

Anglo-American College in Prague

Reporting II

JRN 201

Description of Course

The course is an introduction to journalistic reporting and writing. After a period of training in news-writing and news-gathering techniques, students research and write their own stories for the college's online newspaper, *At the Lennon Wall*. Early class lessons will examine what news is, news story organization, how to find story ideas, how to conduct interviews and how to find and evaluate information. Though the focus is on writing for a newspaper or news agency, the course material is applicable to all forms of journalistic writing, including public relations writing.

Aims of the Course

To provide students with the practical and professional skills necessary to perform as news reporters.

Methodology

The class will be informal and interactive. Students will learn by doing. Their stories will be discussed and critiqued in class by the instructor and by the students themselves. The instructor will also meet with students individually to discuss their work. As members of a newspaper staff, the reporters will work with the co-editors of the student paper and the instructor to develop story ideas for upcoming issues and discuss how their stories can be effectively researched and written. The stories will be critiqued in class, and often the reporters will be asked to acquire more information or to do rewriting.

Assessment

Graded assignments will be given numerical equivalents and will be averaged over the semester. The result will be important in determining the final grade. The instructor will also take into consideration the improvement of the reporter, his or her attitude, work ethic and willingness to work as a team member in production of the college's paper.

Attendance

Attendance is required and students are expected to be at class on time. Three absences will result in a reduction of one full letter grade; more absences will further affect one's grade. Three instances of tardiness are equal to one absence.

Deadlines

Once established, deadlines must be met; otherwise a news operation cannot function. Therefore students must turn their stories in on time. If a story is turned in after deadline, the reporter will receive no credit.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism - using others' language or ideas without attribution-is a cardinal sin among journalists. Such use is considered a form of theft and in many news organizations is cause for dismissal. No credit will be given for a plagiarized story, and penalties will be imposed in accordance with AAC Policy on cheating and plagiarism.

Reading Assignments

Students are expected to have read materials distributed to them in class or made available in the college library. They will include:

Getting the Story: Reporting, Writing and Editing from the Center for Foreign Journalists.

The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law

Writing for Journalists by Wynford Hicks with Sally Adams and Harriett Gilbert.

Students should also keep up with current events. At a minimum, they should read *The Prague Post*, *At the Lennon Wall Online* and another newspaper, either from their home country, if available, or from Europe or the U.S. *The European Wall Street Journal* is available in the Library, as is *The Prague Post*. Glancing through the magazines in the AAC's reading room will help keep you informed and give you ideas for stories. Particularly recommended for international issues and commentary are *Newsweek* and *The Economist*; *New Presence*, *The Prague Tribune* and the *Prague Business Journal* are useful for local and regional issues. Online, magazines worth keeping up with in the region include the *Prague Monitor* and *Transitions Online*.