

Journalism Syllabus

North Dorchester High School

Room A100

Mr. Adam Wilson, Instructor

Planning Period: 4

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Schoology Code: Q3XQ-GHN5-P94ZF (Newspaper)

632X-7SVX-752MB (Yearbook)

Course Description

This year-long course assists students in learning the fundamentals of writing for mass media. Students master journalistic techniques of writing, editing, and publishing the school newspaper. Satisfactory performance in prior English courses is recommended for enrollment. **Selected students will also assist in all facets of yearbook production based on the student's prior journalism experience and work ethic.** The journalism course at NDHS is a “hands-on” course. The class is set up as a workshop atmosphere where several NDHS publications are created, including the NDHS Eagle, KENEU, and Eagle Newsletter. Students are selected for publication positions based on merit and length of time in class. However, students that have previously completed Journalism classes are not guaranteed a position on the yearbook staff. Upper level yearbook staff positions are granted to students after at least two years of A-level performance in Journalism. Satisfactory performance in prior English classes is required for upperclassmen admission to this course; teacher recommendations are required for freshman admissions to this course.

Course Requirements

This course focuses on writing, writing, and more writing. You will need to develop exemplary time-management skills to meet deadlines. **Therefore, mature decisions need to be made and a positive work ethic needs to be developed.** Students will be assigned stories to write for the newspaper every week. There will also be reinforcement exercises along with Internet searches and special assignments given throughout the week to be kept in a journal and turned in every Friday. At times, Mr. Wilson will collect journals on unannounced days, so no time should ever be wasted!!

Units of Study

- Fundamentals of Journalistic Writing: Inverted Pyramid
- Fundamentals of Headline Writing
- Journalism and Ethics: Just the Facts
- Interviewing Techniques
- Importance of Accuracy and Deadlines
- Fundamentals of Photojournalism

Required Materials

- Pencils **OR** pens (blue or black ink only)
- Loose leaf paper or a notebook with detachable paper
- A spiral or composition notebook for interviews and daily journals
- A Flash Drive

Virtual Learning

- Classes will be held virtually until further notice using the Schoology and Google Meets platforms. Daily learning will occur in two ways:
 - **Synchronous:** “face to face” with instructor completing lecture, discussion, and other forms of direct teaching (two days per week)
 - **Asynchronous:** after synchronous learning, students will be given an assignment to complete on their own based on the direct instruction from synchronous days. Mr. Wilson will be available during this time to answer questions and offer assistance. (three days per week)

Grading Policy

All assignments will be graded using a point system. Progress reports will be sent home on a regular basis. Assignments are broken down into the following categories and weighted in the following manner:

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| • Formative Assessments (class work, homework, etc) | 40% of your final grade |
| • Summative Assessments (tests, quizzes, projects, etc.) | 60% of your final grade |

Assessment Schedule

Students can expect weekly summative assessments in the form of their weekly newspaper article. In addition to this, students can expect both a midterm and final exam to be completed during the following weeks:

- Midterm: Week of January 26
- Final: Week of June 11

Guidelines for Success

- As you enter the virtual classroom, make sure that you have all materials necessary for that class period. Find your warm-up in Schoology and complete it within the first 5 minutes of synchronous learning.
- Organize and plan your time carefully to meet all deadlines.
- Attend class every day, and do not be late.
- Raise your hand in Google Meet to be recognized and called upon by the teacher. There is to be no talking over Mr. Wilson or other students.
- Be prepared for class everyday with all required materials.
- You **will not be** required to have your web camera turned on during synchronous learning. **However**, all students are expected to be present and attentive during synchronous learning and **should expect Mr. Wilson to randomly call on students during this time**. Failure to remain present and attentive during synchronous learning can negatively impact attendance for that class period.
- Be silent and attentive when Mr. Wilson or a peer is talking.
- Work hard on your daily assignments and meet all deadlines. **Work will not be accepted if you decide to not do your work in class. "I'll just do it later" is not a valid excuse.**
- Please avoid using distractors during synchronous and asynchronous learning, including food, drink, cell phones, and other electronics. Nothing should interfere with your learning potential!
- If a student misses a class period, they should take the initiative to look at any assignments on Schoology from their missed class period and complete the missing assignments
- Try your best!