

Westside High School – 2022–2023

**Syllabus**

**Journalism**

**Photojournalism**

**4th Period**

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**Instructor:** Ms. S. Roberts

**Room:** A216

**Contact:** [srobertz@houstonisd.org](mailto:srobertz@houstonisd.org) TEAMS: Sharon Roberts, Westside HS

**Office hours:** 1st & 7th period

**Class landing:** Journo/PhotoJ Google Drive (shared-w-me)

**Class content:** Google Drive class folder

**Course: Journalism**

**Placement:** grades 9–11

**Prerequisite:** Student application

**Credits:** ½ or 1

*Basic features of journalism and journalistic writing, purposes and characteristics of newspaper news, features and editorials. Current trends in format publishing techniques are explored. Graphics, design layout and printing processes for a published yearbook are pursued. Students are also introduced to marketing, advertising and storytelling photography.*

**Course: Photojournalism**

**Placement:** grades 9–11

**Prerequisite:** Student application

**Credits:** ½ or 1

*A beginning course for students who have an interest in storytelling photography, caption writing, photo composition, and publishing. Students will explore publishing, graphic design layouts, and photography techniques for publication.*

As this course is combined in one class period, all students will participate in all the above mentioned activities. This course is designed to be an entry level class for placement on the Newspaper or Yearbook staffs. A final average of an 80 or above provides you the opportunity to apply to the 2023–24 Howler News or Canidae Yearbook.

Supplies needed:

- Computer
- Camera – either a DSLR or a phone
- Notebook/pens/pencils
- An SD Card 8GB
- An SD card reader

Course Goals

- Students utilize photography and writing skills with overall understanding of components.
- Develop skills necessary to publish stories and photography in Howler News & Canidae Yearbook
- Provide student with working knowledge of publication workflow
- Students will improve photography skills

- Students will improve writing skills
- Provide opportunities to pursue journalism beyond this course

#### Assessment & Grading

- Assessment methods include quizzes, tests, class activities, projects and evaluation of writing, photography and other assignments. The class is divided as follows:
  - Minor grades – daily participation, daily work, quizzes, exit tickets
  - Major grades – projects and tests
    - Deadlines: Projects will NOT be accepted late. Projects may be turned in early or on time.
    - All other assessments will have leeway to turn in beyond the deadline, with the understanding that lateness includes point deductions.

#### Class guidelines

- Respect, maintain and be safe with: each other, yourself, materials and equipment
- Be an active listener
- Stay on-task, and work during the time provided. Late work makes your life more complicated. Make it a priority to turn work in on time.
- Plagiarism will get you zero.
  - Copying materials, ideas, phrases and photos will not be tolerated. When you plagiarize you cheat two people – the creator of the material and yourself.
  - This includes copyright and trademark restrictions.
- All students will sit in assigned seating. This complies with contact tracing guidelines.
- All students will be required to have a signed camera contract on file with Ms. Roberts in order to check out a camera for class use.

#### Class procedures VIRTUAL

- Be on time for class meetings. In fact, try to be 2 or 3 minutes early.
- MUTE MIC when you connect in.
- Plan to have your camera ON for class.
  - Be aware of your surroundings. If you are laying in your bed, change your background.
- If you miss a class meeting: watch the recording for the lesson.
- Be respectful. Use the RAISE HAND icon if you have a question or you want to make a point.
- Make sure your devices are charged for the school day.
- Dress appropriately for class.
- Tardy:
  - Students are expected to be in their seat by the tardy bell
  - If a student comes to class and the door is shut, he/she needs to go to their house for a tardy pass.
- Desks:
  - Backpacks, purses and jackets, etc. need to be kept on the back of your chair.
  - Only thing on your desk is your computer, class materials.
  - No food or drinks in the classroom. Water bottles are fine, but sticky drinks will need to stay by the door.
- Phones:
  - There is a designated spot on the desk where you can leave your phone during class.
  - Phones need to be silent.
  - No texting, posting or calling during class at any time.
    - Headphones and ear pods are removed during instruction.
      - During personal work time, you can put your headphones on and listen to music
  - Sometimes you will use your phone for class projects, for video or photography, during those activities it's expected that you will be using your phone.
    - Remember, no texting, posting or calls.
- Leaving class:
  - During the lesson portion of class, no student will be excused.

- During student work time students may ask to go to the restroom. This is not the time to go to your dean, or to vendoland
- Restrooms available are in South 2. If for some reason the restroom is closed, you can go to East 2.
- Failure to comply with class procedures:
  - Step one: conference with student
  - Step two: send notification to dean and parent/guardian
  - Step three: discipline referral

#### Opportunities

- Students will have opportunities to submit photography and content to the 2023 Canidae Yearbook
- Students will have opportunities to submit articles and featured photography to the Howler News Student Newspaper (online)
- Students will have opportunities to submit work to be broadcast on the Westside morning announcements.