

【Course Description】

This course provides the student with a basic grounding in news and features writing, photo-video journalism, and documentary filmmaking. Students will learn how to recognize good stories, interview, gather data and information, develop contacts and sources, create news and features stories, take photographs and develop photo-essays, shoot video and make video reports or short documentaries. At the end of the course, the student is expected to have produced two or three pieces of news; one feature article, two reviews, two photo-essays, and one 1-10 minute documentary report/film.

【Class Goals】

To give the students the basic background and skills needed to write a simple news story, or feature article, develop a photo-essay, and create a short video report or documentary.

【Course Schedule】

【第1回】Introduction. Journalism and its many possibilities and variations: news writing, feature story writing, non-fiction writing, photo-video journalism, and documentary filmmaking.

【第2回】The elements of a good news story. News photography and photo-journalism; caption writing.

【第3回】The elements of a good feature story.

【第4回】How a journalist covers an event? What are the basic rules and social conventions?

【第5回】Story-ideas and plans for a news story or a photo-essay.

【第6回】Present a draft of your news story or photo-essay.

【第7回】Present your revised story or photo-essay.

【第8回】Features story writing and photography. Photo contest.

【第9回】Discuss in class your next stories.

【第10回】Present your draft article to the class.

【第11回】Present the revised draft of your article.

【第12回】Introduction to video journalism and documentary filmmaking.

【第13回】Workshop on video editing, writing the narration, titling, etc.

【第14回】Present your video.

【第15回】Hand in portfolios: news articles, a feature story, reviews, and a short video report/documentary.

【Preparation for Class】

Read online English language newspapers: The New York Times, The Guardian, Japan Times, Mainichi Daily News, etc. If you have access to cable television, please watch BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, RT News, NHK World, and other news and documentary programs.

【Review of Class】

After every four lessons, we do Review.

【Remarks for Class】

The classes put more emphasis on workshops and practical exercises rather than on theoretical discussions.

【Texts】

Prints and hand-outs.

【Reference Books】

The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel (Three Rivers Press)

【Evaluation Criteria】

I will evaluate students' performance based on attendance (50%), fulfillment of weekly assignments and final submitted portfolio (50%).

【Notes】