

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 303
<b>ENGLISH 303: JOURNALISM: NEWS WRITING</b>	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 303 covers the basic principles and practices of news reporting and writing. Students are taught to write single-incident news stories, conduct balanced interviews and edit their own copy, employing standard copy editing symbols and format. Emphasis is also given to the theoretical side of journalism with an overview of its history, present legal controls, ethical issues and rapidly expanding technology.

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

Texts like the following are used in the course:

*Reporting and Writing the News*, Hill and Breen (Little, Brown)  
*The Complete Reporter*, Harris et al. (Macmillan)  
*The Elements of Style*, Strunk and White (Macmillan)  
*Reporting for the Print Media*, Fedler (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich)  
*On Writing Well*, Zinnser (HarperCollins)  
*Newswriting Exercises*, Metzler (Prentice Hall)

*Writing for the Media*, Rivers (Mayfield)

*News Writing*, Hough (Houghton Mifflin)

#### E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be graded on the basis of written work, class participation and a final examination. Required work will include numerous "rewrites" of news for practice, at least three original news stories, practice summaries of public speeches and class lectures, and one reference source paper. Field trips to newspapers and radio or television stations will also be included.

#### **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](http://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 Journalist

- A. The Role of Journalists in Society
- B. Training for Journalists
- C. The Media: Print and Electronic
- D. Public Opinion and the Journalist

Weeks 5-8: News

- A. Identifying the News
- B. Changing News Patterns
- C. Good Taste; Libel
- D. Attribution

Weeks 9-11: Language in Journalism

- A. Review of Grammar
- B. Conciseness and Style
- C. Copy Editing and Proofreaders' Marks

Weeks 12-14: The Reporter's Work

- A. Organizing and Writing the News Story
- B. The Interview: Note-Taking and Tape Recording
- C. Career Information; Varieties of Opportunities in Journalism