Moberly Area Community College
Common Syllabus

JRN120 Principles of American Journalism

Current Term

Instructor:
Office number:
Office hours:
Contact information:
Classroom number:
Class days and time:

Catalog Description:  JRN120 Principles of American Journalism (3-0-3)
Principles of American Journalism will focus on fundamental concepts of journalism in American society. Students will be introduced to the principles and practices of American Journalism. They will explore the functions of American journalism in society and in a global context. Study will include reading and writing of current issues and problems facing journalists in the digital age. (FA, SP)

Text(s):
Title: Principles of American Journalism
Author: Craft
Publisher: Pearson
ISBN: 978-0-558-69869-0

Title: Elements of Journalism
Author: Kovach
Edition: Rev 07
Publisher: Random

Other Required Materials: Per instructor’s policy

Purpose of Course: This course is designed to expose students to fundamental concepts of journalism in American society. Students will study changing practices in journalism, function and purpose of journalism, current issues in journalism, and problems.

Course Objectives: Principles of American Journalism is designed to give students an opportunity to develop a better understanding of journalism in society. By the end of the course, the student will:

• understand historical perspective of news and news delivery
• understand the purpose and need for news in society
• understand elements of journalism that guide journalists in their profession
• understand how news is made and how it is changing
• discuss the role of journalism in the community
• better understand media bias
• understand journalist’s role, rights, and responsibilities in society

Course Content:
1. Elements and principles of journalism in American society
2. Changes in news and news delivery
3. Purpose and function of news in a democratic society
4. Journalist’s role and responsibilities to its citizens
5. The citizen’s role in a democratic society
6. Who pays for journalism
7. Journalism’s unique position in society
8. Media bias
9. Sources and Online Research
10. Current issues as it relates to journalism

Assessment of Student Learning:
The grading scale will follow a standard of 100%-90% A, 89-80% B, 79-70% C, 69-60% D, Below 60% F.
Course will include the following activities:
Readings / Quizzes (approx. 150 pts.)
Activities and written projects (approx. 100 pts.)
Threaded discussions (approx. 50 pts)
Tests (approx. 300 pts)
Approximate points possible – 600

Expected Study Time Commitments: Students should expect to spend approximately 2 to 4 hours per week studying, reading, and working on assignments for each registered credit hour. For example, 6 to 12 study hours per week may be expected for a 3 credit hour class.

Description of Major Assignment(s)/Project(s):
1. Activities:
2. Writing Assignments and Projects:
3. Midterm and Final: Exams will cover text and lecture material.
4. Quizzes:

Schedule of Student Assignment and Activities: Instructors will identify a Student Assignment/Activities schedule. Instructors have the prerogative to construct the schedule by class periods, weeks, or an overview of topics to be covered.

Statement to Connect Course with General Education Outcomes: In compliance with MACC’s General Education outcomes, the student who successfully completes this course will be able to:
• **Communication:** Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively through oral, written, or digital channels using the English language or quantitative or other symbolic systems. Students should be able to write and speak with thoughtfulness, clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness; read and listen critically; and select channels appropriate to the audience and message.

**College / Instructor Policies:**

**Academic Dishonesty:** MACC board policy is as follows: “Academic dishonesty by students damages institutional credibility and unfairly jeopardizes honest students; therefore, it will not be tolerated in any form.” Forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following: violations of copyright law, plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, collusion, and other academic misconduct. Incidents of dishonesty regarding assignments, examinations, classroom/laboratory activities, and/or the submission of misleading or false information to the College will be treated seriously. The procedure for handling academic dishonesty is outlined in the Student Handbook (*Policy Handbook, M.010*). In cases of alleged academic dishonesty, the burden of proof is on the student, not on the instructor.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all class sessions for which they are enrolled. The College reserves the right to drop or withdraw students from courses due to lack of attendance.

Students need to be aware that dropping/being dropped from a course and their last date of attendance in the course may impact their financial aid.

MACC faculty are required to track attendance and report lack of attendance. An instructor must complete the appropriate steps to drop a student within one week following the student’s violation of the attendance policy. Additionally, a student’s attendance rate will be calculated based upon the first day the academic session begins (not the student’s date of enrollment in the course). If a student does not attend a course as defined below, the student will be dropped as “Never Attended.”

**Term Length Drop Calculations**

- **16-week:** Any student who misses two (2) consecutive weeks of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.
- **8-week:** Any student who misses one (1) consecutive week of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.
- **4-week:** Any student who misses two (2) consecutive days of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is
provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

**Intersession:** Any student who misses one (1) day of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

Acceptable justification may include, but is not limited to, family emergencies, illness or injury, college-approved co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and religious holidays.

### Definition of Course Attendance

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<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In Seat Course</strong></td>
<td>Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Virtual Course</strong></td>
<td>Being present, via appropriate platform, for scheduled class meetings/activities</td>
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| **Hybrid Course** | Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings and active participation in the online portion of the course which may include any or all of the following:  
  • Completion of quizzes or exams during class meetings and online  
  • Submission of assignments during class meetings and online  
  • Participation in discussions during class meetings and online |
| **Online Course** | Active participation in an online course includes the following:  
  • Completion of quizzes or exams  
  • Submission of assignments  
  • Participation in threaded discussions |

Simply logging into the Learning Management System (Canvas) and/or accessing the course and course related material does not constitute active participation for the online component of hybrid courses or for online courses. (*Policy Handbook*, I.090 & M.095)

**Tardiness:** Per instructor’s policy

**Make-up and late work:** Per instructor’s policy

**Extra-Credit:** Per instructor’s policy

**Student Email:** MACC Mail is the official student email system at MACC. Official college communication is sent via this email system. Students are responsible for checking their MACC Mail account regularly. Students may also receive notifications and reminders from MACC through the online learning platform. However, students should remain aware that the online
learning platform messaging system and MACC Mail (student email) system are two separate systems.

**ADA Statement:** Students who have disabilities that qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act may register for assistance through the Office of Access and ADA Services. Students are invited to contact the Access Office to confidentially discuss disability information, academic accommodations, appropriate documentation and procedures. For more information, please call either the Moberly office at (660) 263-4100 x 11240 or the Columbia office at (573) 234-1067 x 12120, or visit our web page at [http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office](http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office).

**Title IX Statement:** MACC maintains a strict policy prohibiting sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and sexual violence. All MACC employees, including faculty members, are considered mandated reporters of sexual misconduct and as such are expected to contact the Title IX Coordinator when they become aware, in conversation or in writing, of an incident of sexual misconduct. For more information on this policy or to learn about support resources, please see [http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy](http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy) (links to an external site) or contact Ms. Cheryl Lybarger, MACC’s Title IX Coordinator, at 660-263-4110, ext. 11369 or CherylLybarger@macc.edu.