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UWUCC USE Only
Number:
Submission Date: Withdrawn
Action-Date: 5/2/0

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Number:
Submission Date:
Action-Date:

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

I.   **CONTACT**

Contact Person___Stanford Mukasa_____Phone___x3097_____

Department_____Journalism_____

II.   **PROPOSAL TYPE (Check All Appropriate Lines)**

___X___ **COURSE**   JN 448/COMMUNITY JOURNALISM
                        Suggested 20 character title

___X__ New Course*   JN 448 COMMUNITY JOURNALISM
                        Course Number and Full Title

_____ Course Revision   _____
                             Course Number and Full Title

_____ Liberal Studies Approval+ _____
        for new or existing course   Course Number and Full Title

_____ Course Deletion   _____
                             Course Number and Full Title

_____ Number and/or Title Change_____
                                   Old Number and/or Full Old Title

                        _____
                         New Number and/or Full New Title

_____ Course or Catalog Description Change _____
                                            Course Number and Full Title

_____ **PROGRAM:**   _____ Major   _____ Minor   _____ Track

_____ New Program*   _____
                          Program Name

_____ Program Revision*   _____
                             Program Name

_____ Program Deletion*   _____
                             Program Name

_____ Title Change _____
                     Old Program Name

                        _____
                         New Program Name

III.   **Approvals (signatures and date)**

Robert H. Russell 2/3/97   _Mukasa_ 2/3/97
Department Curriculum Committee   Department Chair

[signature] 2/5/97   _[signature]_ 2/5/97
College Curriculum Committee   College Dean

_____   _____
+Director of Liberal Studies (where applicable)   *Provost (where applicable)

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JN449 Community Journalism 3c-01-3sh

Prerequisite: JN328 News Reporting or JN321 Feature Writing or PERMISSION

JN449 Community Journalism is essentially a partnership between the Department of Journalism and the area media. Students enrolled in this course will be required to report on community-based stories, mostly features, and have them published in the media. At the end of the semester, the student must have published at least six feature-length stories.

II   Course Objectives

- Students will gain experience in reporting and writing publishable stories.
- Students will gain practical experience in interacting with community leaders, media personnel, politicians, business leaders.
- Students will establish the critical bridge between the academic world and that of work.
- Students will build and develop a resume portfolio that will help them in searching and interviewing for jobs.

III.   Course outline.

The Department of Journalism and students will identify media institutions willing to work with students. Students are also free to select media institutions of their choice such as home-town or home-community media. But these must be approved by the course instructor.Media institutions include daily or weekly newspapers, magazines, general or specialized, and newsletters that are produced professionally. Student or college campus newspapers or magazines are excluded.This course is different from internships, which students are strongly encouraged to take, in that it is publishing-specific, and the student can publish in as many approved papers as the student wants.

Week One to Week Six
Course introduction:
- Overview of community journalism and the community journalism movement.
- Students will be introduced to the concept and practice of community journalism.
- Class will review the historical origins and the arguments for and against community journalism
- Selected readings from Leigh Stephens Aldrich's text **Covering the Cvommunity.** Pine Forge Press. 1999)

Case studies in community journalism
- Class will watch CSPAN video discussions on community journalism.

- Students will review selected case studies in community journalism around the country. This will help them identify story ideas they can propose for their projects with the area media.

Sources and searches

- Class will learn how to identify (using the Internet and other material and human resources) topics and issues of interest and concern to the community

Seminar in community journalism

- Area media representatives will be invited for a seminar with students to discuss story ideas.
- Students are also actively encouraged to invite editors from their home-town newspapers

Part of this period will be spent discussing story ideas, based on inputs from media editors and students. In developing story ideas, particular attention will be given to what stories the media institution is looking for, or is interested in. Tentative deadlines and publication dates will be established for each story.

Community journalism skills

- Students will build upon their previous news reporting and writing skills to develop new skills in community journalism aimed at raising, in partnership with area media, local organizations, community consciousness on issues of community interest and relevance.

Week Seven to Week 15

- Students will work on their community journalism projects.

During this period classes will be held to discuss students' ongoing projects.
Instructor will work with students on an individual or group basis to help them identify topics, negotiate with editors, search for information, as well as write their stories. Students will, during this time, also learn to publish their stories on the web.

Students can, if they so chose, work on researching and collecting, as much as they can, information for some of their stories while at home during Thanksgiving or Spring breaks
The student will be required to maintain a log detailing the people the student contacted to get information, meetings and dates attended.

Once a story has been published, the student must hand in a copy of the published story as well as the original to the instructor. The instructor will call on the editor to discuss the story and how to improve on the next assignment. The instructor will communicate with the student. The student is encouraged to communicate with the editor to discuss the student's story.

Suggested program outline:

First five to six weeks
Administrative and logistical issues.
• Students will be given a deadline by which they must have drawn up a list of potential story ideas to be submitted to area editors for further discussion.
• Students reach agreement with editors on topics and deadlines.

Student researches and publishes, or hands in for publication, two or more feature-length articles.

Second five to six weeks
Student researches and publishes , or hands in for publication, two or more articles.

Third five to six weeks
Student researches and publishes, or hands in for publication, last two or more articles..

The class will also publish online. This will ensure that the student's material is published in cases where editors approved the story but did not have immediate space for it in the newspaper. The most important thing is to get editors to approve for publication a story. Based on past experience, over 70 percent of the stories get published before or by the end of the semester. The online publication will ensure that all the approved stories are published before the end of the semester. Online publication will also be discussed between editors and the instructor.

IV.   Evaluation Methods
Students will be evaluated by the instructor . Grades will be based on published stories, student's enterprise in suggesting story ideas, interviewing people and developing a log containing names of contacts, and draft notes from interviews.

Grading
6 published stories   90 percent of the final grade
Logs, student initiative and enterprise 10 percent of the final grade
Weights
A = 90 percent and above; B = 80 -89 percent; C = 70 - 79 percent;
D = 60 -69 percent; D = Below 60 percent

V.   Required textbook(s). Aldrich, Leigh Stevens, (1999) **Covering the Community.** Pine Forge Press.

VI.   Special Resource requirements. NONE

VII.   Bibliography. *(Reflects the concept of community journalism and the role of a community journalist)*

IUP

DATE: April 22, 1999

SUBJECT: JN 449 Community Journalism

TO: UWUCC

FROM: Gail S. Sechrist

This proposal has come along way in multiple revisions over several years. Normally I wouldn't bring it to the full committee, but I'd like some additional imput as to what else should be addressed. He has an extensive bibliography--five pages fine print that I am not enclosing here. This is just the syllabus part of the proposal.