

COURSE SYLLABUS
National Tsing Hua University
Journalistic English

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Course Description

The course is designed to introduce students to the characteristics and conventions of journalistic writing. Great emphasis is placed on honing reading and language skills that students need most in comprehending news reports and articles in English. Training in key vocabulary skills and knowledge includes connotations, loanwords, metaphors, allusions, and idioms.

Training in reading is aimed at inferring word meaning from context, identifying contextual clues, and grasping main ideas. A selection of texts will be used to sharpen students' abilities to detect hidden bias and to raise students' awareness of cohesive and discourse features that tie a text together.

Course Objectives

1. Learn and practice the fundamentals of news writing
2. Understand headlines through contextual clues
3. Infer meanings and learn new words through context
4. Analyze the content and viewpoint of a text
5. Recognize and practice rhetorical devices

Office hours by appointment only

Monday 13:00 - 15:15

Required course materials

The course materials are available in each of the weekly folder on the eLearn learning platform. Students are required to access the files and print them out.

Grading policies

1. **Attendance and coursework – 10%**
 - a. Success in this class depends on regular and punctual attendance. Each late arrival will result in a 2-point deduction of the semester grade.
 - b. Each unexcused absence will result in a 5-point deduction of the semester grade.
 - c. Students are required to email the instructor to request a leave of absence. The grant of a leave of absence is within the discretion of the instructor.
 - d. Two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. A total of four absences will result in a failing grade.
 - e. Missing 15 minutes of class—arriving late, departing early, or leaving during class—counts as half an absence.
2. **Oral news reports – 10%**
3. **Vocabulary test – 20%**
4. **Classroom reading activities – 10%**

5. **Headline and news writing – 20%**
 - ✓ Headline grammar and Journalese
 - ✓ Wordplay and 5W1H questions
6. **Political words and cross-strait relations – 10%**
7. **Newscast project – 10%**
8. **Headlines in *The Economist* – 10%**

● **Information about assignments and classroom activities**

1. An excused absence does not negate the student’s responsibility for classroom activities or assignments due during his or her period of absence.
2. Late submission of assignments is not accepted.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Assignments
2/13	Grammatical features of newspaper headlines	
2/20	Journalese and short words	
2/27	Journalese and short words The structure of a news article Key words in headlines and contextual clues in leads	Oral news report
3/6	Journalese and short words Headline language devices ✧ Oral news report	Oral news report
3/13	Journalese and short words Headline language devices Current affairs ✧ Oral news report	Headline reading assignment
3/20	Headline language devices Current affairs	Newscast project: Reading and vocabulary
3/27	Headline language devices Current affairs ✧ Headline and news writing #1	Newscast project: Reading and vocabulary Headline and news writing #1
4/3	Holiday	
4/12	✧ Vocabulary test 1	
4/17	Detecting bias in texts Reading <i>The Taipei Times</i> and <i>The China Post</i> ✧ Classroom activity #1 ✧ Newscast project: Reading and vocabulary	Newscast project: Rundown

4/24	Denotation and connotation Reading <i>The New York Times</i> and <i>BBC News</i> ✧ Classroom activity #2 ✧ Newscast project: Rundown	Newscast project: First draft
5/1	Political words and cross-strait relations ✧ Newscast project: First draft	Headline and news writing #2
5/8	Political words and cross-strait relations ✧ Headline and news writing #2	Newscast project: Second draft
5/15	Headlines in <i>The Economist</i> ✧ Newscast project: Second draft	
5/22	Headlines in <i>The Economist</i>	Dress rehearsal
5/29	✧ Newscast project: Studio recording	
6/5	Headlines in <i>The Economist</i>	Headlines in <i>The Economist</i>
6/12	Vocabulary test 2	