stories about events taking place at the school are preferable; outside stories should not dominate the newspaper.
- 3) The class will then be divided into four desks: news, features and opinion, and sports.
- 4) Finally, you'll begin teaching your students basic reporting, interviewing and writing skills.

**WEEK FOUR:** Continue working closely with small groups of students on reporting, interviewing and writing skills.

**WEEK FIVE:** Students should begin outlining their stories and conducting interviews.

**WEEK SIX:** Continue as per week five. By the end of class all first drafts should be completed.

**WEEK SEVEN:** Final class at Foshay. A clean final draft of all stories should be ready by the end of the class. All stories must then be reread, edited and e-mailed to me no later than 12 midnight on Thursday.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING STORIES FOR PUBLICATIONS**

1. A designated person from each desk (sports, features, etc.) will collect all of that desk's stories.
2. He/She will e-mail the completed, line-edited, ready-to-go stories to Joe as ONE FILE.
3. The stories should be in one file called "SPORTS", or "FEATURES", or "NEWS" or "ENTERTAINMENT".
4. The file must be sent as an MS Word attachment. It should NOT be written in the text of the e-mail. NO ZIP FILES; NO SEPARATE FILES FOR INDIVIDUAL STORIES!
5. Each story within the file should include a title, a by-line (by-lines) and the USC teachers name.
6. The final edited stories should be stories written in the students' voices, but flawlessly line-edited by you.

That weekend, Les Dunseith's students will lay out the paper, and sometime during the following week it will be disturbed to the Foshay students.

**WEEK EIGHT:** Mid-term student profile due.

J-470 Students will begin the process all over again with a different group of students, but with the same goals in mind. You will discuss the school's recent and up-coming special events, as well as current headline stories and profiles from outside the community.

Then, you will divide up the students into four desks: news, features and opinion, and sports, and solicit further (doable) story ideas from the students.

Finally, you'll begin teaching your students basic reporting, interviewing and writing skills.

**WEEK Nine:** Continue working closely with small groups of students on reporting, interviewing and writing skills. Students should begin outlining their stories and conducting interviews.

**WEEK TEN:** Continue as per week nine.

**WEEK ELEVEN:** Continue as per week ten.

**WEEK TWELVE:** Continue as per week eleven.

**WEEK THIRTEEN:** Continue as per week twelve.

**WEEK FOURTEEN:** Edit rough drafts with students.

**WEEK FIFTEEN:** Final class at Foshay. A clean final draft of all stories should be ready by the end of the class. All stories then must be reread and E-mailed to me no later than 5PM on Thursday.

**FINAL'S Class:** Turn in final paper. Class discussion.

\*\*\*\*\*

Joe Domanick is an award winning author and the Senior Fellow in Criminal Justice at USC's Institute for Justice and Journalism. Among the many publications he's written for are The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine, Maxim, Playboy, Los Angeles Magazine, the LA Weekly, The Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, Ms., Spin, the New York Daily News and the San Francisco Chronicle. Over 35 of his criminal justice related pieces have appeared in the Los Angeles Times opinion section.

His last two books have been character driven narratives. To Protect and to Serve: The LAPD's Century of War in the City of Dreams (Pocket Books hardcover) won the 1995 Edgar Allan Poe Award for best ("true-cime") non-fiction book. Cruel Justice: Three Strikes and the Politics of Crime in America's Golden State (UC Press, 2004), was named one of "the best books of 2004," by the San Francisco Chronicle. He is currently at work on a book about the failure of California's prison and parole systems.



USC ANNENBERG

# School of Journalism

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

*INSTRUCTORS: Please include the Plagiarism/Academic Integrity, the Academic Accommodations and the Internship statements in your course syllabi.*

## **PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Plagiarism is defined as taking ideas or writings from another and passing them off as one's own; in journalism, this includes appropriating the reporting of another without clear attribution. The following is the Annenberg School of Journalism's policy on academic integrity as published in the university catalogue: "Since its founding, the USC School of Journalism has maintained a commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct and academic excellence. Any student found guilty of plagiarism, fabrication, cheating on examinations, or purchasing papers or other assignments will receive a failing grade in the course and will be dismissed as a major from the School of Journalism. There are no exceptions to the school's policy."

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Any students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the professor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The office is located in the Student Union room 301 and their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

## **INTERNSHIPS**

The value of professional internships as part of the overall educational experience of our students has long been recognized by the School of Journalism. Accordingly, while internships are not required for successful completion of this course, any student enrolled in this course who undertakes and completes an approved, non-paid internship during this semester shall earn academic extra credit herein of an amount equal to one percent of the total available semester points for this course.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Students are advised to attend the first class meetings of their journalism classes or the instructors may drop them from their classes. The School of Journalism adheres to the university policy, which states "an instructor may replace any student who without prior consent does not attend...the first class session of the semester for once-a-week classes. It is then the student's responsibility to withdraw officially from the course through the Registration Department."

## **GRADING POLICIES**

### ***Undergraduate degrees:***

The School of Journalism expects its students to maintain at least a 2.7 (B-) grade point average in all journalism classes. Those who fall below this will receive additional counseling from faculty and advisement staff. Students are required to complete each

journalism class with at least a grade of C-. Journalism courses with a grade of D+ or below must be repeated.

Please note that the university's cumulative grade point average will include both grades in its calculations and students must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average to graduate from USC.

***Graduate Degrees:***

A minimum grade of C (2.0) is required in a course to receive graduate credit. Work graded C- or below is not acceptable for subject or unit credit toward any master's or doctoral program. A grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) on all units attempted at USC toward a graduate degree is required for graduation. In addition, a grade point average of at least 3.0 on all graduate work attempted at USC, whether or not all such units are applied toward the degree, is required.