

Lane Tech College Prep High School
Honors Journalism-Newspaper 1 (159101H) syllabus 2017-18

Teacher: Mr. Strom / dastrom@cps.edu Room: 145 Web: dastrom.weebly.com, [Google Classroom](#)

First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists:

Members of the Society of Professional Journalists believe that public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy. The duty of the journalist is to further those ends by seeking truth and providing a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues. Conscientious journalists from all media and specialties strive to serve the public with thoroughness and honesty. Professional integrity is the cornerstone of a journalist's credibility. Members of the Society share a dedication to ethical behavior and adopt this code to declare the Society's principles and standards of practice:

- Seek truth and report it. Journalists should be honest, fair and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information.
- Minimize harm. Ethical journalists treat sources, subjects and colleagues as human beings deserving of respect.
- Act independently. Journalists should be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know.
- Be accountable and transparent. Ethical journalism means taking responsibility for one's work and explaining one's decisions to the public.

Course description: Journalism 1 positions students to orient themselves in a changing 21st century media landscape, equipping them to be both critical readers of news and skilled reporters of stories. In addition to developing traditional skills such as reporting, writing, editing, and proofreading, students will, through hands-on assignments, develop basic knowledge and skills in photojournalism, multimedia, commentary, legal & ethical issues, and page design. Working as a team, Journalism 1 students will have the opportunity to contribute to the print and web editions of *The Warrior*, Lane Tech's historic student newspaper. In addition, through periodic exercises, tests, and editing assignments, students will be expected to demonstrate mastery of the basic conventions of Standard Written English.

Required materials – bring the following to class every day:

- Folder or binder containing all class handouts, notes, hard copy drafts and other work
- Pen, pencil, college-ruled looseleaf paper,
- A small "reporter's notebook" for taking notes during interviews
- Assignment notebook/planner/calendar (this can be your phone's calendar)
- Current articles, essays, handouts, compositions, notes, etc. (keep & organize all handouts)

Recommended/optional materials:

- **Optional:** smartphone, digital SLR camera
- **Extra Credit:** Bring one box of kleenex or hand sanitizer
- Chicago Public Library card

Standard grade scale: A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = Below 60

Grade Categories: (approximate)

20-30% Portfolio (story packages & presentations you create)

20-30% Reporting (interviews & coverage of events)

20-25% Writing process work (drafts, feedback, workshop, revision, editing, proofreading)

10-20% Exams & quizzes

10-20% Miscellaneous (other in-class & take-home assignments)

Goals

1. Understand and apply industry-standard ethical guidelines; apply *The Warrior's* ethics and editorial policy in real-life situations.
2. Develop a clear, lively writing style that engages and informs a real audience of peer, staff, and alumni readers.
3. Develop sound interviewing techniques.
4. Become comfortable with a collaborative writing process: plan, research, compose, edit, revise. Work effectively in teams, with a variety of colleagues, rotating leadership roles and supporting each other as developing writers.
5. Develop news literacy -- critical reading & thinking skills applied to professional and student work.
6. Publish informative, engaging stories for the web and print editions of *The Warrior*.

Expectations for Participation and Communication

- Actively participate in class activities, discussions, and assignments.
- Take risks in your writing and in discussion; do something that might be out of your comfort zone but that might catalyze growth; and affirm others when they take intellectual risks.
- Ask for assistance, directions, or clarification as needed.
- Discuss assignments, grades, and progress with your parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Complete assigned work on time and always give your best effort. Use a planner or assignment notebook to stay on track with due dates.
- Evaluate your own performance honestly and thoughtfully when called on to do so.
- Take notes in class (even when not explicitly told to do so) and keep notes & handouts organized and easily accessible at all times.
- Bring required materials to class daily.
- Use appropriate language and keep all electronic communications polite and civilized, whether with fellow students, teachers, or others in the Lane community.
- Use your CPS email (rather than a personal email address) to communicate with Mr. Strom.

Expectations for Classroom and School Climate

- Respect all students, staff, and visitors at all times.
- Be kind, supportive, helpful, and inclusive when interacting with classmates in this class and with members of the school community at large.
- Strive to know and use everyone's name in this class. Avoid side conversations/commentary when a classmate or teacher has the floor in a whole-class discussion or speech.
- Help create an environment conducive to learning and growth for all students in the class.
- While we expect and encourage a lively exchange of differing opinions and interpretations in discussion, we also expect students to refrain from making rude, insensitive, or disparaging remarks. **Review and adhere to Warrior Staff Communication Policy.**
- Care for the classroom as a shared space. Keep your workspace clean and take ownership of the classroom. Pick up trash you see, even if it's not yours.
- *Washroom.* Mr. Strom understands that everyone needs to use the washroom multiple times each day at school, and we all have the occasional emergency. In general, you should use the washroom during passing periods and lunch. In case of emergency, you may, of course, use the

washroom during class time. If possible, avoid using the washroom during the first or last 10 minutes of class. I do ask that you refrain from making Journalism your daily washroom time and from asking to use the washroom just before or just as class is starting. If your use of the washroom during passing period makes you late to class, tell Mr. Strom or write a note after you enter class. This won't be a problem unless you are chronically tardy.

- No food or drink (except water) allowed in Mr. Strom's class. (There are exceptions based on health conditions, 504 Plans, etc. — see Mr. Strom if this applies to you.)
- No hats or sunglasses allowed in Mr. Strom's class. Exceptions include culturally authentic headgear or sunglasses worn after eye surgery/injury at doctor's order.
- Follow all other school rules (policies on dress, phone, electronic device, food/drink, etc.).
- *Press Pass*. Leaving Room 145 to conduct an interview or cover a story is a unique privilege allowed by Lane's administration. During designated class times, you may schedule and conduct interviews outside the classroom. Mr. Strom must know where you will be — please check in before you leave and when you return, and sign in and out on the designated white board. You are expected to adhere to the highest standards of conduct, courtesy, and respect when exercising this privilege — understand that you represent The Warrior, and failure to meet these high standards of conduct will result in a loss of privileges for the entire class.
- *Cell phones* are not permitted in class except during designated times. (See "Electronic Devices" below.)

Deadlines and Late Work Policy

Students are expected to submit work on time. Keep the following in mind:

- Communicate with the teacher and editors/reporting group via email as soon as you can, if there is a problem.
- Students with special circumstances or IEP modifications should meet ahead of time with the teacher at a mutually convenient time to determine alternate individualized due dates when appropriate.
- *Extensions* to original due dates may be granted at the teacher's discretion. Any request for an extension must be made in person outside of class time, at least two days before the due date, and confirmed via email after the in-person meeting. Students should also consult with their Section Editors and EIC regarding proposed extensions.
- *Grading*. Any assignment not submitted on time will receive a zero. Students may request a meeting outside of class to petition to submit a past-due major assignment within one week of the due date. Half credit may be granted for such late work, at the teacher's discretion. Note: A cancelled interview does not constitute a valid reason for submitting late work.
- Your grade will not suffer because of a serious situation that is totally out of your control (emergency, sudden illness), as long as you take appropriate steps to communicate and catch up in a timely manner.

Attendance

- *Unplanned absences*. For typical absences, due dates still apply unless an extension has been granted or there are extenuating circumstances (sudden illness or other serious unexpected situations). The student will meet briefly with teacher outside of class within one day of returning from an absence. Follow up with a note signed by parent/guardian to ensure the absence is excused. In-class work and homework missed due to absence becomes a zero if no arrangements are made with Mr. Strom. Always assume you missed an assignment. Check with classmates to fill in gaps in class notes.
- *Preplanned absences*. All due dates still apply unless they have been renegotiated in advance. You must make arrangements ahead of time if you know you will be absent from class. Failure to make arrangements in advance will result in a zero for assignments missed.
- *Punctuality*. Students are expected to arrive to class on time each day. Consequences for chronic tardiness may include detention; zeroes for participation grades and other assignments missed in part or whole; parent conference; and referral to attendance office/dean.

Integrity

- Act with honor and integrity: help someone in need; celebrate your neighbor's success; be inclusive; listen to your internal moral compass; avoid shortcuts or white lies that chip away at your integrity; avoid making excuses; be satisfied with your best effort.
- *Plagiarism*. Do not take credit for someone else's work or carelessly pass off someone else's work as your own. When assignments call for use of sources, synthesize and cite source material properly, in accordance with academic conventions. Careless paraphrasing, even when source is cited, can constitute plagiarism.
- *Self-plagiarism*. Do not recycle an assignment you previously received credit for in another class. If you see an opportunity to build on past work you've done, you must discuss your idea with your teacher or professor.
- *Cheating*. Do not cheat on tests or assignments, and do not enable others to cheat. This includes, but is not limited to, obvious violations such as using crib notes, taking or passing along photos of an assessment or someone's answers, or looking up information on a phone during an assessment — as well as potentially less obvious infractions such as sharing information about a test from memory or copying/"outsourcing" a homework assignment. Do your own work. Don't take unethical shortcuts.
- *Consequences*. Immediate consequences: zero on the assignment (no makeup); parent conference; referral to dean; and other progressive consequences described in the CPS Student Code of Conduct. Long-term consequences: damage to reputation and academic record, which can potentially affect college recommendations and admission.

Electronic Devices

- **Cell phones and other electronic devices are not to be used in class unless specific permission has been given.**
- Periodically you will have the option to use a smartphone for an in-class activity. There will be clear instructions given allowing the use of cell phones at these times; at all other times, they are forbidden. This includes during announcements or transition time in class. To be clear: from bell to bell, during class, cell phones and other electronic devices are forbidden. Violating this policy will result in confiscation of the device and referral to dean. When in doubt, ask.
- Transcribing audio recordings and conducting phone interviews — during designated class times — are appropriate uses of phone & headphones. When in doubt, ask.
- During designated times when cell phone use is permitted for specific activities,
 - maintain a professional posture — place your phone on your work surface and face your computer or classmate.
 - texting, social media, shopping, and other inappropriate uses of the cell phones/internet are prohibited.
- Do not use the internet or any electronic device inappropriately. Adhere to CPS Appropriate Use Policy found in Student Code of Conduct. This applies both in and out of school.
- Cell phones are permitted during passing periods for some specific purposes such as listening to music, texting, or internet use. Phone calls are not permitted.
- If you use the washroom during class time, you are not allowed to use your cell phone while walking to the washroom or in the washroom.
- If you have a serious, urgent need to communicate with someone outside the building, such as a family member, please talk to Mr. Strom. If we talk about it, we can almost always find a workable solution together.

Homework

Homework constitutes approximately 40% of your grade in Honors Journalism 1; therefore, as in all classes, timely completion of homework is critical for success. Homework will consist mostly of activities that cannot be completed in class, such as interviews and coverage of extracurricular events. You will also be expected to keep up with current events by reading local, national, and international news and commentary.

Teacher Availability

It is always best to schedule an appointment, but you are welcome to drop in before or after school. Typically I arrive around 7:20 a.m. and stay until 4:00 p.m., and I can be found in Room 145, 137 or 247.

Course Outline

Semester 1

Units:

1. Reporting & Newswriting (7 weeks)
2. Writing feature stories (7 weeks)
3. Legal/ethical issues in journalism (5 weeks)

Other topics covered throughout the semester:

- News/media literacy
- Collaborative writing process
- Photojournalism & photo ethics
- Style guides & conventions of SWE
- Newspaper anatomy & nuances of writing for various sections

Major assignments and exams: multiple blog posts & news briefs; one full-length feature story; quarterly reflection/self-assessment essay; tests/quizzes covering terms and topics addressed in class

Semester 2

Units:

1. Writing opinion, reviews & satire (4 weeks)
2. Usage/mechanics & style guides (3 weeks)
3. Multimedia (3 weeks)
4. Layout & page design (3 weeks)
5. Individual Project (5 weeks)

Other topics covered throughout the semester:

- Revisit & extend reporting/writing skills & application of legal/ethical issues
- News/media literacy
- Collaborative writing process
- Photojournalism & photo ethics
- Style guides & conventions of SWE

Major assignments and exams: multiple blog posts & news briefs; three full-length feature/news stories; one opinion, review, or satirical piece; individual final project; quarterly reflection/self-assessment essay; tests/quizzes covering terms and topics addressed in class

Access to websites

- Google Classroom class code: **prqhal3**
- Turnitin.com — Class ID: _____ — Password: **Ethics**
- Chicago Tribune News in Education — Username: _____ PW: _____

Honors Journalism 1 Agreement

I have read this syllabus and understand the expectations for this course.

Student: _____
print name *signature* *date*

Parent: _____
print name *signature* *date*

Teacher: _____
print name *signature* *date*

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