

Newspaper Elective Course Outline
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I. Course Summary:

Students in this elective course will design and produce the 2015-2016 school newspaper, *The Plaid Line*. The newspaper will be produced both online, through a WordPress site, and in printed volumes (when possible), throughout the year. Students will be assigned numerous assignments/beats over the course of the school year and will need to be able to meet set deadlines. We will discuss layouts, writing and editing techniques, headlines and picture captions, and photography and consent. We will also cover journalism basics, like bias, sources, and purpose. Students will also take part in selling business ads to local companies and participate in the distribution of the newspaper and related media.

II. Class Requirements:

Students are expected to:

- Complete all assigned articles in a professional and timely manner
- Carefully edit work
- Take pictures as assigned, and collect necessary media release forms
- Complete all miscellaneous assignments and projects including the selling of business ads, updating the *The Plaid Line* Twitter feed, etc.

III. Texts:

There are no set texts for this course, however, students will occasionally be assigned reading to help improve their understanding of what makes a good newspaper, and news reporter.

IV. Methods of Assessment:

Students will be assessed on the following:

- Meeting deadlines
- The quality of work produced including:
 - Articles
 - Photos and captions
 - Multimedia promotion i.e Twitter updates, selling ads, etc. (as assigned)
- Participation in, and dedication to the class – This is an elective class that is largely based online, however, attendance is still required (for further details, see below)

V Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class. You are expected to be in class, on time, and ready to work with all the materials you will need for the day. We will set goals every week and monitor those goals to see that we meet them. We need you here everyday, so we can produce a content rich newspaper in a timely fashion.