

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**MASS-126**

**Introduction to Journalism**

**3 Semester Hours**

**Humanities Core Course**

## **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. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as ENGL-126.

### **Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning**

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

### **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.