

## *English 12R-Journalism* *Fall 2023*



**Ms. Kelly Finn**

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### **Course Description**

Welcome to Journalism! Modern journalism is constantly evolving, especially as social media, websites, blogs and podcasts are the norm. In this course we will discuss journalistic ethics and think critically about bias in reporting. Students will be grounded in the major traditions, celebrated journalists, and professional integrity of the discipline. Quarter 1 will be an overview and survey/study of Journalism. We will cover the history of Journalism, media responsibility, ethics, reporting, and media events that have shaped our world. Quarter 2 will be used to develop an eye, nose, and ear for news. We will cover rhetoric, investigative reporting and writing, photojournalism, research, and the publication process.

### ***Principles of Journalism:***

History of Journalism  
Role and Responsibility of News and Media  
Ethics in Journalism  
Current Events and Media Events that have shaped our world  
Rhetoric (writer's purpose)  
Recognizing Bias in Reporting

### ***Writing/Language:***

Investigative Reporting and Writing  
Feature Writing  
Interviewing and Profile Writing  
Podcasting (structured storytelling)

### **ATTENDANCE**

Lateness and cutting class is not acceptable. I need you in class! A lot of what I have planned requires your presence and preparation.

## MATERIALS

Please have the following materials by the end of the first week: spiral notebook (with perforated pages) or a small 3 ring binder with loose-leaf.; small post-it flags; a highlighter; pen/pencil.

## GRADING POLICY

Quarterly grades will consist of the following components:

70% - Projects/Writing/Publication

20% - Quizzes/Classwork//Homework

10%-Participation (attendance, effort, attitude towards your work and your peers)

The following updates have been made to our 2023-2024 grading policy. In classes where midterms are required this assessment will be 6% of a student's overall grade. Classes that end in finals/regents exams, these assessments will count as 10% of a student's overall grade. Below lists the breakdown for most full and half year courses.

Type of Course	Quarter %	Midterm %	Final/Regents %	Total %
Full Year Course	21%	6%	10%	100%
Half Year Course	45%	N/A	10%	100%

\*In courses that do not end in a regents or final exam, quarters will be worth 25% for a full year and 50% for a half year.\*

## LATE WORK

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to make up the work in a timely fashion. The English Department policy is to not accept work more than 5 days following an absence. After 5 days, the grade becomes a zero. Late assignments will be penalized 10 points per day. Class projects will often require outside time and it is your responsibility to be prepared and to adhere to deadlines.

As a senior, it is your responsibility to stay on top of your grades. If you are missing work, do not wait until the end of the quarter to broach the subject with your teachers.

### **Writing assignments (final drafts), projects, or long term assignments:**

The English Department policy states that late essays will be penalized **10 points for every day an assignment is late**. After five days (including weekends) the late assignment, project or presentation will **NOT** be accepted and you will receive a 0.

## CONDUCT

I am looking forward to the upcoming semester. It will be challenging... but also fun and rewarding. This course depends on your effort, your participation and your rapport with peers. Remember that you must have respect for yourself, for me, for your classmates and our classroom.

***Participation:***

You are expected and encouraged to participate. Positive participation in Journalism means:

- ❖ Being on time and prepared for class
- ❖ Asking questions (both clarifying questions and discussion questions)
- ❖ Demonstrating a willingness to help classmates
- ❖ Responding to directions or a writing prompt on the board without being reminded
- ❖ Actively listening and taking notes if needed
- ❖ Answering questions
- ❖ Sharing in discussions
- ❖ Remaining respectful even during disagreements

**COMMUNICATION/QUESTIONS**

Please email me with any concerns at [kfinn@cornwallschools.com](mailto:kfinn@cornwallschools.com). I will regularly use Google Classroom to post homework, assignments, due dates and to make announcements. It is your responsibility to download the Classroom app or check the classroom daily.

***CCHS Cell Phone Classroom Contract***

**As everyone knows, cell phones and airpods/earbuds/head phones cause distractions. It is for that reason that in the 2023-2024 school year, cell phone use will be *strictly* prohibited by the English department (unless otherwise instructed for the given lesson), as per the CCSD’s Code of Conduct Off and Away Policy. By signing this contract, students and parent(s)/guardians acknowledge the following rules. Please note that this policy will be enforced whether or not the contract is signed and returned.**

- ❖ Upon entering the classroom, students are required to place their cell phone out of sight, preferably in their bookbag/purse-- NOT in their pocket/on their person. Airpods/headphones must also be put away with the phone.
- ❖ Should the student be caught violating the classroom guidelines for cell phone use, the following protocol will follow:

**CCSD’s Code of Conduct contains a cell phone policy of “off and away”.**

- **1st offense-** Warning
- **2nd offense-** Warning and a teacher phone call home
- **3rd offense -** Teacher phone call home and lunch or after school detention with teacher.
- **4th offense and beyond-** The student will receive an office referral.

**\*\*NOTE:** Refusal to put the phone away will automatically result in the 3rd offense.\*\*

**\*\*After reading and reviewing the course policies and expectations and the cell phone policy, please complete the Google Questionnaire and submit it to me by Thursday, September 7th. This will count as a homework grade. \*\***