

Montgomery County Community College  
MSP 268  
Introduction to Civic Journalism  
3-2-2

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Using professional production equipment, students learn journalistic skills by researching, writing, editing, and producing short documentary-style news reports that examine local issues facing Montgomery County communities. They broaden creative styles and techniques for producing documentary style reports while meeting professional news standards and deadlines. Students submit written proposals, review rough-cuts for approval, and digitally edit their final stories for distribution via student, College and community-based media. This course is subject to a course fee. Refer to <http://mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/paying/tuition/course-fees> for current rates.

**REQUISITES:**

*Previous Course Requirements*

- \* MSP 169 Introduction to Electronic Journalism with a minimum grade of "C"

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

**COURSE COMMENT**

- \* COM 268 with a minimum grade of "C" may be substituted for MSP 268

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Write well planned and researched story proposals.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Students Research and Write a Compelling Community Story Idea/Portfolio Writing Assignments	Portfolio (including rubric)

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
2. Write clearly and accurately about a community issue.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations/Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Students use Factual Information that is Compelling and Presented in a Creative Manner/Portfolio Writing Assignments	Portfolio (including rubric)
3. Edit basic text, video, and audio for distribution.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Story is Produced using Professional Equipment and Free of Technical Errors/Portfolio Writing Assignments	Portfolio (using rubric)
4. Create community affairs programming with a reporter's perspective.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Writing Assignments	Portfolio/Final Project

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Journalistic Writing
2. Invasion of Privacy Law
3. Responsibilities of Writers, Photographers, Editors
4. State of Community Journalism
5. Research and Drafting a Story
6. Photojournalism
7. Helping Citizens Act

# LEARNING MATERIALS:

Bayles, Fred. (2012). *Field Guide To Covering Local News*. SAGE/CQ Press.  
Hatcher, John. (2012). *Foundations of Community Journalism*. Los Angeles SAGE Press.

In addition, the instructor may provide students with handouts or access to selected Radio or Television programs or clips.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

# COURSE APPROVAL:

Note: MSP/COM 268 was created from deleted courses COM266 and COM267; refer to these courses for prior history.

Prepared by: Allan Schear

Date: 8/2015

VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification:

Victoria Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.

Date: 3/7/2016

Revised by: Allan Schear/Therol Dix

Date: 9/7/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Date: 11/1/2017



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*