

Professor: Ken Carpenter

Web site: <http://vcccarpenter.com> **E-mail:** kcarpenter2@valenciacc.edu

Office: West Campus, Journalism Center, Building 3, Room 150A

Phone: 407-582-1170; **Mobile:** 407-539-4823; **Twitter:** KenCarpenter

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 2-4 p.m.; Friday, 8:30-10:30 (virtual, via cell phone)

NEWS REPORTING (JOU 1100) — SUMMER 2009
Monday through Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-1:05 p.m.
West Campus Journalism Center, Building 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://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 learn reporting techniques, develop newswriting skills, and gain practical knowledge of media law and ethics. 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 (10-week subscription required)

"All the President's Men," by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance (10 points per class session, 250 total)

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 On your fifth absence, you will be withdrawn from the course.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

Writing assignments (3 at 70 points each, 210 total)

You will write three 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.

Quizzes (10 at 10 points, 100 total)

You will take five quizzes on the Wall Street Journal and five quizzes on "All the President's Men." All quizzes will be worth 10 points. (Schedule to be determined.)

Blog and USB drive (40 points)

All students will create a professional blog, where all written assignments will be posted, and carry a USB "flash" drive at all times, with backed up copies of all work.

COURSE POLICIES

Deadlines

Because this course represents preparation for the real media world, deadlines are critical. **ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE!** All written assignments must be published on the student's blog by the set deadline.

Plagiarism

If you plagiarize in any way, you will receive a zero for the work in question. (Plagiarism is defined as stealing and passing off the ideas or words of another as one's own; and the use of another's production without crediting the source.) In some cases, the college may punish plagiarism with suspension or expulsion.

Backup Copies

Never have only one copy of a writing assignment. Save a backup copy on the required USB "flash" drive, and also e-mail a copy to yourself.

GRADING

Attendance	25 classes @ 10 points	250	A = 540 - 600
Writing assignments	3 @ 70 points	210	B = 480 - 539
Quizzes	10 @ 10 points	100	C = 420 - 479
Blog and USB "flash" drive		40	D = 360 - 419
TOTAL		600	F = 000 - 359