

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Spring 2019
Discipline:	Journalism and Media Communication
Course Number and Title:	JTC 328 Feature Writing
Division:	Upper
Faculty Name:	Gary Rice
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: One (1) newswriting course

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A well-crafted feature story can inform, entertain, provoke and inspire. In this class, students will learn and polish the techniques to do all those things and more. Students will sharpen research, reporting, interviewing and writing skills as they produce a portfolio of stories on a wide range of issues and topics, including international relations, human rights, health, the environment, sports, entertainment, global cooperation, culture and social justice. Subject matter will derive from the four continents we visit during our voyage.

Assignments will include profiles, human interest stories, Q&A stories, observation stories, travel stories and in-depth reporting. Students can expect one-on-one coaching and critiques as they develop and write their stories. Freelance writing and how to pitch stories for publication also will be explored.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To develop a wide range of interviewing skills and techniques.
- To develop story ideas from scratch and think in terms of how an idea can become reality.
- To incorporate observation and perception into everyday reporting skills.
- To craft a well-written human interest story that makes the reader care about the subject of the article.
- To produce in-depth stories that can captivate a reader.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Associated Press
TITLE: Associated Press Style Book and Briefing on Media Law 2018
PUBLISHER: Basic Books
ISBN: 978-1541672383
DATE/EDITION: June 12, 2018 Paperback

Daily Class Schedule (subject to change)

Depart Ensenada, Mexico — January 5

A1—January 7: Introduction of class and syllabus. Assignment 1: Who are you? Five questions that will help the reader understand who you are. Due Jan. 9.

A2—January 9: Discuss Assignment 1. Lecture: Basics of AP Style and grammar, with in-class exercises.

A3—January 11: In-class AP Style and grammar exercises. Lecture: Interviewing techniques.

Honolulu, Hawaii — January 12

A4—January 14: Lecture: Styles and techniques of profile writing. Assignment 2: Profile story of an interesting character aboard ship.

January 16—International Date Line crossing (Lost Day)

A5—January 17: Lecture: Styles and techniques of profile writing. Students will discuss profile subjects and/or rough drafts from Assignment 2 with professor.

Study Day (No Class) — January 19

A6—January 20: Assignment 2 due. In-class discussion and feedback from Assignment 2

A7—Jan. 22 Lecture: Food and restaurant reviews and features. Assignment 3: Restaurant and food reviews and profiles in Kobe. (See Field Class Proposal 1) Due Jan. 29

Kobe, Japan — January 24-28

A8—January 29: In-class discussion and feedback from Assignment 3. Lecture on Assignment 4: “Music scene in Shanghai.” (See Field Class Proposal 2, which will be revised into an independent field assignment if it is not chosen as an independent field class).

A10—February 14: Class discussion and individual consultation with professor regarding writing of Assignment 4.

Study Day (No Class) — February 16

A11—February 17: Assignment 4 due and discussed in class. Lecture on Assignment 5—Tourism story based on experiences in Yangon.

Yangon, Myanmar — February 19-23

A12—February 24: Individual consultation with professor, discuss rough drafts of Assignment 5

A13— February 26: Assignment 5 due and discussed in class.

Cochin, India — February 28 – March 5

A14—March 6: Lecture on researching and reporting an in-depth story

Study Day (No Class) — March 7

A15—March 9: Lecture on researching and reporting an in-depth story, as well as free-lancing and pitching stories for publication.

Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11

A16—March 12: Lecture on alternative methods of presenting information, focusing on sidebars, information boxes, presentation of statistics in a compelling way. Assignment 6: Second profile of person aboard ship, using some forms of alternative information presentation.

A17—March 14: Assignment 6 due and discussed in class. Readings assigned on water shortage in Cape Town. **(Readings on this story will be developed and reflective of the situation in coming months. This section of the syllabus will be updated as departure time nears.)**

A18—March 16 : Lecture will introduce and discuss Assignment 7— In-depth feature on how the water shortage has affected Cape Town, based on interviews, research, observations during Cape Town stop. Story will be built with field work and interviews in Cape Town. Story counts as double grade. Discussion of sources, how to gather information in Cape Town.

Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23

A19—March 24: Individual conferences with students on Assignment 7, based on field work and interviews in Cape Town

A20—March 26: Individual conferences with students on Assignment 7, based on field work and interviews in Cape Town.

A21—March 28: Assignment 7 due and discussed in class. Lecture introducing Assignment 8— This in-depth feature—which will serve as the final exam—will be based on one of the in-country programs during our visit to Ghana. Students pick program of their choice that involves interaction with Ghana residents. Story will count as a double grade and will serve as the final exam.

Tema, Ghana — March 30 - April 1

Takoradi, Ghana — April 2-3

A22–April 4: Individual meetings with students on Assignment 8

A23–April 6: Individual meetings with students on Assignment 8
Study Day (No Class) – April 8

A24– April 9: Trip journals (See field assignment section of syllabus) will be turned in and discussed in class.

Casablanca, Morocco – April 11 to 14

A25–April 15: Exam day—Assignment 8 due and discussed in class. Wrap-up of class.

Arrive Hamburg, Germany – April 19

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class & Assignment

[**Field Class proposals listed below are not finalized.** Confirmed ports, dates, and times will be posted to the Spring 2019 Courses and Field Class page when available.]

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

Field class proposals

Proposal Title #1: “The Cuisine of Kobe”

Country: Japan

Idea: This field course will be not only about eating the incredible food of Kobe, but writing about it. Students will venture to as many as three restaurants to do research for travel articles highlighting the cuisine of Kobe. As part of the experience, students will have an opportunity to interview one or more of the city’s most famous chefs. The course will highlight Kobe’s specialties and hot dining spots, but also seek to explore out-of-the way or neighborhood eating places that tourists never find.

Objectives:

1. Research cuisine in a foreign country with an eye toward writing for a tourist audience;
2. Experience new tastes and dishes and develop skills to explain those experiences;
3. Learn first-hand the secrets of the cooks, chefs and restaurant owners;
4. Gain knowledge of how a travel story with substance is researched and created.

Assignment:

Students will write a tourism feature story using the information gathered during this field class.

Proposal Title #2: "The Music Scene of Shanghai"

Country: Shanghai, China

Idea: This field course will serve as the foundation for a travel article about the abundant live music scene in this exciting city. Students first will meet with a Shanghai entertainment writer to get his or her take on what covering this giant topic involves. We will also seek to meet with an up-and-coming Shanghai-based band about the ins and outs of making it in the music business. Then we will cap off the experience with visits to at least two venues offering live music.

Objectives:

1. Research the music scene in a foreign country with an eye toward writing for a tourist audience;
2. Get the inside information from musicians actively involved in the local scene;
3. Hear two entertainment writers explain the high points and low points of writing about music on a regular basis.
4. Gain knowledge of how a music scene story is researched and created.

Independent Field Assignments

Independent work at our ports-of-call are crucial elements of this class. Besides incorporating information gained through interviews, observation and experience into your specific story writing assignments, students will also maintain a journal chronicling at least five port stops. Your entries will include brief descriptions of what you learned and experienced—no more than one double-spaced page per port stop—on at least five of our stops, your choice of ports. You are required to meet at least once with the professor to review your journal work before the end of March. You will turn in this journal and discuss your work in class on April 9.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

How your grade is figured:

Story assignments, including double-graded Assignment 8 which serves as the final: 60%

Field class assignment: 20%*

Port Stop Journal: 10%

Quizzes, in-class and outside class exercises: 10%

*Attendance at field class is mandatory or course grade will be a zero

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: Central Intelligence Agency
TITLE: CIA World Fact Book (Vol. 1)
PUBLISHER: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
ISBN #: 1981957413
DATE/EDITION: 2018

AUTHOR: Central Intelligence Agency
TITLE: CIA World Fact Book (Vol. 2)
PUBLISHER: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
ISBN #: 1981957561
DATE/EDITION: 2018

AUTHOR: Central Intelligence Agency
TITLE: CIA World Fact Book (Vol. 3)
PUBLISHER: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
ISBN #: 1981957588
DATE/EDITION: 2018

FILM REQUEST:

None

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

CIA World Fact Book 2018 (electronic edition)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The professor will hand out printed material during the course.