

## Reporting 270: Roma Storytelling Project Syllabus

Online WebEx Meetings Weekly

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Keller LA

609 Office Hours by Appointment

406-896-5824

[skeller@msubillings.edu](mailto:skeller@msubillings.edu)

### The Book:

*Writing and Reporting News 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*, By Carole Rich (*Required*) (8<sup>th</sup> edition can be rented from Chegg online for \$26.49)

### Style Guide:

*When Words Collide*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (If you have the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Writing and Reporting News only) By Lauren Kessler and Duncan McDonald (Recommended)

or

*2019 Associated Press Stylebook*. The Associated Press. ISBN: 978-0-917360-68-8. (Recommended)

### Reports:

BUILDING TRUST A Manifesto for Sustainable Journalism in South East Europe and Turkey, The Ethical Journalism Network, available at:

<https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Building-Trust-in-Media-in-South-East-Europe.pdf>

"Back to the Drawing Board: Crafting the Ideal Journalism Education Curricula for South East Europe", published in November 2017, analyzed the current state of journalistic education in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, available at: <http://respublica.edu.mk/attach/Building-Trust-in-Media-in-SEE.pdf>

Social Inclusion and Cultural Identity of Roma Communities in South-Eastern Europe, edited by Gabriela Mirescu, available at:

[https://childhub.org/en/system/tdf/library/attachments/1274\\_Swiss\\_peace\\_original.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=6487](https://childhub.org/en/system/tdf/library/attachments/1274_Swiss_peace_original.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=6487)

All stories must be turned in to the drop box as a word document or rich text with your name in the title of the document.

### Course Policies

- Academic Dishonesty of any sort will result in a significant grade reduction for the course. If a student commits academic dishonesty twice, this will result in a grade of F for the course.

Please consult the Student Handbook pp. 136-7 for the University's policies on academic misconduct.

- I expect everyone to remain respectful of your fellow classmates, regardless of differences of opinion that may arise. I'd like the discussion area to remain a place where people are comfortable asking for feedback and sharing their respective points of view — so please communicate mindfully.

#### Disability Support:

- If you have a disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please make an appointment with me during my office hours. Validation from Disability Support Services (DSS) authorizing your accommodations will be needed. The DSS office is located in the Academic Support Center. Their phone number is (406) 657-2283.

**Catalog Description:** JRNL 270 Reporting (formerly COMT 222 Media Writing) 3 cr. (F, Sp) Introduces students to fundamentals of newsgathering in print and broadcast journalism. The course covers basic skills necessary for newsgathering such as reporting techniques, story composition, and interviewing methods.

#### Course Outcomes

- Describe the characteristics of a news story for print, web, broadcast, and radio;
- Find an appropriate topic and write a news story, a feature story, and develop other journalistic content;
- Identify issues currently being considered by journalism scholars;
- Describe academic and career options in the field of journalism;
- Critically analyze news from print, web, broadcast, and radio.
- Explain the rich diversity of your audience and the need to consider a variety of views and backgrounds;
- Explain basic legal and ethical principles of journalism.

#### GRADING POLICIES

Please do not ask me or have anyone else ask me to change a semester grade in order to protect your GPA, major-requirement status, scholarship, job, or athletic-team status. I cannot and will not change a semester grade. It is your job to earn your grade throughout the term. If you are having difficulty in the class, please talk to me as soon as possible so that we can work together on overcoming obstacles to your success.

Grades cannot be assigned to recognize how hard or long a student has worked on a project. I cannot measure time, effort, or energy expended, but only the visible outcome of your

endeavors: the finished product. Grades are based on announced standards, not comparisons to other students' work or other professors' grading systems.

Students have the right and responsibility to ask for clarification of grading standards at any reasonable time, although waiting to do so until the last week of class is generally not a good idea.

If you want to know your grade, it's simple: Look at D2L. Grades will not be e-mailed to you.

### **GRADING SCALE**

Here is the scale:

95 to 100 percent = A

90-94 percent = A-

85 to 89 percent = B

80 to 84 percent = B-

75 to 79 percent = C

70 to 74 percent = C-

65 to 69 percent = D

60 to 64 percent = D-

Below 60 percent = F

### **Schedule and assignment due dates**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Week 1 Understanding News</b>	<b>Rich, Ch. 1, 2 &amp; 3 A &amp; B in AP Stylebook or: Ch. 1 in Kessler &amp; McDonald Front Page assignment DUE Reading handouts online in Week 1</b>	<b>Jan. 26</b>
<b>Week 2 Collecting Information</b>	<b>Rich, Ch. 4 &amp; 5 C, D &amp; E in AP Stylebook Ch. 2 in Kessler &amp; McDonald Interview Assignment DUE</b>	<b>Feb. 2</b>
<b>Week 3 Interviewing Part II</b>	<b>Rich Ch. 6 F, G &amp; H in AP Ch. 3 in Kessler &amp; McDonald</b>	<b>Feb. 9</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Constructing Stories (Rich, Ch. 7 &amp; 8)</b>	<b>Feb. 16</b>

<b>Reporting</b>	<b>Writing Assignment DUE: Find News, Write News</b>	
<b>Week 5 Inverted Pyramid</b>	<b>Deconstructing a Story DUE 5 Good Leads DUE Rich, Ch. 9 Ch. 4 in Kessler &amp; McDonald</b>	<b>Feb. 23</b>
<b>Week 6 Speeches, News Conferences, Etc.</b>	<b>Rich, Ch. 18 Press Conference Story DUE</b>	<b>March 8</b>
<b>Week 7 Other Stories</b>	<b>Rich, Ch. 10-11</b>	<b>March 15</b>
<b>Week 8 News Releases</b>	<b>Rich, Ch. 13 Press Release Story DUE</b>	<b>March 22</b>
<b>Week 9 Online Writing</b>	<b>Rich, Ch. 12</b>	<b>March 29</b>
<b>Week 10 Covering a Beat Criticism &amp; Opinion</b>	<b>Multicultural Sensitivity (Rich, Ch. 16)</b>	<b>April 5</b>
<b>Week 11 Media Ethics</b>	<b>Media Law &amp; Ethics (Rich, Ch. 14 &amp; 15)</b>	<b>April 12</b>
<b>Week 12 Obits, Etc.</b>	<b>Rich, Ch. 17, 19 &amp; 20 Obit DUE</b>	<b>April 19</b>
<b>Week 13 The Final</b>	<b>Writing Assignment (100 points)</b>	<b>April 26</b>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Due</b>
WebEx Meeting or Response	10%	
Exercises	10%	
Writing Assignments	65%	
• Front Page Comparison		1/27
• Interview Assignment		2/3
• Find News. Write News		2/17
• Deconstructing a Story		2/24
• Five Leads		2/24
• Press Conference Story		3/9
• Press Release Story		3/23
• Obit		4/20
Final	15%	4/27

TOTAL	100%	
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### Academic Support Center

The Academic Support Center of MSU Billings provides tutoring services to support the academic success students. Any MSUB/City College student can utilize the services on either campus. The ASC is staffed with student tutors, professional tutors and instructors who are trained to tutor in a variety of subjects. Tutors are available to assist students with math, writing, reading, anatomy and physiology, and other specialty areas for specific majors. Tutoring services are "free" as they are already paid for as part of your student fees.

<https://www.msubillings.edu/asc/>

### [COVID-19 Related Policies:](#)

See the following link for more details on MSUB's Health and Safety Protocols:

<http://www.msubillings.edu/fall2020actionplan/index.htm#healthSafety>

### **Cloth face masks and face coverings—Effective July 23, 2020, MSUB will implement the following:**

Face coverings are required in all indoor spaces and all enclosed or partially enclosed outdoor spaces. Face coverings will be required in all outdoor spaces where social distancing is not possible or difficult to reliably maintain. In outdoor settings where social distancing is possible, face coverings continue to be strongly recommended. The face covering requirement applies to all MSUB students, employees and to all visitors, including service providers, contractors, vendors, suppliers, alumni, families, and community members.

Your health and your family's health should be your priority. If you are feeling ill, have a sick family member or have been advised by a medical professional to self-isolate, please do not attend class. Contact your instructor for instructions on how to complete your class work.

MSU Billings is practicing social distancing outlined by the protocol of the CDC, State Department, and Montana University System to combat COVID-19. Calls to my office will be forwarded to me via email.