

## SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

### Course Code, Number, and Title:

JOUR 1240: Advanced Copy Editing

### Course Format:

[Course format may vary by instructor. The typical course format would be:]

Lecture 1 h + Seminar 0 h + Lab 1 h

**Credits:** 3

**Transfer credit:** For information, visit [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca)

### Course Description, Prerequisites, Corequisites:

This course builds on the skills developed in JOUR 1142: Basics of Copy Editing. Students learn how to undertake more challenging structural changes to stories, refining those stories to improve their flow. Students also learn how to assess stories for gaps and omissions in information, fairness, good taste, libel, editorializing, and other issues.

Registration in this course is restricted to students admitted to the Journalism program.

Prerequisite(s): JOUR 1142.

### Learning Outcomes:

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

- Identify structural problems with news stories and short features
- Determine whether additional information needs to be researched to complete a story
- Modify submitted news stories and short features in order to correct problems of poor transitions, weak organization, and missing information
- Coach student reporters in how to modify stories to correct structural problems
- Evaluate whether a story has any legal issues or problems with taste, stereotyping, unacceptable language

**Instructor(s):** TBA

**Office:** TBA      **Phone:** 604 323 XXXX      **Email:** TBA

**Office Hours:** TBA

## **Textbook and Course Materials:**

[Textbook selection may vary by instructor. An example of texts and course materials for this course might be:]

Canadian Press Style Guide  
Canadian Press Caps and Spelling

*Note: This course may use an electronic (online) instructional resource that is located outside of Canada for mandatory graded class work. You may be required to enter personal information, such as your name and email address, to log in to this resource. This means that your personal information could be stored on servers located outside of Canada and may be accessed by U.S. authorities, subject to federal laws. Where possible, you may log in with an email pseudonym as long as you provide the pseudonym to me so I can identify you when reviewing your class work.*

## **Assessments and Weighting:**

**Final Exam %**

**Other Assessments %**

(An example of other assessments might be:) %

Quizzes/Tests: 40%

Assignments: 40%

Lab work: 20%

No final exam because of constant assignment and feedback cycle characteristic of journalism programs

Proportion of individual and group work:

Individual: 100%

**Grading System:** Letter grade

Specific grading schemes will be detailed in each course section outline.

Passing grade: C-

## **Topics Covered:**

[Topics covered may vary by instructor. An example of topics covered might be:]

Week 1: The more complex roles of editors: judges of good taste, gatekeepers for libel, literary editors who improve the narratives of stories, and more

Week 2: Evaluating and fixing leads

Week 3: Evaluating and fixing story structure and flow

Week 4: Headlines, cutlines, callouts and other pieces of text

Week 5: Story structure and flow problems

Week 6 & 7: Making long features readable

*This generic outline is for planning purposes only.*

Week 8: Handling sources, attribution and quotes

Week 9: Editing for broadcast, online and social media

Week 10: Editing non-journalists: op-eds, letters to the editor

Week 11: Wrap-up

Week 12: Students work on production of a daily newspaper, where all the above skills are used

As a student at Langara, you are responsible for familiarizing yourself and complying with the following policies:

**College Policies:**

[E1003 - Student Code of Conduct](#)

[F1004 - Code of Academic Conduct](#)

[E2008 - Academic Standing - Academic Probation and Academic Suspension](#)

[E2006 - Appeal of Final Grade](#)

[F1002 - Concerns about Instruction](#)

[E2011 - Withdrawal from Courses](#)

**Departmental/Course Policies:**

*This generic outline is for planning purposes only.*