

Professor Ken Carpenter

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Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 4-6 p.m., Friday 8:30-10:30 (virtual, via cell phone)

JOU 1100 , NEWS REPORTING (A) — FALL 2008
Mondays, 6-8:45 p.m., Bldg. 6, Room 221

CORE COMPETENCIES

Valencia Community College has established four core competencies that describe the learning outcomes for a Valencia graduate. They are:

- **Think:** Think clearly, critically, and creatively; analyze, synthesize, integrate and evaluate in many domains of human inquiry.
- **Value:** Make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments.
- **Communicate:** Communicate with different audiences using varied means
- **Act:** Act purposefully, effectively, and responsibly.

For more on Valencia's core competencies, visit: <http://www.valenciacc.edu/competencies/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the challenges of news reporting. Along the way, you will have the chance to acquire reporting skills, newswriting skills, and a practical knowledge of media law, ethics, and broadcast news. You will read and write. A lot.

COURSE MATERIALS

“Inside Reporting,” by Tim Harrower (1st edition)

“The Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual,” by The Associated Press

“The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time,” by Mark Haddon (book will be provided)

You should have ready access to a dictionary, e-mail, the Internet, and daily newspapers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Writing assignments (6 at 70 points each, 420 total, 52.5 percent of the grade)

You will write six graded news stories, covering events inside and outside the classroom. At times, the content of the story will be mandated, and at other times you will have great freedom in choosing your subject matter. You will be graded on your ability to write stories that demonstrate thorough reporting, flawless attribution, and clear organization, and which are free of grammatical, mechanical, and style errors. In short, your grade for these stories will be determined largely by how prepared each is for publication.

Attendance (20 points per class session, 280 total; 35 percent of the grade)

You are expected to attend all classes and to be on time. Excessive absences and tardiness can adversely affect your grade. On your fifth unexcused absence, you will be withdrawn from the course. THERE IS NO MAKE-UP WORK IN THIS CLASS!

Quizzes (10 at 10 points, 100 total; 12.5 percent of the grade)

You will take eight quizzes on “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time,” and two other quizzes on topics to be announced. All quizzes will be worth 10 points.

Deadlines

Because this course represents preparation for the news world, deadlines are critical. ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE! If you cannot attend class the day a story is due, please make arrangements to turn it in early or to have it delivered to me. Any work appearing in my mailbox after the scheduled class time is considered late unless you make prior arrangements with me.

Backup Copies

Never give me the only copy you have of a piece of writing. Make a backup copy on CD, flash drive, etc..

Plagiarism

If you plagiarize in any way, you will receive a zero for the work in question. In some cases, the college may punish plagiarism with suspension or expulsion.

Grading

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|---------------------|------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Writing assignments | 6 @ 70 points | 420 | 720-800 = A |
| Attendance | 14 classes @ 20 points | 280 | 640-719 = B |
| Quizzes | 10 @ 10 points | 100 | 560-639 = C |
| TOTAL | | 800 | 480-559 = D 000-479 = F |