

Journalism Syllabus: Fall 2018

Contact Information

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Mission Statement

“Jennings High School is a safe and inviting community where learning is nurtured and educators believe all students can achieve and meet the challenges of a changing world.”

Course Description

This course is a semester long course designed to introduce media and news literacy. In this course, students will learn about the role journalism plays in a democratic society, the ethics behind journalism, and the importance of a free press. Students will also practice journalism through writing articles in a variety of styles, copy editing and publication. Journalism is, among other things, an exploration of the world outside oneself. Hopefully, this course will give you an opportunity to learn about things you don't already know, or force you to see things from a new perspective.

Course Purposes

This course is constructed in such a way that its aim is to advance and support both the vision and mission statement of Jennings Senior High School through student mastery of the following:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the basics of journalism and its history in our country.
- Students will be able to show competency in all areas of print journalism styles. Including copy editing, headline selection, source attribution, and interview skills.
- Students will be able to identify the important roles within the journalism field. In addition, they will understand the ethical code of conduct expected of journalists and how this impacts society.

Materials Needed

- Pencils and blue or black pens
- Spiral notebook or loose-leaf paper
- 2 pocket Language Arts folder or binder
- Access to your Jennings email (firstnamelastname@jenningsk12.us, password: hallpass)

Class Expectations

- Show respect at all times. This includes respecting the other students in the classroom, as well as respecting the instructor.
- Help to create a conducive learning environment. This includes listening when required, refraining from walking around the classroom, socializing, or distracting your peers from learning during class time.
- Come to class prepared every day. This includes having something to write with, folder/notebook, completed homework and a positive attitude.
- Active engagement in all classroom activities and discussions.
- You are expected to follow all rules and regulation of Jennings High School and the Jennings School District.

Phone Policy

Please note that use personal electronics (iPods, phones, personal game systems, etc.) are prohibited in the classroom; however, smart phones may be used for during class for educational purposes. Students using these items outside of educational instruction will be given one warning to store them. If an item returns, it will be confiscated and turned over to the dean's office.

Absences and Tardiness

Absences

- If you are absent, you are responsible for coordinating with your group and the instructor to obtain all make up work, notes, or handouts.
- I will not print out additional materials, you are responsible for obtaining any missing work. You may use the library or computer labs to print out any materials you need.
- All handouts and assignments can be located on the class website (msrichardsjennings.weebly.com)

Tardiness

- In the event you are late to class without a pass, you will not be admitted without a pass.
- Tardiness under 15 minutes late will result in "in-class discipline."
- Tardiness over 15 minutes late will result be labeled as "cutting" and referred to the office.
- If you accumulate five tardies in a quarter, a referral will be sent to the office.

Late and Make-up Work:

- All assignments are due by the due date given
- Work over 1 week late will be deducted by 20%
- Work is accepted up to the Quarter or End of the Unit, no work accepted after that! **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Plagiarism

Definition

- Includes, but is not limited to, copying someone's ideas, words, or phrases without the proper citation or recognition for the actual creator
- In a real newsroom, plagiarism is grounds for termination, so the same expectations will be applied in this classroom.

Consequences

- Automatic "F" and no chance to make up the assignment, parent phone call, and referral to the office.

If you have any questions about the legitimacy of your assignment or proper citation, please see me—I will be happy to help.

Consequences

Initially, and depending on the severity of the problem, students will be given a verbal warning for failure to adhere to the expectations. Further infractions will be remedied using the following consequences: 30-minute classroom detention, parent call, and referral to the Dean's Office. Chronic and severe problems will result in parent/teacher conferences.

Grade Updates

SISK12 will update every few days. It is your responsibility to acquire your SIS id and check your grades consistently throughout the semester. If you miss an assignment due to absences, you must acquire the work off the class website (msrichardsjennings.weebly.com). No extra copies will be distributed.

Rating	Grade	Grade Range (%)
Excellent	A	90-100
Above Average	B	80-89
Average	C	70-79
Below Average	D	60-69
Failing	F	0-59

*Additional grades for testing, participation, and preparation will be added.

*If you feel like you have received a lower grade than you deserved, talk to me privately and I will be more than happy to discuss and adjust your grade if justified.

Academic Effort Evaluation

(As noted in the Jennings Senior High School Student Handbook):

Student Attendance or Participation in School Activities

A student's eligibility for participating in and attending athletic events or student activities is based upon each student's willingness to put forth academic effort during the school day. Any student who is not making an effort in two (2) or more of their classes will NOT be allowed to participate in or attend after school activities. At the end of each reporting period (about 5 weeks) a student who receives two failing grades (F) will be assigned a "LACK OF ACADEMIC EFFORT WARNING". If there is no improvement in those classes during the next grading period, the student will receive a "LACK OF ACADEMIC EFFORT SUSPENSION". Students who receive two "LACK OF ACADEMIC EFFORT SUSPENSIONS" in one grading period will be placed on "ACTIVITIES SUSPENSION" until their grades improve.

Tutoring for Student Failure

All students who fail a class in any grading period (Progress report or Quarter grade) should attend an after-school tutoring session for that class one night each week. The student should attend the weekly tutoring until a future grading period shows the student is no longer failing the class. Teachers are to keep records of failing student's attendance for tutoring.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

