ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE
Humanities Division
JRN 145 – Journalism Internship
Course Outline

Course Number & Name: JRN 145 Journalism Internship

Credit Hours: 1.0  Contact Hours: 1.0  Lecture: 1.0  Lab: N/A  Other: N/A

Prerequisites: Grades of “C” or better in JRN 141 and JRN 142

Co-requisites: None  Concurrent Courses: JRN 243 or JRN 245

Course Outline Revision Date: Fall 2010

Course Description: The Journalism Internship is designed to give students seeking a career in journalism/communications the practical experience towards completion of their program. Students will have the opportunity to work on the Essex County College Observer (ECCO), the College newspaper and/or other approved publications.

Course Goals: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. demonstrate accurate, fair and factual oral and written communication skills in reporting, revising, covering and editing of relevant news stories acceptable by professional journalism standards;
2. conduct effective research, interviews and evaluation of news;
3. demonstrate knowledge of fundamental concepts and theories in the presentation of news;
4. identify, access and apply appropriate technological and multi-media tools in writing and evaluating critical information and in layout and design of publishable news stories; and
5. explain the historical (professional, institutions), social (diversity, cultural), economic (businesses, advertisers) perspectives, and ethical guidelines and practices that govern the journalism profession, including the legal implications and constraints that inform the profession.

Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs): Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate accurate, fair and factual oral and written communication skills in reporting, revising, covering and editing of relevant news stories acceptable by professional journalism standards:
   1.1 communicate effectively in written and oral form;
   1.2 apply practice in informational and persuasive writing, evaluation and judgment of news;
   1.3 use the Associated Press Style and other media style and forms in writing, revising and editing stories for publication; and
   1.4 recognize interpersonal and intra-personal communication during the internship experience.
Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs) (continued):

2. Conduct effective research, interviews and evaluation of news:

   2.1 conduct effective research by using the library, internet and other scholarly publications; and
   2.2 describe major news elements in texts and publications (e.g., impact, proximity engagement, etc)

3. Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental concepts and theories in the presentation of news;

   3.1 compile and present weekly logs on the internship;
   3.2 organize body paragraphs including the nutgraph (2 – 3 sentences per paragraph);
   3.3 apply basic numeric and statistical concepts in news writing; and
   3.4 use critical and analytical skills in writing the documented paper

4. Identify, access and apply appropriate technological and multi-media tools in writing and evaluating critical information and in layout and design of publishable news stories:

   4.1 use technological and multi-media tools appropriate in documenting activity;
   4.2 recognize and compile information from internship source;
   4.3 use computers to research and write; and
   4.4 maintain professionalism and integrity throughout the internship

5. Explain the historical (professional, institutions), social (diversity, cultural), economic (businesses, advertisers) perspectives, and ethical guidelines and practices that govern the journalism profession, including the legal implications and constraints that inform the profession:

   5.1 explain the social factors that guide the profession;
   5.2 describe the economic potential of advertising in mass media;
   5.3 articulate the ethical guidelines and practices that govern the journalism profession; and
   5.4 describe the legal implications and constraints that inform the profession (e.g., libel, slander, etc.)

Methods of Instruction: Instruction will consist of weekly meetings and discussions on the internship progress.

Outcomes Assessment: A rubric is used to evaluate the articles that students write for and publish in the College newspaper for clarity, accuracy and the presence of course objectives. Checklist rubrics are used to evaluate interns’ log entries, other activities related to the internship experiences, and a documented paper describing the internship experience for the presence of course objectives as well.
Course Requirements: All students are required to:

1. Maintain professionalism at the internship location.
2. Maintain regular attendance.
3. Write 2 – 3 articles for the ECCO publication.
4. Submit a fully documented paper detailing the internship process.
5. Maintain and keep internship log entries.

Methods of Evaluation: Final course grades will be computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Components</th>
<th>% of final course grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 2 or 3 ECCO articles</td>
<td>25 – 35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students conduct research and interviews and check grammar and sources to write 2 – 3 articles for the College newspaper (ECCO). These articles will be published in ECCO, providing evidence that the students’ work met course objectives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Weekly discussions on logs, engagement &amp; interpersonal communications</td>
<td>15 – 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A perusal of internship log entries provides evidence of the extent to which students master course objectives, including conducting research and writing news stories and using appropriate, effective communication among other things.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Documented paper on the internship experience</td>
<td>10 – 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The internship paper shows evidence of the extent to which students have been able to implement, apply, and synthesize all course content and objectives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The instructor will provide specific weights, which lie in the above-given ranges, for each of the grading components at the beginning of the semester. Students must score at least 80% for the overall grade to pass the course.
Academic Integrity: Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
- cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
- interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
- fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

Student Code of Conduct: All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and as professional adults. Disruptive behavior at the internship site will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to meet deadlines and maintain regular attendance. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted on site, unless allowed by supervisor. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.
Course Content Outline: There is no text for this course. Course content and distribution of topics varies depending on the assigned internship experience.

Internship Process: Each semester, students are engaged in internships. The internship duration will be for two months with a minimum of two hours per week at the location. Interns will maintain and keep log entries and/or any other activity relevant to the internship experience which will be reviewed and graded.

At the end of their internship, students will write and submit a final paper based on their work-related internship experience.

External Evaluation: All interns are required to work under the direction of supervisors who will fill out an evaluation form or write a one page evaluation that provides feedback on knowledge and skills, work ethic and productivity of the student.