

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 300
ENGLISH 300: FUNDAMENTALS OF JOURNALISM	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

Fundamentals of Journalism offers an introduction to the history, purpose, practice and various genres of journalism, as well as its relationship to a free society, means of production and future. The course addresses journalism in various forms and media, e.g. film, print, radio, television, and internet-based platforms, including web sites, blogs, Twitter, and other social media. Further, this course provides a thorough foundation in journalism's professional code of ethics. In addition, the course focuses on the methods and skills necessary for information gathering, establishing credibility, determining writing, editing and dissemination.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts (including making informed decisions in their own writing).
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts (which may include student writing).

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

America's Best Newspaper Writing. Roy Peter Clark and Christopher Scanlan, Bedford/St. Martin's (2005).

Associated Press Stylebook 2015 and Briefing on Media Law, Basic Books, frequently updated.

Blur: How to Know What's True in the Age of Information Overload. Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel, Bloomsbury USA (2011).

The Elements of Journalism: What News People Should Know and the Public Should Expect.

Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel, Three Rivers Press (2007). *Mightier than the Sword: How the News Media Have Shaped American History*, Roger Streitmatter, Westview Press (2011).

News Reporting and Writing, 11th Edition. The Missouri Group, Bedford/St. Martin's (2013).

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Course requirements for this foundation course must include exposure to a minimum of three journalistic genres and at least 15 pages of writing that practices or analyzes journalism. Instructors may require quizzes on the reading material and class discussions, a midterm, a final exam, and /or a project that will demonstrate each student's thorough understanding of how to “do journalism.” In addition, instructors may schedule a number of low-stakes writing/journal assignments for the purpose of orienting students to the central concepts journalism, writing for different media and in different genres. Assessment should show that students have learned to gather information, conduct interviews, and create a written journalistic piece that is balanced, impartial and meets the standards of ethics laid out by the Society of Professional Journalists.

College Attendance Policy

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC’s web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

F. Outline of Topics

Weeks 1-4: The Role of the Journalist

Weeks 5-8: Gathering and Verifying Information

Weeks 9-11: Ethics

Weeks 12-14: Alternatives to the Inverted Pyramid