

## **JRN 326 PRACTICUM**

### **Fall 2007 – Class: 6 p.m. Monday, CB 110**

#### **Mike Blackman, Coordinator/326 Houstonian work program**

Visiting Professor/Warner Chair

Room 122. Phone: 936-294-1335, 817-846-2630 ©, 817-926-4238 (h)

**Office hours:** Monday: 3-7 p.m.; Tuesday: 3-5 p.m. Wednesday: All day (by appointment). Thursday: 11 a.m.-noon; Friday: by appointment.

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

AP Stylebook

#### **METHODS**

All 326 Houstonian students will work for the Houstonian in one of two areas – editorial or advertising. Those working in editorial will report to Editor Kenny Bybee or to one of the senior editors or section editors (Viewpoints, sports, copy desk etc.). If you're working in advertising, you will report to Business Manager Courtney Murphy.

Reporters will write regularly – weekly – and printouts of all stories should be placed in a tray (marked for 326 work) in the newsroom (to the left of the door). Advertising students will take their sales or production assignments from Ms. Murphy. You will be expected to make cold calls as well as serve established clients; you will coordinate with Ms. Murphy if a sale is made.

#### **REQUIRED WORK – GRADING**

In the News Group, students must produce a minimum of one significant news or feature story – or the equivalent – weekly throughout the term, as prescribed by your editor. Several very short stories or rewrites or editing duties assigned by the editor may suffice. You will be evaluated on stories turned in to your editors. Ms. Murphy will establish work requirements for Ad Group. The 326 course is graded Pass/Fail. Those who consistently fail to turn in weekly work, or those who routinely miss the newspaper's deadlines, cannot expect to receive a passing grade.

Story assignments come from two sources – (1) your ideas and (2) the primary Houstonian editor for whom you're working. You are encouraged to generate most of the ideas; you may also take photographs for your writing assignments..

#### **IMPORTANT:**

Portfolios of your work (stories and ads) need to be turned into Mike Blackman twice during the semester – by mid-October and by the first week of December. Portfolios do not have to be fancy: you may arrange your work, by date, in a folder. Please make sure your name, slug line, JRN 326 and date of assignment are in the upper left corner of each story. Stories will be double-spaced, with “MORE” at the bottom of continuing pages and “—30—” at the end of the story.

The Houstonian is *the* newspaper for the university community, read by thousands of students, faculty and staff and countless numbers on the Internet. For many, it is the only newspaper they read regularly. The newspaper is not a toy. Your contribution, whatever it is, is important. Do good work, for publication of these stories can significantly help one day in your job hunt.

**SHSU Student Syllabus Guidelines:** You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.