



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

Name: Ms. Wendy Holdren

Title: Adjunct Instructor, Communications

Office Location: Library (B8)

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Office Hours: W 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Course Title: JOUR 2201-02 – SpTop: Solutions Journalism

Course CRN # and Section, Credit Hours: 20657 – 02, 1 credit hour

Semester Taught (including year): Spring 2019

Room Number (if applicable): Library B8

Course Time (if applicable): W 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. starting April 3

Course Management System: Blackboard

Hardware/Software Needed: Reliable Internet Access to use Blackboard

Prerequisites: ENG 102, JOUR 211

Text requirements:

None

Recommended Text(s):

Current AP Stylebook

Course Description/Rationale: The primary focus of this class is to give you the necessary skills and knowledge to recognize and utilize solutions journalism. By the end of this course, I hope you will have learned the following:

- To be able to identify what is and what is not solutions journalism.
- To understand how to carefully vet stories, and to apply basic journalistic principles in seeking solutions-based stories.
- To be able to research and write a solutions-based report.
- To understand different solutions-based writing structures.
- To understand how solutions journalism is different from other reporting methods, and why it's important.

Concord University Educational Goal(s) This should address at least one of the areas (skills, knowledge, or attitude) for each course. Similar courses with different sections should have the same goal(s).

- Goal 1.1b: “Effective inter-communication skills and literacy adapted as needed for the demands of various kinds of discourse: reading & writing.”
- Goal 3.1, 3.3 – 3.6: “Habitual reflection on ethical/moral implications of actions when weighing decisions and evaluating outcomes. Respectful attentiveness to differing perspectives and willingness to engage in dialogue across differences in order to see mutual understanding and equitable conflict resolution. Cultivation of and support for attitudes and practices that foster physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being. Appreciation for the creative process and for the rich diversity of artistic achievement. Commitment to social responsibility, including community service and civic engagement.”
- Goal 3.2: “Exercise of responsible leadership including leadership by example and of responsible followership.”

Course Requirements:

Three Weekly Assignments . .	150 (50 points each)
Attendance/Participation . .	100 (20 points per class)
Reflection Paper	100
<u>Final Story.</u>	<u>150</u>
Total	500

Grading:

A rubric will be provided to you.

Scale:

100 – 90	A
89 – 80	B
79 – 70	C
69 – 60	D
Below 59	F

Late Work:

Deadlines are a major part of your educational career and will be in your professional career. Therefore, it is your responsibility and highly important to consistently meet the deadlines

assigned for this class. With that said, **if an assignment or activity is not received by your instructor by the deadline, 10 points will be deducted from your assignment. If the assignment is not handed into your instructor by the next class period, you will receive a grade of zero for that assignment.**

Should extenuating circumstances arise, you are responsible for contacting me as soon as possible, preferably beforehand, for consideration.

Reading:

You are responsible for all assigned reading. You should have the handout(s) completely read before the class, so that you can ask questions, discuss points, and/or complete an assignment in and out-of-class. During the five weeks of this course, you should also be reading various reporting on your own. You will be reading some of solutions journalism pieces for assignments, but you should be reading these on your own as well.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism — the act of presenting the ideas and/or words of an outside source, published or not, as if they were one's own — *will not be tolerated* and is subject to the most stringent punishment, including failure on the assignment, failure in the course and/or dismissal from the college. Please be responsible in this regard.

Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations):

Attached at the back of the syllabus

About this Course:

This is a 5-week course. With that said, any class below 16-weeks is going to be more intensive, requiring more from you as a student. Thus, a 5-week course does not contain room for procrastination. You are responsible for keeping up with every reading and every assignment. This class requires good time management, letting your instructor know immediately if you have any questions or problems, and a desire to learn. You are responsible and in-charge of your educational journey. With this being a 5-week course, you must be vigilant in making sure you learn and grow in this class.

Attendance:

Just as with an employer, it is expected that you inform me when you miss class. For extenuating circumstances (e.g., death of close family, jury duty, etc), I ask that you tell me as soon as possible so I can work with you to reach some sort of compromise. With the availability of e-mail and cellphones, there is no excuse for not contacting me about situations that arise.

Classroom Conduct:

It is important that everyone behave professionally in order to accommodate learning and show respect. Your conduct should never disrupt the ability of others to listen.

Disruptive behaviors that violate this right to listen will be subject to the strictures of the Academic Catalog; whereby, students will be given a warning if they are disruptive. Further

disruptions in that or future lectures can result in the dismissal from that day's class and/or dismissal from the course.

Please refer to the Academic Catalog at catalog.concord.edu for any additional information.

Technology:

Technology has an undeniable presence everywhere in today's society, with smart phones and watches, tablets and laptops. But there is a place and time to properly use these devices. With that said, out of respect for those around you in the class, cell phones must be silenced and put away before class begins. Intentional cell phone usage of any sort, *including texting*, is strictly prohibited.

In situations where an important phone call is expected, students should inform me of the situation beforehand and set their phone to vibrate. Conversations should be taken outside into the hall to avoid disruption.

Tablets and laptops are permitted for the use of taking notes *only*. Should these devices be used for any other purpose other than taking notes, the student will be asked to turn off the device and put it away immediately.

For the B8 Mac lab, the computers should be used for note-taking, an in-class assignment your instructor has asked you to do, or working on a story or assignment during dedicated time for those specific assignments. If the privilege of being in the Mac lab is misused, the first time of misuse – i.e. working on another class' work, social media, mindless perusing on the Internet, etc. – will be a warning, the second time of misuse, students will be asked to log off the desktop immediately and the desktop will not be used for a time at the discretion of the instructor.

Should the use of technology overwhelmingly distract the class from its learning, *the instructor reserves the right to have devices set in plain sight at the front of the classroom or prohibit technology being brought to class altogether.*

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellsion@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using,

as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to: <http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Welcome to JOUR 220 and let's have a great semester!

Syllabus Disclaimer

"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."

Week 1 Wednesday, April 3: What is Solutions Journalism? What is it not?

Week 2 Wednesday, April 10: Vetting Solutions Story Ideas

Week 3 Wednesday, April 17: Compiling Your Report

Week 4 Wednesday, April 24: Structures for Solutions-Based Stories

Week 5 Wednesday, May 1: Review — Problems & Solutions

** This is schedule is subject to change throughout the course of the semester.