Course Syllabus
MCM 320.090 (Class) and MCM 320L.020 (Lab)
Sports Writing
Spring 2019

Instructor: Amy Roquemore
Office: BPSC Room 2.308
Phone: (936) 468-4703
Email: aroquemore@sfasu.edu (Please do not use D2L email to contact me.)
Office Hours: 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment. Appointments are available upon request. Please call my office or email me to schedule a meeting time. I will make every effort to meet with you as soon as possible—the same day in most cases.

Required Texts:


*The Associated Press Style Book and Briefing on Media Law

Course Description:
Fundamentals of writing about sports for print, digital and social media. Writing enhanced. Prequesite: MCM 205 with a grade of C or better.

Course Requirements:
Students will practice reporting, writing and editing sports articles, including game recaps; review correct grammar and punctuation, newswriting style, and Associated Press style as it relates to sports writing; participate in class discussions about current topics in sports; create and update a sports writing blog; and read and critique professional sports writing.

Program Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrate appropriate writing and editing skills across diverse multimedia platforms.
2. Gather, analyze, organize and synthesize information on contemporary topics to develop a news story.
3. Demonstrate the application of contemporary technology, terminology and techniques in the news gathering process.
4. Understand effective visual language and how to apply it to convey messages and enhance the communication process.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrate journalistic writing skills across print, broadcast and online platforms.
2. Understand and utilize research and investigative techniques for news stories across multiple platforms.
3. Demonstrate the ability to utilize contemporary newsgathering and writing technology.
4. Demonstrate how to create and present a story simultaneously in print, broadcast and online platforms.

Acceptable Student Behavior:
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Grading Policy:
Students will receive grades and feedback for each assignment. Missing assignments will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Course grades will be awarded on an A through F scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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Semester Grading Formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab and Writing Assignments</td>
<td>50 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blogging</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Writing Journal</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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IMPORTANT: Attendance Policy:

1. Regular class attendance will not be recorded.
2. Students will not be allowed to make up lab assignments or other writing assignments, blog posts or journal entries. (Lowest lab grade will be dropped.)
3. Documentation such as a doctor’s note will be required to make up any missed quiz or exam.
4. In rare circumstances, such as an absence necessitated by an SFA-sanctioned competition, event or activity, students will be allowed to turn in late work for full credit. Arrangements for this must be approved by the instructor ahead of time.
5. If you do not plan to come to class, do not take this course.

Classroom Policies:
1. Turn off all cell phones and other digital devices and remove ear pieces before class begins. Do not use your cell phones for text messaging or checking messages during class.
2. If you are texting or otherwise online during class, you will be asked to leave.
3. Promptness is expected. Please plan accordingly to get to class on time.
4. If you miss a class day, it is your responsibility to contact a reliable classmate to get that day’s notes and assignments before you come to the instructor with questions.
5. Give the instructor (and other presenters) your full attention for the duration of the class. Side conversations, playing on your phone, sleeping, etc. is distracting and rude.
6. Your chance to earn your grade ends when the semester ends.

Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1.) Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2.) falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or, (3.) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: (1.) Submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2.) Submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and, (3.) Incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will
automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities:**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Course Calendar:**

The class schedule is tentative. All assignments and dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.