

**El Paso Community College**  
**Syllabus**  
**Part II**  
**Official Course Description**

<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>	<u>Communication</u>
<b>COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER</b>	<u>COMM 2315</u>
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<u>Writing for the Mass Media II</u>
<b>COURSE CREDIT HOURS</b>	<u>3            3        :        0</u> Credits:        Lec            Lab

**I. Catalog Description**

Builds on the principles learned in Writing for the Mass Media I with emphasis on more specialized and challenging writing techniques. **Prerequisite: COMM 2311. (3:0).**

**II. Course Objectives**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the students will be able to:

- A. Unit I -Writing Principles Review
  - 1. Identify good writing techniques in current media
  - 2. Invent, draft and revise their writing
  - 3. Identify and correct misuses in grammar, punctuation and spelling
  
- B. Unit II -Specialized Media Writing
  - 1. Identify various specialized media writing
  - 2. Compose and edit stories for special applications
  - 3. Incorporate AP style and *Tejano Tribune* style into all writing
  
- C. Unit III -Fact Gathering
  - 1. Use paper trails for investigative reporting and writing
  - 2. Use primary and secondary sources
  - 3. Use various techniques to get interviews
  
- D. Unit IV -Legal Responsibilities
  - 1. Recognize and evaluate a reporter's rights and professional responsibilities
  - 2. Recognize and evaluate legal/ethical issues present in investigative journalism
  
- E. Unit V -Writing Compelling Projects
  - 1. Get details, avoid stereotypes, develop inviting leads for complex stories
  - 2. Write effective print journalistic copy

### III. Evaluation

Grade:	
Stories	60 %
Final Story Project	30 %
Instructor's Evaluation	<u>10 %</u>
Total	100% *

(\*Extra credit may be earned only if there are grades in all other categories. It cannot be used to make up for an entire category).

#### Grading Scale

Grades will be based on written achievement in this course. A "C" will represent average work; an "A" will be reserved for excellent work. The grade scale is as follows:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

Journalistically these grades mean approximately the following:

- A= very few errors; publishable with only minor edits.
- B= few errors; publishable with editing (minor rewriting may be required).
- C= some errors; publishable with major editing and rewriting by student
- D= many errors; not publishable even with major editing; major rewriting by student is definitely required for piece to be publishable
- F= not publishable because of grave errors; must be completely rewritten

### IV. Disability Statement (American with/Disabilities Act [ADA])

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024).

### V. 6 Drop Rule

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.