

## **MC 395-1 PRACTICUM**

Spring 2009

Times to be established

Ferguson Center, Room 225

Instructor and Office Hours:

David L. Roberts, Assistant Professor

Ferguson Center, Room 215

Office: (660) 831-4211

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Hours: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., MW

3 p.m. to 5 p.m., TR

3 p.m. to 5 p.m., MW

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

**MC 395 PRACTICUM - 1-3 hours.** Practical experience in senior editorial and management positions of the Delta, Sabiduria, KMVC-FM, KMVC-TV Channel 10, and KMVC-Web. Prerequisites: MC 301 or MC 390 or MC 391 or MC 392. (This course can be repeatable for up to 6 credit hours each for up to two different projects: yearbook, newspaper, radio, TV, webcast.)

RATIONALE:

This course is designed to allow student editors and publication or station managers to gain greater experience with continued work for Mass Communication print journalism projects or broadcasting projects.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1). To expand expertise in print or broadcast areas, including reporting, layout, and management skills.
- 2). To continue to support the publication or broadcast efforts within the Mass Communication department.
- 3). To better understand the role of managers and editors.
- 4). To add to the quality of projects within their concentration.

GOAL AND COMPETENCIES:

Upon successful completion of the Practicum course, the student will have demonstrated the ability:

- 1). To provide and show greater skills in management, layout, reporting, and other areas pertaining to either print or broadcasting efforts.
- 2). To provide greater quality to publications or stations because of their experience and continued diligence and focus.
- 3). To assist in the accomplishment of print or broadcasting projects, meeting deadlines and producing a quality product.

EXAMINATIONS:

No exams are part of the practicum. This course is based upon project completion and its quality.

ORGANIZATION:

The course will involve seminar discussions as well as individualized focus of work and production within the areas of

concentration of each editor or manager.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:**

If a student misses more than 50 percent of the class at any given point within the semester, he or she will be dropped from the class. This will be recorded as a withdraw fail (WF).

Missing more than 10 classes without an acceptable excused absence will result in an automatic reduction of the final grade by one grade letter.

You should arrive for class prior to or on time. Do not come if you are late. It is rude to be late to any scheduled event and especially disruptive for a classroom.

**CLASSROOM DECORUM:**

The student is expected to abide by the codes of conduct outlined in the latest Missouri Valley College Student Handbook.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Students are expected to abide by the official policies found in the latest Missouri Valley College Student Handbook and other college documents pertaining to this academic year.

Therefore, all forms of cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, will result in the failure of this course, along with possible dismissal from college, and must be reported to the division dean and the college president.

Plagiarism, the unacknowledged use of others' ideas, organization and words, is a very serious offense. Therefore, you must attribute to sources when using borrowed information or quotes in your news copy.

**MVC STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:**

It shall be the responsibility of every student enrolled at Missouri Valley College to support the academic integrity of the institution. This applies to personal honesty in all aspects of collegiate work, all student records and all contacts with faculty and staff. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

It shall be the responsibility of every student enrolled at Missouri Valley College to be respectful of the right of other students, staff and instructors to ensure a safe, peaceful atmosphere conducive to the educational goals of an institution of higher learning. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Student actions that do not adhere to the MVC Student Code of Conduct will be addressed according to College policies regarding academic dishonesty and disruptive behavior. Students who exhibit dishonest, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior risk suspension or expulsion from the institution.

**MVC AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT**

Special needs: If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact your instructor immediately. After proper documentation, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

**EVALUATION:**

You will be evaluated according to:

- 1). Quality of work from seminar assignments and individualized mid-term exam.
- 2). Editor attendance and attention to skills.
- 3). Final publication or project quality.

GRADING:

Grading scale will be "A" (100-90) meaning "excellent," "B" (89-80) meaning "good," "C" (79-70) meaning "average," "D" (69-60) meaning "below average," "F" (59 and below) meaning "failure."

Grading will be based on completion of any seminar group assignments, such as the reading of the assigned book and evaluation of work quality for publications throughout the semester.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

Required: Associated Press Stylebook.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

The Practicum allows editors to complete the tasks of editorship depending upon the individual schedule of their publication and to further their skills beyond the traditional one-year course study of newspaper or yearbook, or within the broadcasting area.

An example of a week would be like this:

Two times per week - Chosen by each editor, with a schedule provided to the instructor, for a concentrated effort in furthering the quality of the newspaper or yearbook projects. Some weeks may mean higher concentrated effort and more time spent on publication work, particularly near publication deadlines.

For the newspaper editor, the times could mean editing the copy of the newspaper staff, providing some layout and design for newspaper pages, reporting and writing news or feature stories, taking photographs, design of additional online pages, even writing feature stories for the Democrat-News newspaper, and other tasks.

For the sports editor, the times could mean editing the copy of the sports reporting staff, providing some layout and design for the sports pages, reporting and writing sports news and features, even assisting with the sports webcast, taking photographs, and other tasks.

For the yearbook editors, the times could mean completion of a yearbook project, layout and design of yearbook pages, editing and critiquing pages done by yearbook staff members, writing feature stories, taking photographs, and other tasks.

No classes:

March 16-20 - Spring break. No classes.

April 10 - Good Friday. No class.

May 1 -- Last day of regular class. There will be no final exam for this course. The evaluation for the grade will depend upon work accomplished for the individual publications.

Regular Finals week is May 5-8.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bernstein, Carl, and Bob Woodward. All the President's Men. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1974.

Boorstin, Daniel J. The Image, A Guide to Pseudo-Events in America. New York: Atheneum, 1987.

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Ferrari, Michelle, editor. Reporting America At War. New York: Hyperion, 2003.

Grobel, Lawrence. The Art of the Interview. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2004.

Gutkind, Lee, editor. In Fact, The Best of Creative Nonfiction. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2005.

Hersey, John. Hiroshima. New York: Vintage Books, 1946.

Jensen, Carl. Stories That Changed America, Muckrakers of the 20th Century. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2000.

Kerrane, Kevin, and Ben Yagoda. The Art of Fact, A Historical Anthology of Literary Journalism. New York: Touchstone Book, 1997.

Kitchen, Judith, editor. Short Takes, Brief Encounters With Contemporary Nonfiction. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2005.

Kitchen, Judith, and Mary Paumier Jones, editors. In Short, A Collection of Brief Creative Nonfiction. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1996.

Lewis, Anthony. Written into History, Pulitzer Prize Reporting of the Twentieth Century. New York, Times Books, 2001.

Lewis, John, editor. The Mammoth Book of Journalism. New York: Carroll and Graf Publishers, 2003.

Lewis, Tom. Empire of the Air, the Men Who Made Radio. Princeton, N.J.: Harper Collins Publishers, 1991.

Lippmann, Walter. Public Opinion. New York: The Free Press, 1922.

Mindich, David T.Z. Just the Facts. New York: New York University Press, 1998.

Phillips, Peter and Project Censored. Censored 2007, The Top 25 Censored Stories. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2006.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT**

I have received a copy of the syllabus for the Mass Communication Practicum course and will retain it for my use during the Spring 2009 semester.

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_