Mississippi College
School of Christian Studies and the Arts
Communication Department
JOU 333 – Journalism I
Course Syllabus for Spring 2013
Accelerated Degree Program - Session 1

Instructor: Jarrod Ravencraft, BS, MS, CPM

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Textbook: *Writing and Reporting News* by Carole Rich, Seventh Edition (ISBN: 978-0-495-56987-9); *The Associated Press Style Book*, access to daily newspapers such as *The Clarion-Ledger*, *USA Today* and *The Wall Street Journal*; and access to monitor news events on radio, TV and online.

Course Description (3 credit hours): This course is a practical guide on how to write clearly and to the point for students interested in a career in journalism or public relations. The course will emphasize basic writing styles and helpful interviewing techniques. Students will be asked to brainstorm and develop story ideas before they begin writing stories. The emphasis will be on writing clear and concise news stories. Students will be encouraged to submit their best work to the *Mississippi College Collegian* or other publications such as weekly newspapers.

Academic Integrity: Mississippi College students are expected to be honest. The college and this instructor do not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, forgery or misuse of college documents. The penalty may include loss of credit and possible dismissal from the college. The policy is stated in the *Mississippi College Tomahawk* and in Policy 2.19. Copies of the policy are available on the Mississippi College Web.

Course Presentation: The course presentation is a combination of lecture, discussion, classroom activity, reading assignments, and written and oral projects. The emphasis will be on classroom writing and preparing students to easily access information to make their stories more compelling.

Course Requirements: Material on any test will come from information covered in class. There will be a number of in-class assignments, and there will be some out of class assignments to gather information for news stories. There will be in-class exercises showing skills such as interviewing techniques. There will be two tests administered during the semester that will be key components of grades, but class participation, writing assignments and class exercises will also be considered in the student's final grade. The final grade is calculated by determining an average of the tests, class assignments, attendance and class participation.

Grading Scale:

A = 91-100
B = 81-90
C = 71-80
D = 61-70
F = 60-0

Attendance Policy: The class attendance policy of Mississippi College will be strictly enforced. Students are expected to attend class and be punctual. The undergraduate catalog states that a student may not miss more than 25 percent of the class and receive credit. After a student has missed more than four times in an ADP class, he/she may not receive credit for the class. It is the Instructor's option to deduct two points for each absence above three from the final grade. The last day to drop this class is **February 14**. Students cannot withdraw after this day with a W (passing) unless three criteria are met: (1) extenuating circumstances that are clearly outside the student's control, (2) passing the course at the time of withdrawal and (3) does not have excessive absences at the time of withdrawal.

Online Learning Component: In addition to traditional classroom-based learning, this class uses the course management system MCMoodle to facilitate learning online. Students have access to MCMoodle by virtue of enrollment in this course. MCMoodle can be accessed at moodle.mc.edu. The student's assigned MC email address and password serve as login information. Students are expected to be able to navigate MCMoodle and complete any activities assigned through MCMoodle by the instructor. Tutorials on how to navigate MCMoodle are available on the MCMoodle home page and on the Communication Department's web site. Students may also contact me for assistance.

Tuition Refund: A tuition refund cannot be made on dropped classes after the first week of classes.

Students with Disabilities: In order for a student to receive disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, he or she must schedule an individual meeting with the Director of Student Counseling Services immediately upon recognition of their disability (if their disability is known they must come in before the semester begins or make an appointment immediately upon receipt of their syllabi for the new semester). The student must bring with them written documentation for a medical physician and/or licensed clinician that verifies their disability. If the student has received prior accommodations, they must bring written documentation of those accommodations (example Individualized Education Plan from the school system). Documentation must be current (within 3 years). The student must meet with SCS face-to-face and also attend two (2) additional follow up meetings (one mid semester before or after midterm examinations and the last one at the end of the semester). Please note that the student may also schedule additional meetings as needed for support through SCS as they work with their

professor throughout the semester. Note: Students must come in each semester to complete their Individualized Accommodation Plan (example: MC student completes fall semester IAP plan and even if student is a continuing student for the spring semester they must come in again to complete their spring semester IAP plan). Student Counseling Services is located on the 4th floor of Alumni Hall or they may be contacted via email at mbryant@mc.edu . You may also reach them by phone at 601-925-7790. Dr. Morgan Bryant is director of MC Student Counseling Services.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices: There will be no tolerance for interruptions by cell phones or other electronic devices in this class. Please leave these items in your vehicle or turn them off during class.

Test Re-schedule: Scheduled tests will be made-up only when there is an excused absence. The "Make-up Test" must be taken within a two-week period after the regularly scheduled test. Any class activity that is missed due to an excused absence will be re-assigned. If it is a project that requires group activity, the project will be made-up with an alternate assignment.

Online Links:

- Communication Department: www.mccomdepartment.com
- Online Programs: www.mccomdepartment.com/online.htm
- Online Student Orientation Video: http://www.mccomdepartment.com/online-orientation.htm
- COM 050: Online Communication Student Orientation in Moodle, http://moodle.mc.edu/course/view.php?id=4525