J201 Fall 2016 – Schedule

Watch out for occasional changes in this schedule, which I will mention in class.

A Year in the Life of Valleydale – a running timeline of public events, updated weekly

A REMINDER ABOUT DEADLINES

Do your reading assignments before class. The supplemental readings in Zinsser, one chapter before each lecture, should be easy and fun, but keep up with this too in addition to assignments in the online Process. Lectures and discussions in Tuesday and Thursday classes will be based on those readings. Roll will be taken. If you are left off the roll due to tardiness, too bad.

During some class meetings we will be holding mock interviews and news conferences. Obviously, if you miss one of those classes you will not be able to complete the corresponding lab assignment. Note that I have scheduled an evening meeting of the county or city governing body for you to cover. If you have a conflict, let me know at least two weeks ahead of time and we’ll find an alternative public meeting. The same goes for the speech you will cover. Attendance is pledged. If you don’t go to the meeting or speech, don’t do the assignment. Unless noted otherwise below, every lab assignment is due at the beginning of the lab period for which it is assigned. Late is not an option. Late assignments will be corrected and graded; the grade will be 0. Attendance at every lab is required.

You will be doing a good bit of polishing of your assignments in lab. Don’t ever make the grievous error of assuming you can complete an assignment in lab, unless the schedule shows it as a deadline writing assignment. Lab time is our best chance to work together to improve the copy you've already completed. Again, the days when you will be required to write an assignment on deadline in lab are clearly marked below.

The lab manual/textbook is online at http://processofwritingnews.wordpress.com/

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Sept. 8 – Before first class, read: “Introduction” and “Fundamentals” in Process; the syllabus, and the intro to this “Schedule” down to here.

Class: Attendance, drop/add, syllabus and schedules; quiz on syllabus and schedule; introductions and procedures. Zinsser, “Introduction.”

[note: Rockbridge Report TV anchor auditions this afternoon, 3-5 p.m.]

WEEK 1

Sept. 12 (Monday) – Lab:– Getting acquainted with the Mac lab, AP Style/practice from interview exercise. Do Exercise 1a, Same Story, Different Audiences, (See http://www.history.com/topics/boston-marathon-bombings or another good source for facts). Do not send your Word file until I ask for it.
Sept. 13 (Tues.) **Class**: Ch.1 *Process*. What are journalists for? What is news? Zinsser, Ch. 1, “The Transaction.”

Sept. 14 (Wed.) **Lab**: Do Ex. 1b, What’s news today? **Again, hold on to your assignment.**  
Also, on your own, do Quiz 1, Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, and the self-grading, in the pre-Ch. 1 section called “Fundamentals.”


**WEEK 2**

Sept. 19 -- **Lab**: Do Ex. 2, Ledes. **Hold on to assignment until I ask for it.**

Sept. 20 -- **Class**: *Process*, Ch. 3. Building Blocks and Story Forms. Zinsser, Ch. 3, “Clutter.”

Sept. 21 -- **Lab**: Ex. 3a, do the three briefs for print.

Sept. 22 -- **Class**: : *Process*, Ch. 3 (cont.) How to structure a news feature. Zinsser, Ch. 4, “Style.”

**WEEK 3**

Sept. 26 -- **Lab**: Do Ex. 3b (story for print).

Sept. 27 -- **Class**: *Process*, Ch. 4. Writing for the Web. Zinsser, Ch.5, “The Audience.”

Sept. 28 -- **Lab**: Do Ex. 4, Web blurbs.

Sept. 29 -- **Class**: *Process*, Ch. 5. Writing for broadcast. Zinsser, Ch.6, “Words.”

**WEEK 4**

Oct. 3 -- **Lab**: Exercise 5, A RDR: gas leak. In TV studio to read RDRs. **Go into the studio and read your RDR.**

Oct. 4 -- **Class**: *Process*, Ch. 6. Sources, Interviews and Quotes. Zinsser, Ch.7 “Usage.”

Oct. 5 – **Lab**: Do Ex. 6a, Plane crash. Do a print story, a RDR and a Web blurb.

Oct. 6 -- **Class**: *Process*, Ch. 6 (cont.) Multimedia storytelling and reporting from interviews. Take notes on classroom interview. Zinsser, Ch. 8, “Unity.”

**WEEK 5**
Oct. 10 -- **Lab:** Ex. 6b, Do a print story on Meagan LeBlanc, a broadcast RDR and a Web blurb.

Oct. 11 – **Class:** *Process*, Ch. 7. Social Media. Zinsser, Ch. 9, “The Lead and the Ending.”

7:30 p.m. Attend Lexington Mayoral Debate at Law School, Moot Courtroom, take notes.

Oct. 12 – **Lab:** Ex. 7, Tweeting the gas leak. Do the exercise described at end of Ch. 7 in a Word file, including theoretical Facebook blurb. Before lab, send this to me as an attachment to an e-mail.


WEEK 6

Oct. 17 – **Lab:** Deadline writing exercise in lab (Ex. 9a). Zinsser, Ch. 11, “Nonfiction as Literature.”


Oct. 19 – **Lab:** Ex. 8, for print, Valleydale council meeting.

Oct. 20 -- **Class:** *Process*, Ch. 11. Analyzing a local government’s budget. **Take time to complete an Excel spreadsheet on Valleydale budget.**

[Alternative meetings if you can’t cover RC supervisors Monday: 10/20 **Buena Vista City Council**, 6 p.m.; **Lexington City Council**, 8 p.m.]

Oct. 21 – Speaker Seth Lewis, University of Oregon, on emerging media, Northen Auditorium, 4:30 p.m.

WEEK 7

Oct. 24 – **Lab:** Ex. 11, news story about the findings of *Jeffersonville Herald’s* computer analysis, and submit spreadsheet as separate file.

**Attend and cover:** Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors **meeting**, 5:30. [Plan ahead. If you have a conflict here, your alternative is Lexington City Council meeting Thursday Oct. 15 at 8 p.m. in County Administration building, 150 S. Main St.]

Oct. 25 – **Class:** *Process*, Ch. 10, Covering local government meetings.

Oct. 26 -- **Lab:** Ex. 10, Rockbridge Co. Board of Supervisors meeting story. (**see Box 10.3, especially 1-3, for guidance).
Oct. 27 – **Class:** *Process*, Ch. 9. Speeches, in preparation for Diana Henriques speech. Zinsser, Ch. 15 “Science and Technology.”

**Tonight:** Cover speech by Diana Henriques, author of *Wizard of Lies*, 5 p.m., Stackhouse.

**WEEK 8**

Oct. 31 -- **Lab:** Ex. 9b, your article covering Diana Henriques’ speech.

**Nov. 1** -- **Class:** *Process*, Ch. 12. Covering accidents and other emergencies. **Watch and take notes on Meagan interview in class.**

**Nov. 2** -- **Lab:** Ex. 12a, Police Report, for print.

**Nov. 3** -- **Class:** Professor & class will do Ex. 12b, fatal car crash, together. Read: *Process*, Ch. 13, News Conferences. **Take notes on Chief Honeycutt’s news conference.**

**Nov. 4, Friday,** attend keynote of Journalism Ethics Institute: Keith Woods, NPR v.p., Diversity in News and Operations, Stackhouse. 5:30 p.m.

**WEEK 9**

**Nov. 7** – **Lab:** Ex. 13, assume accident in Ex. 12b was five days ago (“Dec. 15,” Valleydale calendar). **Report on new developments from Honeycutt's news conference, print and broadcast RDR.**

**Nov. 8** – [Election Day] **Class:** *Process*, Ch. 14, Courts, trial, indictments, lawsuits.

**Nov. 9** -- **Lab:** Ex. 14a, Indictment, RDR and Web blurb.

Attend Beth Macy’s Fishback lecture in Stackhouse at 5 p.m. today, “Reporting from the Margins: 30 Years of Covering Exploitation, Greed and Race.” Come early; I expect it will be packed.

**Nov. 10** -- **Class:** Special guest: writer Beth Macy. Before class, read Macy’s feature story -- [http://www.roanoke.com/life/after-the-shouting-macy-shares-a-final-chapter/article_244cc166-ed8a-11e3-a77a-0017a43b2370.html](http://www.roanoke.com/life/after-the-shouting-macy-shares-a-final-chapter/article_244cc166-ed8a-11e3-a77a-0017a43b2370.html), also in Sakai. ALSO: Be looking for local feature story ideas.

**WEEK 10**

**Nov. 14** -- **Lab:** Ex. 14B, Lawsuit, for print.

**Nov. 15** -- **Class:** On feature stories, and budget lines. Zinsser, Ch. 20, “The Sound of Your Voice.”
Nov. 16 -- **Lab:** By e-mail, before lab: Two ideas for a feature story, in budget line form. [I'll assign you a single story during Thanksgiving break.]

Nov. 17 -- **Class:** *Process*, Ch. 15. Working from background and other levels of attribution. Class exercise: Stories on release of dueling reports, on “Tuesday,” and Prentice news conference the next day. Zinsser, Ch. 21, “Enjoyment, Fear and Confidence.”

THANKSGIVING WEEK – Nov. 21-25

**WEEK 11**

Nov. 28 -- **Lab:** Ex. 15, longer story for “Sunday paper,” print. OR: a TV script for 90-second package, with anchor lead-in and tag (see TV package file PDF in Sakai – Resources).

Nov. 29 -- **Class:** *Process*, Ch. 16. Bringing multiple elements together. Zinsser, Ch. 22, “The Tyranny of the Final Product.”

Nov. 30 -- **Lab:** Ex. 16A, Wise, Bullard and Prentice, **for print.**

Dec. 1 -- **Class:** Discuss drafts of feature stories. Possible photo or audio elements. Zinsser, Ch. 23, “A Writer’s Decisions.”

**WEEK 12**

Dec.5 -- **Lab:** **Turn in draft of your feature story (if reporting isn't complete, let me know ahead of time).** In lab, on deadline, Ex. 16b, Finishing the Story, **for print.**

Dec. 6 -- **Class:** Review for exam. Zinsser, Ch. 25, “Write as Well as You Can.”

Dec. 7 – **Lab:** **Turn in rewrite of feature story.**

Dec. 8 – **Class:** Class wrap-up.

Dec. 10, 12-16 -- Final exam.