

**Course Title:** Journalism 1-2

**Grade Level:** 10 - 12, Elective

**Length of Course:** 2 semesters

**Prerequisites:** Demonstrated proficiency in writing; the course is not designed to help poor writers. “B” or better in English courses (or) strong recommendation by English teacher. Ability to work without supervision

**Credit:** 5 per semester

**Course Description:**

The course has two major objectives: to orient the student to the role and impact of the mass media on American society and to train the student in each of the working aspects of modern journalism so that he can be an effective worker in student publications.

The course explores the history and development of American journalism, the media as a formative element on society and as shaped by social and political pressures propaganda, legal restrains and the rights of the individual, public relations techniques.

The course intends to train students in news-gathering techniques, writing to prescribed forms, and in all areas of editing. The upper—staffs of the student newspaper and yearbook are supplied by this course.

**Scope and Sequence:**

I. Writing and Editing News

- A. News stories: practice in writing
  - 1. Leads by grammatical form
  - 2. Leads by journalistic rule
- B. Features, editorials, sports stories
  - 1. Distinctive aspects
  - 2. Function
  - 3. Gathering material and writing
- C. Copy reading and proofreading
  - 1. Newspaper style book
  - 2. Symbols for correction
  - 3. Utilization in own material
- D. Typography and page design
  - 1. Headline writing and rules
  - 2. Page layout

II. American Journalism: History, Development, Problems, Practices

- A. The role of the modern newspaper
  - 1. Definition: its character and, role
  - 2. Ethics and limitations in a democratic society

- B. The newspaper and the public
  - 1. Reader preferences and editorial policy
  - 2. The newspaper's influence
  - 3. Presentation of fact and opinion
  
- III. The Controlled Press
  - 1. Journalism in a capitalistic environment
  - 2. Pressure groups and advertisers
  
- IV. Publicity and Public Relations
  - 1. Space grabbing
  - 2. The function of the public relations man
  
- V. The Newspaper and the Law
  - 1. Newspaper's legal limitations
  - 2. Libel
  - 3. The individual's legal and ethical rights
  
- VI. News of Anti—Sociability
  - 1.. Newspapers and crime
  - 2. Sensationalism and. sex
  
- VII. Changing Conditions
  - 1. Other media: radio, TV
  - 2. Technology and change
  - 3. Social change
  - 4. The future newsmen: his role and identity

**Instructional Materials:**

Textbook:

Scholastic Journalism, English & Hack, (Iowa State Press)

Supplementary Book:

Newsroom Problems and Policies, MacDougall, D.D., (Dover Publications)