

## NEWS WRITING

MCOM 3303, Spring 2026

Class Meets: 2 to 3:20 p.m. T-TH, RBS 2019

Instructor Name: John Daniel "Danny" Mogle

Office Location: 204A; Phone Number: 903-617-8196

Email: [jmogle@uttyle.edu](mailto:jmogle@uttyle.edu)

Best way to contact me is to text or call 903-617-8196

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. Monday and Wednesday or by appointment. I welcome and encourage office visits.

## DEPARTMENT SYLLABI

Use this link to access the syllabi for all Department of Communication courses

<https://www.uttyle.edu/communication/syllabi/Links to an external site.>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the purposes, characteristics, story forms and subject matter of new stories. Emphasis is placed on writing and analyzing the news story in its many forms including written, video, audio, multimedia and work appropriate for social media. Emphasis is on accuracy, verification, attribution.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Identify and apply writing styles consistent with delivering news that is clear, concise and accurately.
- Produce a news story in different formats including: written word, video, audio, multimedia and for social media.
- Demonstrate knowledge of proper sourcing, verification and attribution
- Produce multimedia stories that integrate photography, graphics, and videography to enhance meaning and impact.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMPETENCY

Upon completing the class you will be able to.

A. Media Literacy

- Identify and distinguish among different types of media and the messages they convey.
- Evaluate, and create media products across multiple formats and platforms.
- Assess the potential impact and influence of media messages on audiences and communities.

#### B. Legal and Ethical Principles.

- Apply the First Amendment and other legal principles to situations involving multimedia journalism and newswriting.
- Identify and evaluate legal and ethical issues that arise in the practice of multimedia journalism and newswriting.
- The ability to gather, produce, and distribute information adhering to professional standards of fairness, accuracy, and accountability.

#### C. Storytelling

- Apply correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and style in professional writing.
- Gather accurate information for true stories through effective interviewing, research, and direct observation.
- The ability to adapt writing style, structure, and tone to meet the needs of different markets, platforms, and audiences.

#### D. Media Ecology

- Adapt reporting and presentation based on the platform on which the story appears.
- The ability to adjust content, structure, and style based on the context in which the story is likely to be consumed.
- The ability to modify a story according to its intended use, purpose, and audience engagement.

#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Associated Press Stylebook. New York: Associated Press. Also available online at [www.apstylebook.org](http://www.apstylebook.org) (Links to an external site.). No older than 2022 edition. You will be required to write following AP Stylebook guidelines.

#### ADDITIONAL LEARNING GUIDES

Select readings and videos are posted in Canvas.

## MEDIA CONSUMPTION

Immerse yourself in mass media to get the most out of this class. Read newspapers and magazines in print and online. Watch news programs and listen to NPR. Look at YouTube, Facebook and other social media sites in the context of this class. Good sources for captivating narratives include Texas Monthly and Vanity Fair

Other recommendations:

- Clark, Roy Peter. (2006) *Writing Tools, 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer*.
- Strunk Jr., W., & White, E.B. *The Elements of Style* (4th Ed.), New York: Longman.

## SPECIAL COURSE NOTES

### Technology and Field Requirements

- Students must have access to a computer and a reliable internet connection.
- Some assignments require off-campus reporting, including visiting locations to gather information, conduct interviews, and capture media.

### Communication

If you have a question, concern or want to talk about something, call or send me a text at 903-617-8196. Tell me your name, what class you are in and why you are reaching out to me. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

- You also can send me an email at jmogle@uttyler.edu.
- Check the Announcements tab of Canvas regularly.
- If there is a valid reason that you cannot turn in work on time (such as becoming sick), contact me.

### Completing Work on Time

Each assignment is in Canvas and has a deadline. You must meet the deadline to receive full credit. Every assign lists the last day it will be accepted. Late work will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances.

### Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Students

As required by SB 412, SB 459, and SB 459/HB 1361, passed by the 88th Legislature in 2023, pregnant and parenting students are afforded different supports and rights. Part of

the support afforded to pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty members who are informed by a student that they need this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison to receive these supports and rights. Students should contact the Parenting Student Liaison at [parents@uttyler.edu](mailto:parents@uttyler.edu) and complete the Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form.

### Academic Honesty

The University's academy honesty policies apply. You, and only you, must do the work that you submit. However, you can receive help in organizing your stories and proofreading.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, unattributed use of others' work, disruption of class, and courtesy to, or harassment of, other students or instructors. Anyone caught cheating will earn a "0" for that assignment and will be subject to academic and disciplinary action.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit. Students caught plagiarizing will fail the assignment, may fail this class and will be subject to academic and disciplinary action. Go here for more:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/scholasticdishonesty.php> (Links to an external site.)

AI in the form of ChatGPT or Copilot -- much like search engines -- can be used to identify sources. If you use AI to generate writing, then it is not your work. This is a form of plagiarism. If it is deemed that an assignment has a large portion of AI generated content, then you could face disciplinary action.

### UT Tyler's Statement on AI

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is

considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

For this class, students may use AI to find topics, sources and improve grammar and clarity. Excessive use of AI to generate content violates the core principle of students doing their own work.

#### ASSIGNMENT WEIGHTS/POINTS VALUE

- Each assignment has an assigned value, instructions and information on how the grade is determined.
- No assignment is weighted more heavily than any other. Each assignment has information on how the grade is determined.

Students have the ability to earn 1,120 pts.

- News Product Creation -- 870 pts.
- Assignments, Discussion, Reflection -- 150 pts.
- Attendance -- 100 pts.

#### GRADING SCALE

The final grade represents the number of points earned as a percentage to the total points available.

- A: 90-100%;
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 59% and below

Check Canvas frequently to learn the status of your grade.

#### LATE WORK AND MAKEUP EXAMS

All assignments have a deadline. Late assignments will receive a deduction. Most assignments will not be accepted if they are turned in more than 48 hours after they are

due. Work can be made up for illnesses, family emergencies or an excused absence recognized by the University.

## CALENDAR

**Census Date:** The census date for the Spring 2026 is Jan. 26. This is the final date for many enrollment-related actions, including adding new courses, changing sections, or dropping courses without incurring grades of "W" or "Q". Census is also the second drop for non-payment date each academic session. See the Office of the Registrar website for additional details.

**Final exam:** No final exam is given for this course.

## WEEK BY WEEK AND GRADED COURSE WORK

Here is the week-by-week schedule. Sometimes circumstances require changes in planned coursework. Any changes will be announced in class and on Canvas. All deadlines and point values are posted in Canvas.

**Week by Week:** Here is the week-by-week rundown of what will be covered. Sometimes circumstances and scheduling require changes. Any changes will be announced through Announcements in Canvas.

This is a newswriting class. Circumstances -- such as breaking news -- could change when stories are due and may not be reflected at the first of the semester. New assignments could be added or changed based on circumstances.

LOOK IN CANVAS for due dates of assignments.

Week of Jan. 13, 15: Being innovative with story forms

- Exploring innovation assignment - 25 pts.

Jan. 20, 22: The Community Service Project

- Visit to the East Texas Food Bank. Jan. 22.
- Community Service -- 150 pts.

Jan 27, 29: Being innovative with AI

- Is AI Good for journalism - 25 pts.
- Using AI to write a story - 100 pts.

- How Did I Use AI - 50

Feb. 3, 5: The Social Media Influence

- The social media news story - 80 pts.

Feb. 10, 12: Working with a News Release

- The story from a news release. - 90 pts.

Feb. 17-19: Writing Quickly

- Need for Speed -- 50 pts.

Feb. 24-26: The Big Event

- Big Event -- 100 pts.
- Event Takes Place Feb. 28

March 3-5: The Fresh 15

- FRESH 15 -- 100 pts.
- Event takes place March 7

March 10, 12: Spring Break

March 17, 19 Community Service Story Work Week

March 24-26: Audio

- The Audio Story -- 100 pts.

March 31-April 2

- What's the Problem 1 -- 20 pts.
- What's the Problem 2 -- 10 pts.
- What's the Problem 3 --20 pts.

April 6, 9; April 13, 16: Your Multimedia Story

- Multimedia - 150 pts.
- Reflection - 50 pts.

April 20, 23: Your multimedia story presentations

