



Lead City University, Ibadan
Faculty of Environmental, Management and Social Sciences
Department of Mass Communication

COURSE PARTICULARS

Course Code: CMT 111

Course Title: Newswriting

No. of Units: 2

Status: Compulsory

LECTURERS' DETAILS

Name: Isiade, F. F. A.

Qualifications: HND, MCA, Mphil

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Area of Specialization: Photography, Graphics, Media technology, Broadcasting

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

Introduction to News Writing exposes students to the structure, characteristics and determinants of the news concept. It provides a unique opportunity for hands on practice as students would be assigned beats on campus in order to write stories for publications.

The major aims would be achieved by the following:

- Introduction to news writing
- Introduction to the structure of the news concept
- Introduction to beats reportage and terminologies of news writing

News writing provides a practical based forum for proficiency in the myriad techniques of news writing as well as an excellent material for the study of the foreign news media and the forms of adaptation. It is a 2-unit course which is mandatory for all 100 level students in the department of Mass Communication

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of the course, the students should be able to do the following:

- Explain key concepts in news writing
- Explain the principles of writing styles, variations and formats
- Demonstrate an ability to write publishable news

ASSESSMENT

Class Attendance	5 marks
Test (s) and Assignments	25marks
Examination	70 marks
Total	100 marks

LECTURE PLAN

Week	Topics
Week 1	Overview of news, Definitions, determinants, types
Week 2	Attributes of a good news story Concepts of objectivity, fairness, accuracy, brevity, clarity
Week 3	structure of a news story Divisions, body of the hard cum soft news stories
Week 4	Concept of the lead Kinds, importance, purpose
Week 5	Transitionals, story format
Week 6	Alternatives to the inverted pyramid
Week 7	Guidelines for news writing Language, mood and references
Week 8	Mid semester quiz
Week 9	Interactive sessions on news Terminologies
Week 10	Introduction to beat reporting Types / language
Week 11	Interviewing
Week 12	Open house/ talks on digital news writing Practical presentations/field trip recap/semester examination

READING LIST

Dominick, Joseph (1993). Dynamics of Mass Communication. New York; McGraw- Hill, Inc.

Dayo, Alao (1992). News Reporting. Marina Lagos

Wimer, Aurthur. (1963). Radio and TV; News Editing and Writing. IQWA: Brown Publishers

Yinka Agoro et al (2004) Introduction to News Writing and Reporting. Design and Print Group, Ibadan

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1. The members of the Press club of Lead city High School have visited your Department on a field trip. As the Editor of your Department's Weekly Newspaper, discuss with members of a visiting students press club the factors you normally consider in deciding the value of your news stories.
2. Discuss the term 5W's and H. Use relevant examples to illustrate your points.
3. a) Explain the inverted pyramid style of news writing. b) Name five advantages of the inverted pyramid style of writing news stories.
4. Explain the following journalistic terminologies: a. Freelance Journalist b. off the record c. running story d. By-line e. Deadline f.) Morgue g) Beat h.) Caption i.) Overrun j.) Spread k.) Spike the story l.) Pull-out section m.) Advancen.) Editorial policy o.) Flash p) kill the story.
5. a) What do you understand as beats in news coverage. b) List and explain ten beats that a reporter can be assigned to in a media environment
6. a) What is lead in news writing? Enumerate the qualities of a good lead. b) With relevant examples, explain five types of leads available to a media writer.
7. Write short notes on the following types of interviews: i. Feature interview ii. Forum interview iii. Personality interview
8. The news story structure distinguishes newspaper and broadcast writing from other types of writing. Discuss this in the light of the structure of a news story.
9. Mention and discuss some of the news sources that are available to a media writer
10. Write a publishable news story from these facts extracted from a News Release:
 - Minister of health, Prof. Johnson Adewole challenges Pharmaceutical association of Nigeria over cost and qualities of drugs.
 - Solicits for genuine and affordable drugs for patients
 - He made the call this morning at the opening of Lead City University Hospital.
 - Expressed satisfaction at growth and creativity level of staff and students
 - Urged management to pay more attention to the development of the institution
 - Ag-Vice –Chancellor calls on National Assembly to make laws to support Private Universities
 - Attributes University unrest to non-payment of student allowances
 - Promised to look into the cause of the unrest and put on book the culprit
11. a) What is Journalism? b) What are the major fields into which journalism is divided? Explain each of the fields.
12. a) What is news? b) Enumerate and explain at least 5 characteristics a story should possess to qualify as news.

Why is interviewing a good source of news information and how best can it be handled?

SECTION C

Marking Guide

1. Factors as enumerated in the answers carry 2 marks each with the accompanying explanation. 1 mark stands as bonus **2x7+1= 15 marks**
2. Discussion with examples to explain the terms 5 W's and H. This involves 6 marks which carry 2 marks each. 3 points as bonus for good presentation. **15 marks**
3. a) Explanation of the inverted pyramid style of writing news. 5 marks
b) Name five (5) advantages of the style. 2x5 =10 marks **15 marks**
4. Proper explanation of the journalistic terminologies. **15 marks**
5. a) Definition of beats – 5 marks
b) List of 10 beats a reporter can be assigned to. – 10 marks **15 marks**
6. a) Definition of lead. – 5 marks
b) 5 types of leads in news writing with relevant examples.
c) Qualities of a good lead in a sentence. – 5 marks
7. Short notes on
i. Personality interview – 5 marks.
ii. Forum interview – 5 marks
iii. Feature interview – 5 marks **15 marks**
8. Discussion of a broadcast news structure – 5 marks
Discussion of a print news structure – 5 marks
Discussion of a news story structure and how it distinguishes it from other types of writing. **15 marks**
9. General rules guiding the writing of news stories. 7x2=14 marks. 1 bonus mark **15 marks**
10. Writing of a publishable news story from the given facts. **15 marks**
11. a) Definition of Journalism – 5 marks
b) Major fields into which journalism is divided with explanation. 2x5=10marks **15 marks**
12. a) Definition of news – 5 marks
b) Enumerate and explain the characteristics that qualify a story as news. The characteristics must not be less than five (5). – 10 marks **15 marks**
13. a) Ways by which interviewing can be a good source of news information – 7 marks
b) How best it can be handled to make it the good source it is supposed to be – 8 marks **15 marks**