

Practicum-The West Georgian

COMM-4421N

Fall 2020 Section 01 3 Credits 08/12/2020 to 12/05/2020 Modified 08/10/2020

Description

Practical experience with the campus newspaper, The West Georgian, that primarily includes general and specialty news writing and reporting on deadline, editorial decision-making, interviewing, copy editing, photojournalism, and layout and design across traditional and emerging digital media platforms. Emphasis is placed on news style and judgment, localization, and ethical and legal issues. Repeatable; Maximum of 3.0 credits hours may be applied to the Mass Communications major.

Requisites

Prerequisites:

COMM 3301 and COMM 1154 Minimum Grade: C and ENGL 1102 Minimum Grade: C

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Instructor/Advisor: Dr. John Ike Sewell

Email: johns@westga.edu

Office: Humanities 147

Phone: Cell: 423-741-1474

Virtual office hours will be held via phone (423) 741-1474 on Mondays from 10:30 am. until 12:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon). You are welcome to call me during those times. Bear in mind, I may be on the phone with another student when you call. If so, leave me a clearly worded voicemail message with your phone number. I am also potentially available at other times BY APPOINTMENT. To schedule virtual office hours BY APPOINTMENT, contact me via CourseDen email.

For this class, contact me using the CourseDen email tool ONLY.

Meeting Times

Practicum Meeting

Mondays, 9:30 a.m.

Practicum meetings will be held using Google Meets.

Each Friday, a Google Meets link for the practicum meeting to be held the following Monday at 9:30 a.m. will be sent to your UWG email account. You are required to virtually "attend" all Google Meets meetings throughout the semester. I will keep a record of attendance at these virtual meetings.

Materials

The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law

Author: The Associated Press

Publisher: Basic Books

Outcomes

Learner Outcomes:

- To deliver professional quality newswriting on deadline for print and online publication (SLO5, SLO7, SLO9, SLO10, SLO12)
- To produce news briefs, columns, photojournalism, entertainment coverage, sports coverage, hard news and feature stories (SLO5, SLO7, SLO9, SLO10, SLO12)
- To build a portfolio (SLO9, SLO12)
- To operate professionally and ethically as a journalist (SLO5, SLO7, SLO9, SLO10)

Mass Communications Program Learning Outcomes

ACEJMC Professional Values and Competencies: As a unit seeking accreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC), the Department of Mass Communications is committed to preparing students with the requisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the media and communications industries after graduation. The Department has adopted as its degree program learning outcomes ACEJMC's 12 professional values and competencies that all graduates of an ACEJMC accredited program should be aware of and able to demonstrate as scholars and professionals in the discipline. These include the six (6) values and six (6) competencies listed below. For the detailed list of the ACEJMC professional values and competencies, see the [UWG Undergraduate Catalog](#) or [ACEJMC - Standard 2. Curriculum and Instruction](#).

Evaluation

GRADE ASSESSMENT

*All accepted articles will be published in the online edition of *The West Georgian*. Any article that is posted on the website will count toward your quota. Online publication does not guarantee that your article will also be selected for print publication.

Number of Complete, Published Articles	Letter Grade
11	A
10	B
9	C
8	D
7 or fewer	F

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Policies re point value assessments:

- **UNPUBLISHED ARTICLES:** Articles that are denied for publication will receive zero points.

POINT SCORES for each publication date will be posted on Course Den by 5pm each Monday of publication, beginning on the publication date of the first issue. It is your responsibility to keep up with your scores through the semester. **If one of your stories is not published, the editorial staff of *The West Georgian* will NOT be contacting you to remind you that you are behind. ALWAYS CHECK THE PUBLICATION CREDITS EACH MONDAY ON COURSE DEN. THIS IS YOUR WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER YOU RECEIVED**

Schedule

When	Topic	Notes								
		<p>Fall 2020 Story Assignment, Deadline (Turn-In) and Publication Dates for <i>The West Georgian</i></p> <p>Send ALL articles as <u>enclosed MS Word documents</u> to uwgpaper@gmail.com by assigned deadline.</p> <p>Deadline Time: <u>Deadlines are absolute.</u> Submit all articles by 9:30 a.m. on the assigned deadline date. Articles received after 9:30 a.m. will be counted as late submissions.</p> <p>Send ALL email correspondence re <i>The West Georgian</i> to uwgpaper@gmail.com. Do NOT contact any of the editors through their personal email addresses concerning <i>The West Georgian</i>.</p> <p>Contact Info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brittany Shivers: Editor In-Chief <p>Cell Phone: 770-876-7972</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taylor Jackson: News Editor <p>Cell Phone: 678-794-5031</p> <p>Final edits of each weekly edition are laid out on Thursday nights. The website is updated weekly. Weekly online editions will post at 9 a.m. on Mondays.</p> <p>Digest Editions (hard copies, 12 pages) Two digest style, hard copy editions will be issued during the semester. DIGEST ISSUE RELEASE DATES: Mon., Oct. 12 and Mon., Nov. 16</p> <p>EDITORIAL STAFF--Layouts for digest issues will occur on Thurs., Oct. 8 and on Thurs., Nov. 12.</p>								
		<p>Spring 2020 Story Assignment, Deadline (Turn-In) and Publication Dates for <i>The West Georgian</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Issue #</th> <th>Story Assigned at Practicum Meeting</th> <th>Deadline Date (Story due at 9:30 a.m.)</th> <th>Publication/Circulation Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Mon., Aug. 24</td> <td>Mon., Aug. 31</td> <td>#1 Mon., Sept. 14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Issue #	Story Assigned at Practicum Meeting	Deadline Date (Story due at 9:30 a.m.)	Publication/Circulation Date	1	Mon., Aug. 24	Mon., Aug. 31	#1 Mon., Sept. 14
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1	Mon., Aug. 24	Mon., Aug. 31	#1 Mon., Sept. 14							

When	Topic	Notes	Mon., Aug. 31	Mon., Sept. 14	#2 Mon., Sept. 21	
		Mon., Sept. 7 is LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: NO MEETING OR DEADLINE				
	3		Mon., Sept. 14	Mon., Sept. 21	#3 Mon., Sept. 28	
	4		Mon., Sept. 21	Mon., Sept. 28	#4 Mon., Oct. 5	
	5		Mon., Sept. 28	Mon., Oct. 5	#5 Mon., Oct. 12	
	6		Mon., Oct. 5	Mon., Oct. 12	#6 Mon., Oct. 19	
	7		Mon., Oct. 12	Mon., Oct. 19	#7 Mon., Oct. 26	
	8		Mon., Oct. 19	Mon., Oct. 26	#8 Mon., Nov. 2	
	9		Mon., Oct. 26	Mon., Nov. 2	#9 Mon., Nov. 9	
	10		Mon., Nov. 2	Mon., Nov. 9	#10 Mon., Nov. 16	
	11		Mon., Nov. 9	Mon., Nov. 16	#11 Mon., Nov. 23	

* Course Policies and Resources

Policy on Deadlines and Publication Requirements: DEADLINES ARE ABSOLUTE. Still, it's possible that one or more of your assigned stories may fall apart for some reason. (You might not be able to get access to key players in a story, a source might not show up for a scheduled interview or even decide they don't want to publicity, etc.) If any of your stories falls apart—or if any of your stories are turned down for publishing by an editor—you will be required to produce another article in its stead. If you are going to be out of town or be particularly busy with other projects during certain times of the semester, you may want to schedule two stories on another week (or weeks) to make up for the deficit. Be proactive.

You should produce one article per week. While it is possible to do more than one article on a certain week to make up for another week, **no more than two articles will be assigned to any student on any given week.** This is to say that if you procrastinate and only produce seven published articles during the semester, you will not be assigned four articles for the final edition so that you can meet your goal of publishing 11 articles to make an A. You must deliver content steadily throughout the semester so that *The West Georgian* has ample content for each weekly publication. *It is your responsibility to make sure that enough of your stories are published to meet the grade requirements for the course.*

@ College/School Policies

Mass Communications Degree Program Learning Outcomes

ACEJMC Professional Values and Competencies: The Bachelor of Science degree program in Mass Communications is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC), and the Department is committed to preparing students with the requisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the media and communications industries after graduation. The Department has adopted as its Mass Communications degree program learning outcomes ACEJMC's 12 professional values and competencies, known as 6 X 6 MASS COMM SUCCESS, that all graduates of an ACEJMC accredited program should be aware of and able to demonstrate as scholars and professionals in the discipline. For the detailed list of the ACEJMC professional values and competencies, see the [UWG Undergraduate Catalog \(https://catalog.westga.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&pooid=1991\)](https://catalog.westga.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&pooid=1991) or [ACEJMC - Standard 2. Curriculum and Instruction \(http://www.acejmc.org/policies-process/nine-standards/\)](http://www.acejmc.org/policies-process/nine-standards/).

6 X 6 MASS COMM SUCCESS

[6 X 6 MASS COMM SUCCESS](https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/mass-communications/assets/pics/6x6_MC_Success_Graphic.JPG)
(https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/mass-communications/assets/pics/6x6_MC_Success_Graphic.JPG)

(click to view image)

1. Freedom of Speech & Press
2. History
3. Diversity
4. Global Impact
5. Theory
6. Ethics
7. Think Critically & Creatively
8. Research & Evaluate
9. Write Effectively
10. Self-Evaluate
11. Apply Numbers & Statistics
12. Apply Technology

Institutional Policies

Academic Support

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu.

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu.

Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information# (http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: <https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php> (<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>)

Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGcares](#).

ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

COVID-19

Proctored Exams/Online Instruction: Students should be aware and plan ahead for the possibility of having to complete all courses and/or exams online or in a proctored environment. This means talking with your instructors about what minimum technical requirements (software and hardware) will be required should your class move online or a student's personal needs dictate. This also includes making plans for internet access at whatever location participation may occur.

Virtual or in-person proctored exams, if your instructor should require them, may result in an additional cost to the student. Please discuss these details with your instructor or see the information provided here.

Face Coverings: Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia institutions, including the University of West Georgia, will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

Student FAQs: For more information about UWG COVID-19 guidance for students visit the [Student FAQ webpage](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php>).

Additional Items
