THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS
Course Outline

Title: Introduction to News Writing
Abbreviation and Number: JRNW210
School: Communication and Creative Arts
Department: Journalism and Communication
Credits: 3
Course Sequence: ( X ) Fall (   ) Spring (   ) Fall and Spring
Hours Per Week: ( 1 ) Lecture ( 2 ) Seminar (   ) Laboratory (   ) Studio (   ) Kitchen
Pre-requisite(s): JRNW110 and ENG 119/ENGW119 or permission of Chair/Instructor
Co-requisite(s): None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course takes a skills oriented approach to training and educating students in news gathering and reporting. Students research, develop and write news stories for news publications.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
1) Report and write straight news stories using basic newsgathering techniques while observing news construction conventions;
2) Identify newsworthy angles with a topical peg and present them in the appropriate news format while adhering to a style guide;
3) Interview sources and conduct research for the purposes of writing informed, accurate and appropriately sourced articles;
4) Explore concepts of newsworthiness and reader engagement in the context of news values; and
5) Explain the role of newspaper journalism in the community and the relationship between professional practice and personal acquisition of practical skills.

COURSE CONTENT
I. Analysing News
   A. Media in The Bahamas
   B. News story styles and characteristics, formats, layouts
   C. News values
      i. Galtung and Ruge
      ii. Harcup and O'Neill

II. The Straight News Formula
    A. The news pyramid and 5 Ws
    B. Rules and guidelines
    C. Adhering to a style guide (College of The Bahamas Journalism Style Guide)

III. Conducting Interviews
    A. Pre-interview research and preparation
    B. Interviewing styles and approaches

IV. Court Reporting
    A. The court system and court reporting conventions
    B. Covering a court case
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V. Covering Public Meetings
   A. Agendas, minutes and reports
   B. Generating news stories

VIII. District Reporting
   A. Identifying, researching and developing story leads
   B. Covering a beat

ASSESSMENT
Class assignments........................................ 30%
Mid-semester style guide test........................ 15%
Essay.............................................................. 15%
Portfolio........................................................ 40%
Total.............................................................100%

REQUIRED TEXT
Course Packet

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS/MATERIALS
Articles from the Internet, examples of outstanding reportage and journalistic writing and other hand-outs will be distributed.


NEWSPAPERS
The Abaconian (http://www.abaconian.com)
The Bahama Journal (http://www.jonesbahamas.com)
The Freeport News
The Guardian (http://observer.guardian.co.uk)
The Nassau Guardian (http://thenassauguardian.com)
The Punch (http://sites.google.com/site/thepunchbahamas/home)
The Tribune (http://www.tribune242.com)