

*Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.*

## **The American University of Rome Communication and Digital Media Program**

*Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate*

<b>Course Title:</b>	Magazine Journalism Practicum
<b>Course Number:</b>	COM 403
<b>Credits &amp; hours:</b>	3 credits – 3 hours
<b>Pre/Co-Requisites:</b>	ENG 202 or permission of the instructor

### **Course description**

This course entails a series of workshops where, under professional guidance and through practical experience, students are trained in magazine writing and production. Students will be working on a well-established cultural events' magazine, Wanted in Rome, covering a variety of roles - from writing and editing to social media content production (i.e. Instagram and podcasting) in both print and online versions. The course aims to foster journalistic skills such as idea development, research, outlining, interviewing, and copy editing - in addition to practice writing clear and concise sentences, paragraphs, blog posts, short explanatory pieces, descriptive passages, opinion and narratives.

Course fee €75.

### **Required Textbook (subject to change)**

No Textbook required, a list of readings will be provided early in the course.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. understand and appreciate short-, medium-, and long-form journalism as it is practiced today
2. produce professional-level news stories, backgrounders, speech round-ups, and social media copy
3. experience the inner workings of real-world traditional and online media environments
4. work with and accept guidance from senior editors and journalists

### **Course Learning Activities**

- Group work: Supposing the class is composed of 12 students, it will be split up in 3 workgroups of 4 students each. Each group member will be in charge of a series of tasks. Main duties include Articles/interviews, What's On/Reviews, Social Media, and Audio/Video. Each week, roles within the group will be swapped, and each month groups will be changed. At the beginning of each week every group will have to present its editorial line.

**Assessment tools**

Class participation	10%
Group work One	30%
Group work Two	30%
Group work Three	30%

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Week 1	- Introduction to the Course Content and the Magazine - Introduction to CVs and how to write one
Week 2	- Group work One (Role Assignment) - Group work One (Editorial Meeting)
Week 3	- Group work One - Group work One
Week 4	- Group work One - Group work One
Week 5	- Group work One - Group work One
Week 6	- Group work Two (Role Assignment) - Group work Two (Editorial Meeting)
Week 7	- Group work Two - Group work Two
Week 8	- Group work Two - Group work Two
Week 9	- Group work Two - Group work Two
Week 10	- Group work Three (Role Assignment) - Group work Three (Editorial Meeting)
Week 11	- Group work Three - Group work Three
Week 12	- Group work Three - Group work Three
Week 13	- Group work Three - Group work Three
Week 14	- Final Portfolio Session

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

### 1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;  
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;  
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note\* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

### 2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

\*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

#### Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

#### Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

<b>GRADE</b>		<b>GPA</b>	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		