

COURSE SYLLABUS
National Tsing Hua University
Journalistic English
Spring 2024

Instructor: I-Tsen Huang

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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

Wednesday 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 – 15% (Journalese, politics, diplomacy, wars, and crimes)**

4. Assignments (vocabulary, reading, and listening) – 30%

Late submissions are not graded.

5. **Headline and news writing – 20%**

- ✓ Headline grammar and Journalese
- ✓ Wordplay and 5W1H questions

6. **Newscast project – 15%**

● **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. Students are obligated to email any due assignments to the instructor before the deadline.
2. Late submission of assignments is not accepted.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments
1	2/21	Grammatical features of newspaper headlines	
2	2/28	Holiday	
3	3/6	Journalese and short words	Oral news report
4	3/13	Journalese and short words Key words in headlines and contextual clues in leads ✧ Oral news report	Oral news report
5	3/20	Politics, diplomacy, wars, and crimes ✧ Oral news report	Headline and news writing #1
6	3/27	✧ Headline and news writing #1	Headline and news writing #1
7	4/3	Holiday	
8	4/10	✧ Headline and news writing #1	
9	4/17	✧ Vocabulary test 1	Headlines in The Economist
10	4/24	Political words and cross-strait relations	Newscast project: Vocabulary
11	5/1	Headlines in The Economist	Newscast project: Rundown
12	5/8	Headlines in The Economist	Newscast project: Draft
13	5/15	Headline language devices	
14	5/22	Newscast project: Studio recording	
15	5/29	Headline language devices	Headline and news writing #2
16	6/5	Headline and news writing #2	