



COURSE SYLLABUS 2019 – 2020

JOURNALISM / NEWSPAPER

(10 total credits)

Instructor: Mr. Gleason **Advisor: Mr. Hanzlik**

Room B-12 (C-314)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Journalism/Newspaper offers students an opportunity to learn about the foundations of journalistic practice, and to produce Kennedy High School's newspaper, *The Clarion*, in a simulated, modern workplace. The *Clarion* is produced both in print and online formats, with students developing their abilities in writing, reporting, editing and still photography for the main sections: News, Features, Opinions, Arts/Entertainment, and Sports. All students are considered *Clarion* staffers, and some will assume leadership roles, including Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Design Team, and Photo Editor. In addition, students will be involved in the business side of the news industry such as advertising, sales, and public relations/marketing.

Journalism has changed dramatically in the last decade, and the effectiveness of its role in a free society is the subject of continued debate. Just as real news outlets and reporters work hard, collaborate, and innovate to keep the interest of audiences and advertisers, students in Journalism/Newspaper must do the same to keep their school newspaper relevant and vital to Kennedy and the larger community.

Student work in the *Clarion* may additionally be submitted for publishing in *The Sac County Breeze*, a paper showcasing high school journalism across the Sacramento Metropolitan area, with support from the California Scholastic Journalism Initiative (CSJI). Several times a year, the CSJI sponsors a monthly speaker series at the *Sacramento Bee*, and, in May, recognizes the work of local student journalists with an awards dinner.

Additional support for our class comes from the *Sacramento Bee*, the *Sacramento News & Review*, our advertisers, and the Sacramento County Office of Education. A portion of curriculum has been provided by The American Society of News Editors in collaboration with the Missouri School of Journalism faculty/staff, and others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

During the class, the student will be taught to:

- Produce articles, photographs, print pages and/or edited materials for the *Clarion* while working under deadlines typical of a newsroom environment.
- Sell advertising space by directly appealing to local merchants and professionals.
- Demonstrate skills in writing, editing, photography, and design.
- Learn and apply knowledge of journalism ethics and workplace professionalism.
- Determine the boundaries between detached, factual reporting and biased opinion articles.
- Identify protections of student journalists ensured by the First Amendment of the United States, as well as by California Education Code and California Penal Code.
- Explore the news media landscape – analog and digital – with a critical eye toward journalism's traditions, its adaptive innovations, and its perceived flaws.
- Understand the appeal and worth of journalistic reporting in a free society.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS / GRADING

CATEGORY	
55%	Assignments, Class Participation Students must complete all in-class writing exercises and community ad sales. In addition, they must submit writing and/or photographs for consideration for each <i>Clarion</i> published. Students must contribute a variety of writing formats within and beyond their areas of interests including news, opinion, sports, and reviews as well as photography. Work must meet publication standards, journalistic ethics, and include proper coverage and caption information. This class requires students to manage their own time and to be a valuable team member by contributing to class discussions.
35%	Deadlines, Outside Hours Students must meet all <i>Clarion</i> publishing deadlines. Although time is given during class for writing and editing, students who need more time will need to self-assign homework in order to meet their deadlines. Late work is not accepted unless there are compelling reasons for the lateness. If a student is not able to complete an assignment on time for any reason, they must notify the teacher immediately and BEFORE the deadline.
10%	Planning, Time Log A weekly planner for setting goals, planning, and recording participation time will be provided each Monday. The completed form will be turned in on Friday, graded, and then stored in the student's classroom file. The planner will serve as a weekly participation grade. Good school attendance is a class expectation. Students must be available to attend and report on school social, academic, and sporting events that occur outside the school academic schedule.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

I'm looking forward to a productive, insightful, and enjoyable school year working with you. As in most working collaborations, some days can be better than others, so we learn to "do the work even on a bad day" and persevere. My role is to engineer opportunities of academic discovery for all students; that process will require habits of mind for critical thinking, habits of heart for respectful interaction, and the patience and stamina needed to fight through setbacks and frustrations.

BEHAVIOR

Respectful behavior is expected in the class: Respect for learning; Respect for property; Respect for boundaries; Respect for others; Respect for yourself.

You are expected to respect and maximize our shared time without disruption. Don't waste our time. Please also understand that your personal needs – while important to you – cannot overtake the class agenda. Refer to the *John F. Kennedy High School Discipline Policy Handbook* for campus-wide rules for behavior and expectations.

PLAGIARISM

If a student is caught plagiarizing (copying someone else's work and turning it in as your own), making up sources, or fabricating direct quotes, they will receive an "F" for the assignment. The misconduct will be reported to the Discipline Office. This also pertains if information is copied without proper sourcing from the Internet.

ATTENDANCE & TARDIES

Take attendance seriously -- missing multiple days of class in a semester, whether excused or unexcused, can endanger earning course credit. As the tardy bell rings, you are expected to be in your seat with necessary materials, ready to start. If you arrive late, don't break the flow – enter quietly without distraction. Absences and tardies erode your participation potential and leave you stranded on the runway while everyone else takes off.

ADDENDA

- Food and drink are prohibited: they distract and litter a classroom. Bottled water is recommended, but keep control -- leaving to the drinking fountain or bathroom is not a valid use of class time. A responsible-enough class may eventually eat fruits or vegetables in class.
- Bathroom passes are offered very rarely during class because most students and teachers can capably handle an hour of focused learning. You are expected to use passing periods for bathroom needs. Please plan ahead to avoid class disruption and personal discomfort!
- Bring your own tissue paper, particularly during cold and flu season.

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

Be truly present. Your mobile devices need to be kept out of reach and out of sight in the classroom, unless I specifically allow their use in a lesson.