

Course title: The Argonaut

COM 1456L and 2456L class

Schedule: Monday/Wednesday in class 12-12:50 and Friday research day

Instructor: Megan Streicher

Office hours: by appointment

Email: mstreicher@ndnu.edu

Required Text: *Inside Reporting, A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism* by Tim Harrower, Second Edition

REQUIRED READING:

Read a metropolitan daily newspaper; a national daily such as the New York Times or the Wall Street Journal; a community daily or weekly newspaper; and The Argonaut.

This course satisfies NDNU's upper-division writing requirement (formerly the Writing Proficiency Requirement).

PREMISE:

In this class you will work together to put out a publication reflecting the campus community. As an Argonaut staff member, you will collaborate with classmates to see the inner-workings of a publication and take part in the exciting and complex decision-making that goes into publishing a paper on a regular basis. You have the opportunity to affect change and participate in democracy. This will require your time and dedication. You will be required to participate in formulating story ideas, reporting and writing for each edition of the paper and helping produce it. Students are expected to rewrite each assignment until it's acceptable. Rewriting and editing are critical to the process of good writing, and students should not be discouraged by the need for it. You must show up every class period and be ON TIME.

MECHANICS:

Every student will have assignments for each production of The Argonaut. Those assignments are to be completed by deadline with no excuses. If a story doesn't pan out or if you cannot make it to an assignment, you must contact the editor or me and explain the situation so we can arrange alternative coverage. **If you fail to meet expectations, you cannot expect to pass this class. Failure to meet a deadline in this class (as it is in the real newspaper world) is a grave issue.** Although this is a lab class and intended for you to work on the production of the paper, there will be instruction and guest speakers. The paper will be produced entirely online. Please be sure to show up ON TIME. Tardiness will be noted and affect your grade.

LEARNING DIFFERENCES:

If you have a learning disability or other circumstance that requires accommodations in this class, you must bring it to the attention of Disability Services to arrange for possible accommodations. Disability Services has recently become part of Counseling, Health, and Disability Services, located in New Hall E18 and New Hall E19. The main number for Counseling, Health and Disability Services is 650-508-3714. The Disability Services Specialist is Alice Wong and she may be contacted directly at awwong@ndnu.edu or 650-508-3670.

GRADING:

Your grade in this class will be based on the number, quality and timeliness of articles produced or other tasks completed for The Argonaut.

Proper spelling and grammar are expected in this class.

To receive a grade in this class, students will have a loose-leaf binder portfolio of work in this class and their contributions to The Argonaut. Your portfolio should include:

- 1. A copy of every story or photo you shot and a disc with your multimedia contributions.*
- 2. It must be neatly presented and organized.*
- 3. You must include a list of all ways in which you contributed to the Argonaut and it must be signed by an editor.*

PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE: 40%

Did you participate in brainstorming sessions? Work diligently on workdays?
Show up to class?

PRODUCT: 20%

Did you produce the required number of photos, assignments or stories? Did you strive to improve between assignments? Each student will submit his or her own photos

POINTS DEADLINE: 20%

Did you meet the deadlines? Did you complete the assignments after rewrites, etc., on time?

FINAL PORTFOLIO: 20% Organized and complete?

1. Learning Outcomes:

Communication Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop the ability to understand and demonstrate adherence to *ethical* principles and recognize the role diversity plays in all communication.
2. Students will develop the ability to critically evaluate the role of *mass media*'s effect on culture and its role in a democracy.
3. Students will develop their abilities in *speech* to inform or persuade using research and critical thinking skills.
4. Students will develop the ability to *write* effectively in a clear, concise, and informative manner.
5. **Credit hours**

Traditional undergrad classes meet 90 hours.

FORMAT

Credit Hour Report

Hours in Class	45
Research/Homework	20
Written Assignments	25

Attendance:

Absences are noted and will be taken into consideration in grading. We will meet in class on Mondays and Wednesdays but NOT Fridays. Fridays will be outside research days.

Expectations:

By the end of this semester, I expect that you will be able to:

- Conduct a professional and productive news interview
- Write an accurate and inviting lead on a news story
- Compose an accurate and complete news story on several kinds of news events
- Edit a news story using Associated Press news style.\
- Write an accurate and inviting headline
- Distinguish between news and opinion
- Use attribution appropriately
- Understand and apply the elements of good newspaper design
- Behave according to the accepted ethics of journalism
- Acquaint yourself with the journalistic provisions of the First Amendment
- Meet deadlines

Plagiarism will not be tolerated!

All classmates will write at least one article in EACH beat. All will get a new beat for each assignment allowing more for experience in different areas.

1. **NDNU Life**
2. **Sports both at NDNU and larger community**
3. **Belmont , CA, USA**
4. **Global Affairs**

Think about WHY a story is important to us at NDNU.

Topics and Assignments (subject to change)

Week 1: First class/getting to know you, Chapter 3

Week 2: No class Monday, Labor Day, Learn how to use the lab. Workday, Chapters 3 and 4

Week 3: Workdays, Chapters 4 and 6

Week 4: Workdays, Chapter 6

Week 5: Workdays, Chapter 7

Week 6: Workdays/Chapter 7

Week 7: Workdays/Chapter 8

Week 8: Workdays/Chapter 8

Week 9: no class- Spring break

Week 10: Workdays/Chapter 9

Week 11: Workdays/Chapter 9

Week 12: Workdays/ Chapter 10

Week 13: Thanksgiving week, No class Monday, Wednesday Workday/Chapter 10

Week 14: Workdays

Week 15: Workday/ Final portfolio due Wednesday December 6

We will have 2 weeks of writing/editing/reporting instruction before the first stories are assigned.

Story Assignment #1- Due Week 3

Story Assignment #2- Due Week 5

Story Assignment #3- Due Week 7

Story Assignment #4- Due Week 11

Story Assignment #5- Due Week 13

Story Assignment #6- Due Week 14

All stories will be posted online and come with a picture you take personally. All stories will come with the names, phone numbers and emails of sources along with the steps you took in research and writing on a separate page. Story and source page and picture are needed to complete the story assignments. Stories are 500/550 words.

Learning and Other Disabilities

As required by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the instructor will make appropriate accommodations for all students with documented disabilities. In order for accommodations to be in place, you are required to bring appropriate documentation (evidence must be in writing) to the PASS office. You should notify the PASS office by either calling the office at 650-508-3670 or stopping by the office at New Hall 119.

Posting to the Portal

All students must post to the portal WEEKLY. All postings **must** be in by Friday to receive credit, no exceptions. I will post writing assignments on the portal after

class on Monday and you have until the following Friday at 12 midnight to post. Writing assignments will vary week to week. 250/300 words.

Week 1- Read a recent article (August 2017) in the Business, Sports or Arts and Entertainment sections NY Times and write one paragraph summary, identifying what you assume are the research steps made by the author.

Week 2: “News is something someone wants suppressed. Everything else is just advertising.” Agree or disagree and support with real life examples.

Week 3: What are some things in this school that make you angry or that you would like to see change? How can the paper help?

Week 4: Read an article from The San Francisco Chronicle (www.sfgate.com) and write a one paragraph opinion on it.

Week 5: Does the government have the right to restrict the use of inappropriate material on the Internet or in news publications? Who should have the final say in what type of content is published? EXPLAIN your opinion based on the First Amendment.

Week 6: Write 5 possible interview questions for Governor Brown.

Week 7: Read a hard news article from San Jose Mercury News and make it into inverted pyramid.

Week 8: Write an editorial paragraph about Dorothy Stang.

Week 9: Read a recent article from the Palo Alto Weekly and comment on a smaller town’s relevance given the articles content. Why read it and not the NY Times?

Week 10: Read an article from San Mateo Chronicle and make it into a kabob or martini glass.

Week 11: Write a one paragraph profile about your favorite NDNU RA.

Week 12: Submit three political cartoons and review their success and point of view.

Week 13: Why cover a particular story? What is newsworthy? What is the process to discern this? What mistakes have a journalist or news outlet made in covering a story in your opinion recently (2017)?

Week 14: Interview a fellow staff writer.

Week 15: Interview an NDNU teacher/administrative professional or student. Ask him or her what the Argonaut is doing right and how we can be better next year.