

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

<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>	<u><b>Communication</b></u>						
<b>COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER</b>	<u><b>COMM 2305</b></u>						
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<u><b>Grammar for Journalists</b></u>						
<b>COURSE CREDIT HOURS</b>	<table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"><b>3</b></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"><b>2</b></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"><b>2</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Credits</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Lec</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Lab</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Lec</b>	<b>Lab</b>
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**I. Catalog Description**

Stresses writing and editing skills for on-line newspaper and magazine publications. Uses computer technology for all phases of production, including newsgathering, reporting, and editing. This course will prepare students for possible grammar, spelling and punctuation tests at potential media internships. It is recommended that students who are planning to graduate with an Associate's in Journalism should take this course. Students who are transferring to New Mexico State University should take this course to receive course credit for JOUR 102 under the NMSU Journalism and Mass Communication degree plan.

**Prerequisite: COMM 2311. (2:2). Lab Fee.**

**II. Course Objectives**

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

- A. Unit 1: Writing Principles for journalism
  - 1. Identify good writing and copyediting techniques for on-line and print media.
  - 2. Invent, draft and revise their writing.
  - 3. Identify and correct misuses in grammar, punctuation and spelling.
  
- B. Unit 2: Specialized Media Writing
  - 1. Identify various specialized grammar, spelling and punctuation assignments for on-line and print use.
  - 2. Identify visual and textual combinations for copyediting.
  - 3. Incorporate AP style throughout assignments, tests and online production.
  
- C. Unit 3: On-line Production and Practice
  - 1. Use computers for all phases of testing, writing and practice of grammar, spelling and punctuation.
  - 2. Produce a clear and coherent online product (blog) that incorporates AP Style and correct spelling, grammar and punctuation tools.
  - 3. Use grammar engines such for research, practice and writing.
  
- D. Unit 4: Ethical Responsibilities
  - 1. Recognize and evaluate a reporter's rights and professional responsibilities on-line and in print.
  - 2. Recognize and evaluate professional copyediting guidelines for a print or online publication.

- E. Unit 5: Application of Skills
1. Employ various techniques for generating stories that are clean in grammar, spelling and punctuation that follow the AP Style.
  2. Write effective journalistic copy and pass the Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation Test or the course with a passing grade.

### III. Evaluation

Students will participate in a variety of learning activities throughout the semester that will track their progress toward meeting course objectives, including but not limited to, GSP and AP exercise assignments, an online blog project, GSP practice tests, and a final exam.

<u>Grade:</u>	
GSP and AP Exercise Assignments	20 %
Online Blog Project	40 %
GSP Practice Tests	20 %
Final GSP Test	<u>20 %</u>
Total:	100 %*

\*Depending on the course instructor, all of these activities and evaluation percentages above; or only a selection may be used.

Grading Scale:

Grades will be based on written achievement in this course.

90-100	=	A
80-89	=	B
70-79	=	C
60-69	=	D
50-59	=	F

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.

**VI. Title IX and Sex Discrimination**

Title 9 (20 U.S.C. 1681 & 34 C.F.R. Part 106) states the following "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) prohibits stalking, date violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence for all students, employees and visitors (male and female). If you have any concerns related to discrimination, harassment, or assault (of any type) you can contact the Assistant to the Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services at 915-831-2655. Employees can call the Manager of Employee Relations at 915-831-6458. Reports of sexual assault/violence may also be reported to EPCC Police at 915-831-2200.