

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 — FALL 2009

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:45 p.m., West Campus, Bldg. 3, Room 151A

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

The Wall Street Journal (15-week subscription required)

“The Road,” by Cormac McCarthy (book will be provided)

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance (10 points per class session, 280 total)

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 On your fifth unexcused absence, you will be withdrawn from the course.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!**

Writing assignments (4 at 70 points each, 280 total)

You will write four 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. (A grading rubric will be provided.)

Video assignment (1 at 40 points each)

You will write, shoot, appear in, edit and produce one video news report. The content of the story will be mandated. Your grade will be determined by how prepared the video is for posting online.

Wall Street Journal Quizzes (20 at 10 points, 200 total)

You will take 20 quizzes on reading assignments in the Wall Street Journal. Each Tuesday, quizzes will be on the most recent Wednesday, Thursday and Friday newspapers; each Thursday, quizzes will be on the most recent Saturday, Monday and Tuesday newspapers.

“The Road” Quizzes (6 at 10 points, 60 total)

You will take six quizzes on “The Road.” All quizzes will be worth 10 points.

AP Stylebook Quizzes (4 at 10 points, 40 total)

You will take six quizzes on “The Road.” 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! All stories must be posted on your blog prior to class on the date due.

Backup Copies

Make a backup copy of all of your work, and store it on a flash drive, a CD, or e-mail it to yourself.

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

Attendance (28 classes @ 10 points)	280	810-900 = A
Writing assignments (4 @ 70 points)	280	720-809 = B
Video assignment (1 @ 40 points)	40	630-719 = C
Wall Street Journal quizzes (20 @ 10 points)	200	540-629 = D
“The Road” quizzes (6 @ 10 points)	60	000-539 = F
AP Stylebook quizzes (4 @ 10 points)	40	
TOTAL	900	