COURSE TITLE: Specialized Reporting

1. Catalog Description:

A rotating study of techniques, principles, language and legal issues of the reporting specialties. The framework of the class remains the same each semester. Different categories/themes, approved by the division, will be offered through the year in response to student interest and market trends. This will include, but is not limited to, political, environmental, religious, agribusiness, science, food, travel and health reporting (3 hours).

II. Prerequisites:

Completion of MC 320 with a grade of “C” or better; 75 hours including 15 MC prefix hours; admission to the mass communication program.

III. Objectives:

As an ACEJMC-accredited program, we embrace the key values of research, theory, law, ethics, history and diversity in our curriculum. This course addresses research, law, ethics, history and diversity as specific units within the weekly syllabus. Theory is addressed throughout each chapter and topic.

A. To introduce students to the theory and methods of specialized areas of reporting that exist within the broad scope of mainstream journalism.
B. To expose students to the issues and institutions associated with the reporting specialty.
C. To encourage students to emphasize accuracy and ethical conduct in reporting.
D. To enable students to write competently on the reporting category.

IV. Expectations of Students:

A. Write proficiently.
B. Attend all class meetings and participate in discussion.
C. Meet all deadlines.
D. Act ethically, responsibly and professionally at all times.

V. Course Content:

A. Introduction to the category (1 week).
B. Specialized terminology (1 week).
C. Research and sources (1 week).
D. Unique concerns for reporters (1 week).
E. Legal/ethical issues (2 weeks).
F. Race/gender and diversity (1 week).
G. History of the specialty (1 week).
H. Interview with a journalist working within the category (1 week).
I. Jobs and careers within the category (1 week).
J. Writing assignments and lab assignments (4 weeks).
K. Multi-media reporting assignments (1 week).

VI. Textbooks:
B. Text appropriate to the subject.
C. Selected readings, articles and sources specified by instructor.

VII. Basis for student evaluation:
A. Seven news, feature, profile, issue and investigative articles on the specialty, two of those to be multi-media projects (50 percent).
B. Regular quizzes on class materials and other assigned reading (20 percent).
C. Mid-term exam (10 percent).
D. Final exam (10 percent).
E. One short research paper (5 percent).
F. Classroom participation (5 percent).