This course introduces the skills required in print journalism, preparing students to write news and feature stories under deadline conditions. We will learn the fundamentals of news-gathering and reporting, with special attention devoted to writing effective leads, clearly organizing news stories, interviewing sources, quoting accurately, and editing for correctness. Field assignments on our campus and various in-class and at-home writing exercises will expose students to real challenges journalists face on a daily basis. Interwoven with these practical concerns will be discussions relating to journalism ethics and the responsibilities of the writer-reporter.

REQUIRED TEXTS
A reporter’s notebook, in which to take notes

COURSE OBJECTIVES
– Developing criteria for what constitutes “newsworthiness”
– Writing powerful leads
– Quoting sources effectively and attributing them accurately
– Organizing facts, quotes, and background information into a unified story
– Developing journalistic sentence structure and vocabulary
– Editing articles according to journalistic standards set by Associated Press
– Understanding what it means to be a journalist in a democratic society

REQUIREMENTS
– Prompt, regular attendance; full participation
– Reading and writing assignments for each class (text must be brought to class)
– Several major news and feature articles
– FULL RESPONSIBILITY for self–editing of stories and attending to individual writing problems at the Academic Skills Center, Orient 220. Call Donna Frey at 548–3505 for an appointment
EVALUATION

News/ feature stories, editorial piece  8% each
At-home & in–class writing exercises  29%
Participation  15%

FORMAT FOR NEWS/ FEATURE STORIES AND EXERCISES
All submitted work must be typed (one side of the page only), double–spaced, and stapled. Include your name, course name and section (EG 25, Sec. 0983), my name, and date due on first page.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS
All news and feature stories and writing exercises are due in class on dates indicated in the syllabus. No late work will be accepted under any circumstance, unless cleared with me in advance. Do not submit work via email or on disk; only hard copy will be accepted–in class.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance is mandatory. There are no excused absences. If you are absent more than six (6) times, you will fail the course. [Note: If you sleep or do homework for other courses, you will be marked absent.]

LATENESS AND EARLY DEPARTURES
Excessive lateness and leaving class early will also jeopardize your grade. Three (3) lateness and/ or early departures constitute one (1) absence.

CLASS CONDUCT
Class starts punctually, and it is expected that you will not disrupt the learning environment in any way. Do not bring visitors without prior permission. Turn off cell phones and beepers before entering the classroom. Do not leave the classroom, whether during class discussion or group work, for any reason. If you disrupt the class in any way, you will be asked to leave.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Academic dishonesty or plagiarism is a serious offense that will result in an “F” grade for the assignment and perhaps for the course. Consult the Suffolk Community College Handbook for definitions of plagiarism.

CONFERENCES
Individual conferences will be scheduled once during the semester to discuss your initial progress in the course.

IF YOU NEED EXTRA HELP
Students in need of basic tutoring should visit the Academic Skills Center in Orient 220. Call Donna Frey at 548–3505 for an appointment. If you do not understand an assignment or my comments on a story, or you need more guidance, contact me at 548–2551 or fannins@sunysuffolk.edu.
January  28  Introduction to course; lecture on news-reporting today and Journalism as a career

30  Read Chapter 3–“What is News?”
Do exercises #2, #5 (pp. 43–44)

February  4  Read Chapter 4–“News Style”
(We will do exercises #1, 2, and 3 in class)
Review of Associated Press Stylebook
Story #1 assignment handed out (due 2/20)

6  Read Chapter 16–“Speeches, Publications, Interviews” (just section on “Personal Interviews,” pp. 249–255)
Draft interview questions for Story #1

11  Press conference for Story #1

13  Read Chapter 6–“Writing the Simple News Lead”
Do exercise #3 (pp. 107–108)
Discussion of Chapter 8: “Polishing the Lead”
Story #2 assignment handed out on the “single-feature” news story (due 2/27)

18  Presidents’ Day–No class

20  Story #1 due
Read Chapter 9–“The Body of the Story”

25  Revision, editing and proofreading workshop

27  Story #2 due
Read Chapter 10–“Features and Human Interest Stories”
Story #3 assignment handed out on feature/human interest story (due 3/12)

March  3  Revision, editing, and proofreading workshop
March 5  Revision #1 due
Read Chapter 16—“Speeches, Publications, Interviews” (just
section on “Speeches,” pp. 241–245)
Read Chapter 17—“Meetings, and Special Events”
Story #4 assignment on campus meeting, speech, or special
event handed out (due 4/2)

March 10  Read Chapter 5—“Ethics and Libel”
Also review sections in Associated Press Stylebook on libel and
privacy
Do exercise #1 (choose 3 major crime stories); or #7, or #9
(pp. 90–91)

12  Story #3 due
Individual conferences—to be held in Orient 122

17  Revision, editing, and proofreading workshop

19  Read Chapter 30—Editorials and Columns
Editorial/ Column/ Letter–to–Editor assignment handed out
(due 3/31)

20  Spring Recess—No class

31  Story #4 due
Read Chapter 12—“Pictures”
Photojournalism exercise handed out (due 4/7)

April 2  Editorial/ Column/ Letter–to–Editor due
Finding “gaps” in the story
Story #5 assignment handed out (due 4/16)

7  Photojournalism exercise due
Revision, editing, and proofreading workshop

9  Press conference for Story #5
April 14  **Revision #2 due**
Read Chapter 19–“Fires, Accidents, and Disasters”

16  **Story #5 due**
Read Chapter 18–“Illnesses, Deaths, and Funerals”
(We will do exercise #9, p. 285, in class)

21  Passover Observed–No class

23  Revision, editing, and proofreading workshop

28  Read Chapter 21–“Crime”
(We will do exercises in class)

30  Writing the Special Story
Story #6 assignment handed out on the “Special Story”–
“Lifestyle,” “Sports,” “Arts, Entertainment, and Criticism,” or
“Business, Industry, Agriculture, and Labor”
(due 5/12)

May 5  **Bring a sample lifestyle, sports, entertainment, or business story to class for discussion**

7  **Revision #3 due**
Read Chapter 13–“News for Radio and Television”
Discussion: Is radio/television news “information services” or
“info-tainment”?

12  **Story #6 due**
Read Chapter 14–“Policy in the News”
Discussion: The journalist, policy, and the law:
What is journalism ethics? What are journalists for?

14  Students read aloud their “Special Stories” to class;
Discussion
May 19  Students read aloud their ‘Special Stories” to class; Discussion

21  Last day of class

23  College make-up day, if necessary