

JN215B - Design and Production Lab Syllabus

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Course Description

This two-credit lab offers journalism and other students interested in media a range of practical experience in news production and publishing. Students take on specific tasks on the staff that produces The Commuter, LBCC's award-winning, student-managed weekly newspaper and online site.

Grading

TIME COMMITMENT -- Students' work will be monitored on a weekly basis, with the primary emphasis on contributing to the production of The Commuter's printed edition and online updates. Because this lab functions as on-the-job experience, it is essential that you treat attendance as seriously as you would a job – ***about half of your grade will be based on attendance on Monday/Tuesday production shifts and other activities tied to producing the weekly newspaper.***

Each week, students must put in at least **3 HOURS of lab work -- 30 for the whole term.** (For specific assignments, *see below*). Lab times and assignments must be arranged by the end of the first week of the term, in collaboration with the editors of The Commuter. ***The hours are recorded on a Weekly Hours/Contributions Report spreadsheet posted in Moodle and updated by students weekly.***

WORK SAMPLES -- **The other half of your grade will be based on examples of your work compiled in the form of stories/photos/pages and other content in the Commuter's online archive.** In some instances, this may include tearsheets from the printed edition of the newspaper. A tearsheet is a FULL PAGE torn from the printed edition of The Commuter. **Mark the items** on the page for which you were responsible, such as headlines or captions you wrote, stories you proofed or copy edited, or the ads you designed. *The student will maintain this file over the course of the term.*

Based on your Commuter contribution, as demonstrated by work samples and hours served producing the newspaper, students' grades will be determined on this scale:

- A – Significant weekly contribution and no fewer than 30 hours.
- B – Regular weekly contributions and no fewer than 25 hours.
- C – Regular contributions and no fewer than 20 hours.
- D – Periodic contributions and less than 20 hours.
- F – Few contributions and less than 15 hours.

DESIGN LAB FOLDER – Each student will maintain a “folder” (virtual or actual) that includes their weekly contributions (e.g. stories, photos, headlines, stories edited) and/or tearsheets. Students will be responsible for filling in the **WEEKLY HOURS/CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT** on Moodle after each shift served for the newspaper. In addition to filling in the hours and contributions, **students will get their report initialed by**

one of the newspaper's editors or the adviser each week.

The instructor /adviser monitors the work of students each week by checking work samples and hours logged. Students **must meet with the instructor the first week of the term** after they have met with the editors to determine their assignments. At the end of the term, students **must schedule a short “exit interview” with the instructor** to go over the work they've compiled. As part of this “exit” process, students also may be asked to detail their work during the term in the form of an email.

Suggested Texts

- “The Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual” (Any recent edition will suffice)
- “The Newspaper Designer’s Handbook,” Tim Harrower (Copy available in the Commuter office)

Lab Assignments

Copy Editing, Headline Writing and Page Proofing: This assignment requires competent grammar skills and knowledge of Associated Press style. Students put in hours to edit reporters’ stories for clarity, accuracy and style. This assignment also involves proofing and/or writing stories/photos/headlines/captions/ads for print and online. Students work under the supervision of the editor-in-chief and/or managing editor.

Reporting/Editing: In addition to helping in the office with production of the newspaper, students put in hours working as reporters and editors as needed to complete various sections of the newspaper. This could involve covering breaking news or editing particular sections of the paper (e.g. sports, campus news, arts and entertainment). It could involve leading a team of other reporters, editors and photographers to create a particular news package or section. Schedule hours as needed. *Note: If writing stories, reporters also need to submit at least one story per issue during the term (9 or 10 stories).*

Photography/Photo Editing: This involves shooting photos as directed by the photo editor and other editors. In addition, photographers prepare digital files for publication in print and online. Students need experience using Photoshop, Lightroom or other photo editing software. Schedule hours as needed with the photo editor. *Photographers also should plan on submitting a minimum of one photo assignment per issue (9 or 10 assignments).*

Illustrations and Comics: This involves creating illustrations, comics or other informational graphics to accompany articles or ads, or to stand alone. Students work under the supervision of the editor, marketing director or other editors. Experience with illustration/graphics software and/or photo editing software is recommended. Schedule hours as needed.

Ad Design: Working under the direction of the Commuter's Marketing Director, students will be assigned to design ads. Experience with Photoshop, Pagemaker/InDesign, or other graphics software required. Schedule hours as needed after consulting with the Ad Coordinator.

Cultural Richness at LBCC

To promote academic excellence and learning environments that encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas, all courses at LBCC will provide students the opportunity to interact with values, opinions, and/or beliefs different than their own in safe, positive and nurturing learning environments. LBCC is committed to nurturing the development of culturally literate individuals capable of interacting, collaborating and problem-solving in an ever-changing

community and diverse workforce.

Statements of Inclusion and Nondiscrimination

The LBCC community is enriched by diversity. Everyone has the right to think, learn and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill. We will work toward creating a community without prejudice, intimidation, or discrimination. (*Related to Board Policy #1015*)

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. (For more information see <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs>)

Basic Needs Beyond the Classroom

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their college performance, is urged to contact the **Roadrunner Resource Center** for support (resources@linnbenton.edu, or see www.linnbenton.edu/RRC under Student Support for Current Students). This office can help students get connected to resources to help. Also, notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may know about.

Accessibility Resources

Students who may need accommodations due to documented disabilities, who have medical information which the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in an emergency, should speak with the instructor during the first week of class. If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, contact the Center for Accessibility Resources at 541-917-4789.

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