

# JN215A - Journalism Lab Syllabus

Instructor: **Rob Priewe**

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## Course Description

This one-credit lab provides experience in writing news articles, taking photos and contributing other work for print and online publication. Students practice news judgment, reporting, interviewing and writing by researching and producing articles, photos and other work for The Commuter or other publications.

## Lab Site

Commuter office: **Forum Building, Room 222**, on the second floor, facing the courtyard

Commuter telephone: **541-917-4451**

Commuter email address: [commuter@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu)

Commuter website: **LBCCommuter.com**

## Requirements and Grading

Plan on spending **at least TWO hours per week** making contacts and developing story and photo ideas and keeping in touch with The Commuter's editors. Students can come up with their own ideas in consultation with The Commuter's editors or work on assignments from those editors. Have your story/photo idea **approved BEFORE** you spend too much time on it, just in case the editor isn't interested in publishing the work. D'oh!

Students should strive to publish as many articles/photos as possible during the term – **at least FIVE contributions** must be submitted by the end of the ninth week, the Friday before The Commuter's last edition of the term. Contributing more work than the five required, including opinion pieces such as columns and reviews, earns extra credit toward the lab grade and the possibility of earning an A grade.

In evaluating your work, the instructor will use criteria similar to the Story Evaluation Form that is used in the News Reporting and Feature Writing classes. These criteria include rating your lead, nut graf, sources, research, writing, editing, style and overall quality and effectiveness.

**Students must submit and have published a minimum of SIX works to qualify for a grade of A.** Likewise, students must publish a minimum of FOUR items to qualify for a grade of B. A student who publishes THREE contributions cannot earn higher than a grade of C. TWO submissions qualify for a grade of D. And one or no contributions will constitute an F grade.

**DEADLINES:** As a guide, your work should be submitted by these dates:

- **Friday of Week 2**
- **Friday of Week 4**
- **Friday of Week 6**
- **Friday of Week 7**
- **Friday of Week 9**

**You must meet deadlines!** Pace yourself! Do not put off submitting your work for publication

until the end of the term.

I'm glad to look at various drafts, offering suggestions before you submit your work. It's best to send these by e-mail or share a link on Google Docs. I can usually provide feedback in a day or two, or we can set a time to meet and go over the work.

### **The Difference Between the Commuter and JN215A Lab**

The Commuter is a student-managed weekly publication serving the LBCC community. It has a printed circulation of 750 copies, and is online at **LBCCommuter.com**.

The JN215A lab functions as a co-curricular program with the student newspaper, and operates as a news bureau in cooperation with the student editors. The Commuter editors, *not the instructor*, have the final say on what works are published, and how they are edited.

As your instructor – and a former newspaper reporter and editor – it's my job to help you improve your work through critiques and one-on-one discussions during the production process. I'm glad to answer questions, help brainstorm stories or offer advice on topics ranging from your classes to internships and career opportunities. Stop by my office or call or e-mail anytime.

### **Cultural Richness at LBCC**

To promote academic excellence and learning environments that encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas, all courses at LBCC will provide students the opportunity to interact with values, opinions, and/or beliefs different than their own in safe, positive and nurturing learning environments. LBCC is committed to nurturing the development of culturally literate individuals capable of interacting, collaborating and problem-solving in an ever-changing community and diverse workforce.

### **Statements of Inclusion and Nondiscrimination**

The LBCC community is enriched by diversity. Everyone has the right to think, learn and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance and goodwill. We will work toward creating a community without prejudice, intimidation or discrimination. (*Related to Board Policy #1015*)

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age or any other status protected under applicable federal, state or local laws. (For more information see <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs>)

### **Accessibility Resources**

Students who may need accommodations due to documented disabilities, who have medical information which the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in an emergency, should talk to the instructor during the first week of class. If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, contact Center for Accessibility Resources at 541-917-4789.