

Course Name: MC1100 Framing Solutions Storytelling through Digital Narrative

Lecturer: Holly Wise | **Office:** OM 236B | **Office Hours:** Tuesday 12:30 to 2 p.m., and 3:30 to 5 p.m., Thursday 12:30 to 2 p.m. | **Telephone:** (512) 245-8475 | **Twitter** @holly_wise | **Email:** hlw24@txstate.edu

Communicating with Your Instructor:

Stop by anytime during office hours, and do not hesitate to send me an email if we need to talk so we can agree on a convenient time to meet. If my door is open, come in.

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the concept and practice of solutions journalism.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Define the concept of solutions journalism
- 2) Implement solutions journalism through a digital medium

Required Materials:

The Associated Press Stylebook, by The Associated Press. The stylebook is available at bookstores or through apstylebook.com. As an enrolled student, you have access to the AP Stylebook database through Alkek Library:

1. Go to “Library” — upper right hand side of Texas State home page.
2. Under Quick Links click Research Databases
3. Click letter “A” in the alphabet at top of page.
4. Scroll and click AP Stylebook Online. Sign in for access

Solutions Journalism Network Toolkit

This is provided to you in Resources as a free PDF document.

Smartphone or tablet

To complete the digital story in this course, you will need to use a smartphone or tablet. If you are not in possession of one, please see me about renting camera equipment from the SJMC Equipment Room.

Course Organization on TRACS:

Announcements

Here you will find real-time information on deadlines, tasks and any other important class decisions.

Resources

In Resources you will find detailed instructions for the Digital Story and for other class projects.

Assessments

All of the quizzes for this course can be found under the Assessments tab in our TRACS site.

Gradebook2

I use the Gradebook feature in TRACS to document your grades in this course. You will always have access to your overall course grade, as well as your individual assignment grades. If you do not see these grades, or you have a question about any grade entered, please ask me immediately.

Syllabus

Under the Syllabus tab, you will find this document embedded as well as attached as a Word document. Please familiarize yourself with the syllabus as it will have the answers to many of your questions about our course logistics.

Email

The email feature in TRACS will allow you to email your colleagues in this course.

How Your Work Will Be Evaluated:

Online forums and discussions = 25 percent

Quizzes = 25 percent

Digital story = 50 percent

Online Forums and Discussions:

A forum discussion question will be posted to the class Facebook page. You are required to reply to the discussion question by 11:59 p.m. on the day they are due.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be posted in Assessments. You will have from 8 a.m. to midnight to complete each quiz.

Digital Story:

You will be given a story topic and will spend Week 2 of our course reporting on this topic. You will produce a 90-second long video on this topic.

Late Work Policy:

This course strives to prepare you for a career as a professional journalist whose work is shaped by deadlines. You are responsible for meeting all deadlines. Assignment due dates are firm; late work is not accepted except under extreme circumstances or if you have arranged for an extension in advance.

Conduct and Civility:

Every student is held accountable for abiding by the tenets of required conduct outlined in the Texas State Student Handbook (<http://www.dos.txstate.edu/handbook/rules.html>). Students should create a learning environment and refrain from interfering with the learning of fellow students. When students voice opinions with which you do not agree, feel free to voice your opinion in a polite and civil manner. This approach can help us enhance the free flow of ideas.

Investment in Learning:

Each student is expected to demonstrate investment in learning through his or her attitude and work ethic. Specifically, each class member will be expected to submit assignments in a timely and correct manner, seek help promptly when necessary, and treat others with respect.

Communication Skills & Online Writing Support:

All students must have adequate writing skills to communicate content in a professional and concise manner. Students must be proficient in their written presentations including word choices and AP style, phrasing, and use of unbiased language. Texas State University provides several online tutoring services in the area of writing that students may wish to utilize, including the SLAC Online Writing Lab and [Online Tutoring](#) by the Writing Center. *Every student is expected to use their Texas State email addresses. Please check your email regularly as this is a primary way for us to communicate outside of the classroom.*

Special Accommodations:

Students who have special needs or disabilities and who require accommodations to successfully complete this course must notify the Texas State University Office of Disability Services (<http://www.ods.txstate.edu/>) no later than the first week of class. If a student fails to notify that office on a timely basis, I may be unable to honor the request for accommodation.

Academic Honesty:

Students must demonstrate high standards of integrity. They should do their own work on all material submitted to meet course requirements. Since dishonesty harms the individual and his/her fellow students, as well as the integrity of the University, I will strictly enforce policies on academic dishonesty. You must read and abide by the academic honesty policies as stated in the Texas State Official Student Handbook (<http://www.dos.txstate.edu/handbook/rules/honorcode.html>).

Course Schedule:

March 28:

REVIEW: Syllabus document posted in the Syllabus tab in TRACS

WATCH: Introduction Videos posted in Resources Folder March 28

WATCH: What is Solutions Journalism Video posted in Resources Folder March 28

READ: Solutions Journalism Toolkit pages 4-9 (located in Resources folder Reading Materials)

ANSWER: Quiz #1 posted in Assignments (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

POST: Introduce yourself in the post thread on Facebook. (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

March 30:

LISTEN: Solutions Journalism Without the Fluff posted in Resources Folder March 30

WATCH: Your SoJo Mission for Week 2 posted in Resources Folder March 30

ANSWER: Quiz #2 posted in Assignments (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

POST: Respond to today's discussion topic on the Facebook page. (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

April 1:

WATCH: Finding the Solutions Story Video posted in Resources Folder April 1

READ: Solutions Journalism Toolkit pages 12-17 (located in Resources folder Reading Materials)

ANSWER: Quiz #3 posted in Assignments (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

POST: Respond to today's discussion topic on the Facebook page. (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

April 4:

WATCH: Interviewing for the Solutions Story Video posted in Resources Folder April 4

READ: Solutions Journalism Toolkit pages 20-21 (located in Resources folder Reading Materials)

ANSWER: Quiz #4 posted in Assignments. (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

POST: Respond to today's discussion topic on the Facebook page. (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

April 5:

WATCH: Why I Choose SoJo Video posted in Resources Folder April 5

ANSWER: Quiz #5 posted in Assignments (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

READ: Solutions Journalism Toolkit pages 10-11 (located in Resources folder Reading Materials)

POST: Respond to today's discussion topic on the Facebook page. (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

April 6:

NEWS GATHERING: Conduct scheduled interviews for your Digital Story

Respond to today's discussion topic on the Facebook page. (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

April 7:

NEWS GATHERING: Conduct scheduled interviews for your Digital Story

POST: Respond to today's discussion topic on the Facebook page. (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

April 8:

NEWS GATHERING: Conduct scheduled interviews for your Digital Story

Respond to today's discussion topic on the Facebook page. (DUE by 11:59 p.m. today)

April 9:

In-class meeting on campus from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location will be announced on our Facebook page and TRACS site under announcements.

April 14:

The final deadline for Digital Story