

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

## **MASS-126 Introduction to Journalism 3 Semester Hours**

### **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

#### **Description**

This course will provide a framework for the practical applications required to operate as a journalist in the twenty-first century. Students will discuss the role and responsibility of press in a free society and will benefit from the opportunity to evaluate popular journalistic mediums and their respective contents while applying their conclusions to their own decisions and styles as future journalists. They will take on the role of journalist as they adhere to the professional standards of news, feature, and opinion pieces for a magazine or newspaper. Finally, students will implement the writing process, from research, interviewing, and note taking through editing, proofreading, and potential publication. Prerequisite: ENGL-121 or ENGL-101. (3 hours weekly)  
NOTE: Also listed as ENGL-126.

#### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the legal, economic, technological, social, and historical influences and challenges of the profession.
2. Analyze various journalistic media for its ethics and professionalism.
3. Apply sound ethical and professional judgments regarding choice and use of sources.
4. Identify various types of journalistic writing (i.e. news, feature, opinion).
5. Apply journalistic standards to write news, feature, and opinion headlines, leads, articles, and photo cut lines.
6. Identify and write for specific purposes and audiences in a range of journalistic media.
7. Apply journalistic terminology effectively towards analysis of various journalistic media.
8. Understand the roles of journalistic professionals (i.e. writer, editor, photographer, press service).
9. Research a topic effectively through variety of news-gathering techniques.
10. Edit and proofread his/her own writing for relevance, credibility, accuracy, comprehensiveness, and interpretation.
11. Utilize technology effectively to research, write, and communicate electronically.
12. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of adhering to deadlines and word count limitations.

#### **Major Topics**

- I. Press and Society
- II. Ethics and Professionalism
- III. Types of Journalistic Writing
- IV. Journalistic Writing Standards
- V. Journalistic Professions and Terminology
- VI. The Writing Process

## **Course Requirements**

Grading/exams: Specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance in the class (i.e. grading) will be described in the individual class syllabus, but at least 60% of the final grade will be based on writing, both formal and informal.

## **Other Course Information**

This course is a Humanities core course and an Arts and Sciences elective.

This course may be team-taught or supplemented by guest lectures from field professionals.