

Example of exemplary credit hour explanations.

How does this course meet the Credit Hour Definition for in-class expectations?*	This is a three-credit-hour course designed to meet The University of Southern Mississippi's minimum contact-hour requirement for a three-credit course. The course provides a minimum of 2,250 classroom/contact minutes over the semester, including the scheduled final examination period, consistent with USM's Credit Hour and Course Level Policy. In-class instruction consists of approximately 150 minutes per week of direct faculty instruction over a 15-week instructional period. Class meetings include lectures, discussion of assigned readings, analysis of professional sports journalism, reporting and interviewing exercises, editing workshops, story critiques, deadline-reporting exercises, ethics discussions, multimedia instruction, enterprise-story development, and individual and group feedback. These activities directly support the course's stated learning outcomes and are assessed through reporting assignments, writing assignments, quizzes/exercises, story revisions, and the final enterprise project. The course also incorporates supervised, applied journalism activities during class, including reporting simulations, deadline exercises, source-development activities, interviewing practice and editing sessions. These activities constitute direct instructional time and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate achievement of the course learning outcomes.
How does this course meet the Credit Hour Definition for out-of-classroom expectations?*	Out-of-classroom work includes assigned textbook and supplemental readings; research and preparation for class discussions and reporting exercises; development and maintenance of a sports beat and source portfolio; contacting and interviewing sources; attending and observing sporting competitions and other relevant reporting opportunities; conducting background research; gathering and verifying statistics and other information; reporting and writing news, game, advance, follow, feature, profile and column assignments; producing digital/multimedia journalism; completing revisions and editing; and researching and reporting the final enterprise/investigative sports story. Because this is an applied reporting course, substantial out-of-class work consists of original journalistic reporting. Students are expected to conduct interviews, observe events, research and verify information, develop sources and report stories outside scheduled class meetings. These activities are intentional academic experiences directly tied to the course learning outcomes and are evaluated through graded assignments and projects. Across the approximately 15-week semester, the expected out-of-class workload is approximately 90 hours, in addition to the required classroom/contact time. The workload may vary from week to week depending on reporting assignments and deadlines, but the overall course design provides an amount of out-of-class work reasonably equivalent to the minimum expectation for a three-credit-hour course.
How does this course meet the Credit Level Definition?*	This course is proposed as a 300-level, junior-level undergraduate course and is designed to meet The University of Southern Mississippi's definition of upper-division coursework. USM defines 300-level courses as advanced courses that may have course prerequisites or major-standing requirements and that are often major-specific.

Sports Reporting is an advanced, major-specific journalism course that requires students to apply foundational reporting, writing, research and communication skills to the specialized professional practice of sports journalism. Students move beyond introductory instruction in news reporting and writing to independently develop a sports beat, cultivate sources, conduct original interviews, report and write multiple forms of sports journalism, work under deadline, analyze and verify statistics and other information, address ethical issues specific to sports journalism, and complete an original enterprise/investigative reporting project.

The course requires students to demonstrate increasing independence in identifying newsworthy subjects, developing story ideas, selecting and evaluating sources, conducting reporting, making editorial decisions, meeting professional deadlines and revising their work. Major assignments require substantial original reporting and culminate in a 1,500-word-or-more enterprise/investigative sports story based on multiple human sources and independent research.

The level of reading, reporting, writing, critical analysis, professional practice and independent work required is appropriate for junior-level, upper-division study in journalism