

Professor: Ken Carpenter

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COLLEGE NEWSPAPER (JOU 1400L et al) — SPRING 2014

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 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 laboratory course is designed for students to learn how to produce the Valencia Voice, the school newspaper, and its accompanying Web site, ValenciaVoice.com. Students will be required to actively contribute to the process, by writing, editing, designing pages, selling advertising, shooting photographs, producing videos, or other aspects of production.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required: "The Associate Press Stylebook and Libel Manual," by The Associated Press
Valencia College / Poynter Institute online-training modules

Recommended: "Inside Reporting," by Tim Harrower (3rd edition)
"The Newspaper Designers Handbook," Tim Harrower (7th edition)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance (28 class sessions @ 5 points, 140 total; 23% of grade)

You are expected to attend all classes and to be on time. Excessive absences and tardiness can adversely affect your grade. Each absence will reduce your attendance points by 10%, up to 56 points for four absences. On your fifth unexcused absence, you will be withdrawn from the course. THERE ARE NO EXCUSED ABSENCES. (See attendance policy.)

Weekly contributions (13 at 20 points each, 260 total; 43% of grade)

Students will be responsible for detailing their contributions to each of 13 weekly newspaper editions and/or the website. Each student is required to actively participate each week. (See separate schedule.)

Online training exercises (5 modules worth a total of 100 points; 17% of grade)

Each student will work through five online training modules on the Poynter Institute's News University website (<http://newsu.org>). Students must pass each module's assessment with a minimum of 80% in order to earn a completion certificate for the exercises. (See separate online training instructions.)

Video assignments (2 at 50 points, 100 points total; 17% of grade)

Each student will conceive, write, shoot, appear in (or voice over), edit and produce two video news reports. The content of the story must be approved by editors of the Valencia Voice.

DEADLINES

Because this course represents preparation for the news world, deadlines are critical. **ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE!** All contributions must be completed by assigned deadlines. (Check with editors for assignments and schedules.)

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 / CHEATING

If you plagiarize or cheat 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. (Link to Valencia College academic dishonesty policy: <http://valenciacollege.edu/policies/PDF/10-16.pdf>)

GRADING

Attendance (28 classes @ 5 points)	140	540-600 = A
Weekly contributions (14 @ 20 points)	260	480-539 = B
Video assignments (2 @ 50 points)	100	420-479 = C
Online training	100	360-419 = D
		000-359 = F
TOTAL	600	

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM — 1-800-878-5470

Valencia College offers a free, confidential student assistance program. Sometimes the pressure from college and life can snowball. Don't be afraid to call if you're feeling overwhelmed by:

- Academic stress
- Alcohol/drug use
- Work/study schedule
- Peer pressure
- Problems at home

The confidential toll-free number is available to help you 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1-800-878-5470. (Link: http://net4.valenciacollege.edu/promos/Internal/documents/Valencia_SAP.pdf)

(All content in this syllabus is subject to change, with prior notification of the instructor.)