

THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN

“The Daily Cal DE-Cal: Introduction to the Practice of Journalism”

Course Syllabus

Rev. August 7, 2007

Student Course Facilitator: Bryan Thomas

Instructor of Record: Linda Schacht

Time: Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.

Place: 106 Moffitt

Units: 2

The DE-Cal will be structured as an introductory journalism course aimed at providing students practical experience to understand journalistic principals. The students will be introduced to news, sports and arts reporting, as well as photography, design and copy editing. The students will also learn about libel and copyright issues and will be introduced to new frontiers in journalism, with blogs and other online media content. The course will be open to all students on campus, but will also serve as the training for new Daily Cal editorial staffers.

Course Structure

A different part of basic journalism will be covered in lecture form each week, drawing on experience from all editorial departments of the Daily Cal. Those training sessions will be taught by the DE-Cal facilitator (who is the development editor of the Daily Cal), as well as a number of other current and former Daily Cal editors. We will also invite journalism professors from the Graduate School of Journalism and practicing journalists from regional media outlets. Also incorporated into each class session will be a feedback and critique meeting, where students and the DE-Cal facilitator will evaluate each other's work.

The class will culminate in a final project, based on the individual student's areas of interest, and would be a cooperative effort. For example, news, sports and arts writers would pitch and report feature packages, and would coordinate with photographers and designers. A passing grade would depend on the quality of the final project. At the end of the course, those packages could be submitted for possible publication in the Daily Cal or another newspaper or magazine.

A course reader will be compiled before the start of the semester. Possible weekly quizzes will check on reading progress and comprehension.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1:	No Class	Week 9:	Copy Editing
Week 2:	No Class	Week 10:	Libel and Copyright
Week 3:	No Class	Week 11:	New Media – Blogs and Beyond
Week 4:	News Reporting	Week 12:	Final Project
Week 5:	Sports Reporting	Week 13:	Thanksgiving – No Class
Week 6:	Review Writing	Week 14:	Final Project Presentations
Week 7:	Photography	Week 15:	Final Project Presentations
Week 8:	Design		