

**CINCINNATI CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**  
**Foster School of Biblical Studies, Arts & Sciences**  
**COMM 210 – Student Newspaper 1 – Fall 2018**

Instructor: Joni Sullivan Baker  
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**Course Description:**

A lab course introducing a variety of skills used by those in the communication arts field. The course will provide instruction and hands-on experience in writing, editing, and designing journalistic material for both print and online formats. Students will regularly produce a newspaper in both formats.

Prerequisites: ENGL 110, ENGL 111 or their equivalents. Recommended: COMM 110. COMM 160 or equivalents.

**Professor's Description:**

The Student Newspaper class is more than a class. This is a privileged opportunity to become a newspaper staff and serve the CCU community in the very special role a newspaper holds in society – providing the community with news, information, and a forum for sharing opinions. In other classes, each student has a list of assignments to complete and grades are based on successfully completing those assignments, mostly on his or her own. In this class, we become a team that learns about journalism and how to produce a publication by doing it. We function as a team, learning together but with the larger goal of serving the CCU community by providing the student newspaper, which is called *The Eaglette*.

**Course structure and class meeting times:**

Scheduled class meeting time: Tuesday, 3 – 3:50 p.m. and Thursday, 3 – 4:50 p.m.

**NOTES ON CLASS PERIODS, ESPECIALLY THURSDAYS:**

Note that the class is scheduled to meet one class session time on Tuesdays, and two class session times on Thursdays.

Most Tuesdays will be classroom instruction and in-class assignments, which toward the end of the semester might include working on the upcoming issue of *The Eaglette*.

Thursday class is longer and is intended as a lab for completing the layout for the print/pdf version and posting online of *The Eaglette*.

On a number of Thursdays this semester (schedule not yet finalized) we will be on deadline to complete the newspaper so the Thursday class period will extend until **AT LEAST 6:30 OR 7 pm**, could be even later, in order to complete *The Eaglette*. You will take turns as editor, layout editor and online editor for each issue and the students in those roles will stay the latest.

You should not be enrolled in a Thursday night class.

Also, if you have work or athletic practice commitments, to be on the safe side, know you cannot plan on being anywhere on those Thursday nights until 8 pm at the earliest. Remember this only applies to the weeks when we are producing an issue of *The Eaglette*. We all stay until the layout, editing and proofreading have been completed. At that point, some staffers may leave. But the weeks that you are either editor or layout editor you must stay AS

LONG AS IT TAKES and take responsibility for the completion of the layout and sending it to Student Services for distribution.

If you have a Thursday evening conflict you know about now, we will not schedule you in one of those responsible roles on a date when you have a conflict.

Other Thursdays without a newspaper deadline we will have a shorter class period to try to even out the hours you invest in this course.

**The schedule for these deadline Thursdays will be provided after the first few weeks of class. Please note these dates when they are provided and plan accordingly.**

### **Arts & Sciences Departmental Outcomes**

CCU's Arts & Sciences program is designed to prepare students to

1. communicate effectively in both oral and written forms in a variety of rhetorical contexts, including Standard English,
2. adeptly utilize modern research and writing tools,
3. identify decisive events and ideas in the human experience and assess their influences on modern culture and thought,
4. employ critical and creative thinking and mathematic and scientific principles for problem solving, literary and socio-cultural analysis, intercultural understanding, and research in the sciences and humanities,
5. demonstrate the integration of academic insights and experiences by constructing and employing a personal framework in which ethical decisions can be made in light of societal values and a Christian worldview.

### **Course Objectives (connected to Outcomes 1 & 2 of the Departmental Outcomes above):**

The student who satisfactorily completes this course should be able to:

1. Understand the nature and use of journalistic writing
2. Demonstrate competency in writing news and feature articles for print and web
3. Demonstrate competency in editing news and feature articles for print and web
4. Develop familiarity and correct use of AP style
5. Utilize principles of design for both online and print materials
6. Oversee production of a print or online newsletter
7. Demonstrate competency working as a member and leader of a publications production staff.

### **Required text and software:**

"The Associated Press Stylebook"

Student subscription to the Adobe Creative Suite (about \$20 per month, or \$80 for the semester)

### **Grading Breakdown/Principal Assignments:**

The primary purpose of this class is to learn how to produce a regular publication, how to determine what constitutes news for the publication, how to write those articles professionally, and how to create the publication. Most of your grade will be based on your performance in our class work to produce the CCU student newspaper, *The Eaglette*.

It is anticipated that the skills you gain will be useful to you in working for a ministry, business, or nonprofit organization.

At the end of the semester, you will submit for grading a semester project. This will be a portfolio of the stories you write for *The Eaglette*. Students taking the second semester of this course will have a different semester project to be discussed early in the semester.

There are quizzes, but no tests planned for this course.

There are no research papers.

However, the reporting and writing assignments are mandatory.

All work will follow AP Style and will be penalized for errors in style.

#### Tentative grading breakdown:

NOTE: this grading scale is subject to revision. Changes will be announced and discussed in class.

75 possible points *Eaglette* participation:

18 possible points for news production

10 possible points for leadership roles, that of serving as editor and layout editor

12 possible points teamwork, class participation

35 possible points for portfolio of your stories written during the semester – 30 for writing quality, 10 for photos/video/photographic quality

25 possible points for in class assignments, and AP quiz, and any other unexpected requirements that arise

#### **Class Policies:**

This class is intended to be as much like real life as possible. Therefore, late assignments will be accepted, but with penalties. The completion of the issues of *The Eaglette* is mandatory.

Please see notes above on Tuesday and Thursday class sessions and extended Thursdays.

If special circumstances require late submission of work, prior discussion with the instructor is recommended for best possible outcome on grading.

Class attendance is mandatory. Acceptable reasons for absence include personal illness which incapacitates family death or serious illness, or official school closing due to weather. Notice to the instructor by email must be made, preferably prior to the class, or within 48 hours after the class.

Any missed class time or information is the student's responsibility to obtain from another student. Missed handouts may be requested from the instructor.

Other CCU policies on attendance, plagiarism and other issues will be followed.

Students who require academic accommodations due to any documented physical, psychological, or learning disability should request assistance from Disability Services by contacting Ray Horton at ray.horton@ccuniversity.edu. The Learning Center is also available for academic coaching and is located on the upper level of Presidents Hall. You may contact Student Services by phone at (513) 244-8150.

The instructor reserves the right to amend or add to these policies.

**(Preliminary schedule to follow.)**