

COURSE OUTLINE **Newspaper Practicum I**

Course Description

MC 145. Newspaper Practicum I. 1 hour credit. Pre-requisite: Lantern activity scholarship or instructor permission. This course will enable the student to complete requirements as a first-semester Lantern staffer. This practicum experience is for the student who is on Lantern scholarship as a reporter, photographer, designer, or business manager, or the student who is a regular correspondent not on scholarship.

Course Relevance

The student will have practical experience working on a weekly student newspaper that mimics the experience they would have working on a commercial newspaper. The student will experience the importance of individual responsibility when functioning as part of a team.

Required Textbook

MC 145 Textbook:

Goldstein, N. (2002). *The Associated Press stylebook and briefing on media law* (9th ed.). Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing.

Harrower, T. (2002). *The Newspaper designer's handbook* (5th ed.). Blacklick, OH: McGraw-Hill.

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Work effectively and efficiently as an individual in a team for the production of a weekly newspaper

Primary Learning PACT skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through the student's involvement in this course, he/she will develop his/her ability in the following primary PACT skill areas:

1. Teamwork
 - The student will discover how his/her ability and willingness to perform impacts the final product of a group effort
2. Time management
 - The student will understand how his/her ability to meet the production schedule impacts the final product

Secondary skills (developed but not documented):
Effective Relationships

Leadership
Computer Literacy

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcomes and the primary Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by:

1. The student will be required to hand in a string book (a collection of his/her published work).
2. The student will reflect about his/her experience and contribution on a self-evaluation form

Course Content

- I. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Production schedule: the importance of meeting deadlines
- II. Issues – Key issues that will be addressed in this course: areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. Accepting peer leadership: the student must learn to work with him/her as editors, separating friendships from work relationships
 - B. Time management: the student must be able to balance his/her class, work, and outside activities schedule to meet Lantern requirements.
- III. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. Production schedule
 - B. Staff roles
 - C. Editing
 - D. Story ideas
- IV. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Open template in computer
 - B. Be familiar with software necessary for assigned role (Quark, Photoshop)
 - C. Respond to student staff leadership

Learning Units

- I. Production schedule
- II. Staff roles
 - A. Respecting other staff members' roles
 - B. Fulfilling one's own role
- III. Editing
 - A. Self-editing
 - B. Editing by others
- IV. Story ideas
 - A. Find story ideas
 - B. Contribute story ideas
- V. Computer

- A. Open template
- B. Use appropriate software

Learning Activities

The student will plan and prepare *The Lantern* newspaper for weekly publication. Activities vary, according to his/her role on the newspaper staff. A once-a-week critique meeting is mandatory.

Grade Determination

Grade will be determined by attendance, punctuality, ability to meet deadlines, quality and improvement of work, and contribution to staff.