



# 2020 - 2021 COURSE SYLLABUS

## JOURNALISM / NEWSPAPER

(JOG448/JOG449; 10 total credits)

### Mr. Gleason

Room B-12 (English)

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916-395-5090 x506112

Google Classroom code available via SCUSD

*The Kennedy Clarion*: [www.jfkclarion.com](http://www.jfkclarion.com)

**KennedyClarion** 

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Journalism/Newspaper offers you an opportunity to learn about the foundations of journalistic practice, to analyze the role of journalism in a free society, and to produce Kennedy High School's student-run newspaper, *The Clarion*, in a modern workplace framework. The *Clarion* reaches students and the community through its website and social media accounts, and, for all intents and purposes, is a legitimate business.

Just as real news outlets and reporters work hard, collaborate, and innovate to keep the interest of audiences and advertisers, you in Journalism/Newspaper must do the same to keep our school newspaper relevant and vital to Kennedy and the larger community.

Arguably, the role of *The Clarion* is amplified during distance learning and COVID-19: we must keep the campus *present* in the minds of all readers. We can help keep Cougar life virtually close, even while we're physically distant.

It's helpful to think of the class as a workplace, and all students as *Clarion* staffers. You are colleagues with a common cause and a shared goal of contributing to the Kennedy story by proposing and writing news articles for the main sections of News, Features, Opinions, Arts/Entertainment, and Sports. Contributions include reporting, writing, editing, taking photographs, designing, cartooning, and -- if resources allow -- basic video production. In addition, you will help promote the paper with marketing strategies and, as needed, sell advertising to raise money.

Additionally, some staffers will be hired to leadership positions, including Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, and Photo Editor. [Descriptions can be found here.](#)

Your work published in the *Clarion* may additionally be submitted for publication in *The Sac County Breeze*, a regional student publication that showcases high school journalists from high schools across the Sacramento Metropolitan area. This effort is sponsored by the Sacramento County Office of Education, with support from the California Scholastic Journalism Initiative (CSJI). Several times a year, the CSJI sponsors a monthly speaker series at the *Sacramento Bee*, which editors and staffers are highly encouraged to attend. In May, CSJI recognizes the work of local student journalists with an awards dinner.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

During the class, you will report for *The Kennedy Clarion*, learn the history of journalism up to the present, and analyze the appeal and value of the free press in a democratic society.

- Produce articles, photographs, print pages and/or edited materials for the *Clarion* while working under deadlines.
- Conduct yourself in a professional manner by demonstrating enthusiasm, initiative, perseverance, adaptability, and time management.
- Demonstrate skills to effectively craft a journalistic story through observation, research, writing, editing, and, as needed, photography and design.
- Promote and market *The Clarion* and, as needed, sell advertising space.
- Learn and apply knowledge of journalism ethics and workplace professionalism.
- Analyze the boundary between detached, factual reporting and biased opinion articles -- and the debates about where and when that boundary is applied.
- Identify protections of student journalists ensured by the First Amendment of the United States, as well as by California Education Code and California Penal Code.
- Explore the news media landscape – analog and digital – with a critical eye toward journalism’s traditions, its adaptive innovations, and its perceived flaws.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS / GRADING

### CATEGORY

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45%	<b>Assignments, Class Participation</b>	Students must complete all in-class writing exercises and promotional efforts. In addition, they must submit writing and/or photographs for consideration for each <i>Clarion</i> post. Students must contribute a variety of writing formats within and beyond their areas of interests including news, opinion, sports, and reviews as well as photography. Work must meet publication standards, journalistic ethics, and include proper coverage and caption information. This class requires students to manage their own time and to be a valuable team member by contributing to class discussions and team efforts.
35%	<b>Deadlines, Outside Hours</b>	Students must meet all <i>Clarion</i> publishing deadlines. Although time is given during classtime for writing and editing, students who need more time will need to self-assign homework in order to meet their deadlines. Late work is not accepted unless there are compelling reasons for the lateness. If a student is not able to complete an assignment on time for any reason, they must notify their editor and teacher immediately and <u>well before</u> the deadline.
20%	<b>Planning, Time Management</b>	Editors must set reasonable but efficient deadlines, and they must clearly communicate them to staffers; furthermore, staffers must work in a timely manner to meet deadlines and revise their work. Good school attendance is a class expectation. Students must be available to attend and report on school social, academic, and sporting events that occur outside the school academic schedule.

## **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

I'm looking forward to a productive, insightful, and enjoyable school year working with you. Some days can be better than others, so we learn to "do the work even on a bad day" and persevere.

### ***BEHAVIOR***

Respectful behavior is expected in the class: Respect for learning; Respect for property; Respect for boundaries; Respect for others; Respect for yourself.

You are expected to respect and maximize our shared time without disruption. Don't waste our time. Please also understand that your personal needs – while important to you – cannot overtake the class agenda. Refer to the *John F. Kennedy High School Discipline Policy Handbook* for campus-wide rules for behavior and expectations.

### ***PLAGIARISM***

If a student is caught plagiarizing (copying someone else's work and turning it in as your own), making up sources, or fabricating direct quotes, they will receive an "F" for the assignment. The misconduct will be reported to the Discipline Office. This also pertains if information is copied without proper sourcing from the Internet.

### ***ATTENDANCE & TARDIES***

Take attendance seriously -- missing multiple days of class in a semester, whether excused or unexcused, can endanger earning course credit. As the bell rings, you are expected to be in your seat with necessary materials, ready to start. If you arrive late, don't break the flow – enter quietly without distraction. Absences and tardies erode your participation potential and leave you stranded on the runway while everyone else takes off.

## **MOBILE TECHNOLOGY**

Be truly present. Your mobile devices need to be kept out of reach and out of sight in the classroom, unless I specifically allow their use in a lesson.