**Course Description**
You will be a feature reporter, and your reports will focus on the lives and experiences of those who study and work at SFA and local community. You will determine your story topics, research them, interview sources, and produce news reports in the narrative style. You will read (and read about) narrative journalism and analyze them for style, content and structure. You will study literary devices and writing techniques and then practice using them in your own writing.

By the end of the semester, you will have experience producing narrative journalism under deadline pressure. You will also have a significant reporting file that will make you competitive for an internship or professional employment.

**Program Learning Outcomes**
1) Demonstrate the ability to write effectively across a variety of platforms appropriate to the discipline.
2) Gather, analyze, organize and synthesize discipline-appropriate research and communicate information about it.
3) Understand the role of journalism and media in society.
4) Comprehend the legal and ethical principles relating to journalism.
5) Demonstrate the application of media technology, terminology and techniques.

**Student Learning Outcomes**
1) Demonstrate proper grammar, writing styles, and editing through practice and repetition.
2) Modify writing styles to fit multiple narrative formats.
3) Compose social media messages to demonstrate how they can be used professionally.
4) Refine skills and knowledge for potential internships and employment in the mass communication industry.

**Required Text**

**Additional Reading Provided in Class**
Pulitzer Prize Winning Articles
Grading
Your final grade will be determined by the following 1000-point formula:

Brief Article = 100 pts.
Trends and Issues Article = 150 pts.
Calendar Connection Article = 150 pts.
How-To Article 150 pts.
Profile Article = 200 pts.
In Class Discussions/Practice Work = 250

Grade Scale:
A = 1000 – 900 points
B = 899– 800 points
C = 799 – 700 points
D = 699 – 600 points
F = 699 points or lower

Tentative Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics &amp; Readings</th>
<th>Activities &amp; Assignments</th>
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| October 15 | Ch. 1- What Makes a Story Interesting?  
Ch. 11- Briefs: Shortcuts to Publication |                                         |
| October 20 | Ch. 8- Where to Begin: The First 100 Words            |                                         |
| October 22 | Ch. 2- How to Find an Original Idea  
Ch. 16- Writing About Trends and Issues | Brief Article Due                       |
| October 27 | Ch. 4- Digging Deep for Original Stories  
Ch. 3- Strong Angles and Focused Ideas |                                         |
<p>| October 29 | Pulitzer Example: <em>Fatal Distractions</em>               |                                         |
| November 3  | Ch. 15- Making a Timely Calendar Connection          | Trends and Issue Article Due           |
| November 5  | Ch. 5- Talking Pointers: How to Conduct Great Interviews |                                         |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Pulitzer Example: <em>Pearls Before Breakfast</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Ch. 14- Eliminating the Ho-Hum from the How-To</td>
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<td>November 17</td>
<td>Ch. 10- Anecdotes: Mining for Gold</td>
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<td>November 19</td>
<td>Ch. 12- Profiles: Slices of Life</td>
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<td>November 24&amp; 26</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Pulitzer Example: The Umpire’s Son</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>Ch. 13- Writing Nonfiction Narratives</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Pulitzer Example <em>A Most American Terrorist: The Making of Dylann Roof</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>Writing/Interview/Questions Day</td>
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**Required for All Feature Reports**
All feature reports must contain at least three human sources. Reports must also be accompanied by a source list, which is to be included at the bottom of your report. For human sources, include their names along with their contact information. For online sources, include the web address. Use double spaced 12-point Times New Roman font.

**Pay Attention to These Paragraphs about Late Work, Fabrication, and Plagiarism**
Failing to turn in a feature report – or any assignment – at the time it is due will result in a grade of zero. The concept of “late” doesn’t exist in journalism, and it doesn’t exist in this class, either. There are no exceptions. Remember, you will have two to three weeks to complete each feature report. Plagiarizing from other sources and fabricating information will kill your career, so just don’t do it. You will receive an “F” for the course regardless of when the plagiarism or fabrication occurred (even if it is on the last report of the semester).
Re-Writing Requirements
The first draft of your report will be graded and returned to you.

Your reports will be graded on proper use of grammar, spelling, readability, Associated Press writing style, subject material, and all other instructions included in this syllabus. Once your assignment has been returned, you must revise it based on my comments. When you turn in the revised version via Brightspace, the assignment’s grade will be by 10 points. Revised copies are due the next class period after the original assignment was turned in.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to do so on time. Your attendance is vitally important to the success of this class and your learning. The In-class exercises are designed to improve your professional writing skills, and these exercises are part of your total graded assignments. **You cannot make up any missed In-class assignments for any reason.**

As for your remaining assignments, even if you know you’re going to miss class, you are still responsible for getting the assignment turned in on time. E-mail a classmate and have him or her print it and turn it in for you (while understanding that the risk and responsibility lies completely with you if the assignment isn’t turned in). **Do not send any assignments through E-mail.**

SFA Policies

Face Mask Policy
Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


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) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; 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 are (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 an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper 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 (5.5)**
Add additional information as needed to meet your departmental or course needs. 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. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

**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/.

**Lab Facility, Computers, and Printers**
I know it’s tempting, but food and/or drinks are not allowed in the lab due to the nature of the equipment. Please help us with this policy by being responsible with yourself first. Printing that is unrelated to your registered class (which uses Boynton 202 or 209 labs) may revoke ALL printing privileges. Printing to the Color Printer requires approval and must be for specific class assignments. Lab assistants are available for general assistance. If you experience a problem with computer equipment, please note the problem in detail, which computer you used, and report this information to the lab assistant.

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