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NMH SUMMER SESSION

2010
College Prep Program
JOURNALISM MINOR COURSE

The main goals of the course were to introduce the students to the field of journalism and to teach them how to produce their own work for a Summer Session newspaper. The students learned about journalistic ethics, the art of the interview, newspaper writing techniques, and the broader range of journalism and media outlets. The intention behind a course based on student writing and on a wider knowledge of the field of journalism was to allow them to gain experience in the field as quickly as possible and to illuminate their future opportunities in media and journalism.

The students critiqued news stories and publications, discussing the differences in layout, audience, and tone. They also responded to ethical issues in their own writing and reporting, such as bias and covering both sides of a story. In addition, they learned general interview techniques as well as how to record quotations and field notes. Before reporting on events or conducting interviews, the class generated questions and thought about the most important information to gather.

The students studied various types of newspaper writing, including national/international “hard” news, feature articles, editorials, columns, and profiles. They discussed the structure and style of newspaper articles. Each student produced articles for the Summer Session newspaper, receiving individual editing from the instructor as well as group feedback from the entire class.

The students also looked at other forms of journalism, including magazine articles, radio journalism, photojournalism, internet journalism, and multimedia.

This was not a homework-bearing course, so grades were determined by class participation, by writing submitted for the newspaper, and by the general degree of commitment shown by the student.

The course met for an hour and 30 minutes, four afternoons each week, for the five-week session.

Instructor: Jonah Kaplan-Woolner
Oberlin College