

## NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Title: News Literacy in the Age of Social Media**

**Course #: Eng. C174**

**Course Description:** An introduction to the history and nature of news media's role in our society, and a thorough examination of how news organizations function. Substantial practice in distinguishing among news, opinion, propaganda and advertising, and in analyzing news stories and organizations for credibility and fairness. Three (3) credit hours.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: ENG 101 or 101W with a C or better

#### **Goals:**

- To develop students' understanding of news media's role in a democratic society.
- To develop students' familiarity with how journalists collect, select and present news.
- To develop students' ability to discern bias and to distinguish between news and opinion, and among fact, rumor and disinformation.
- To develop students' ability to identify, and appreciation of, well-executed journalism.

#### **Outcomes:**

Upon completion of Eng. C298, a student should be able to demonstrate an ability:

- To read and/or watch complex news coverage and demonstrate comprehension of it.
- To analyze key elements of news reports, including evidence, sources, context and transparency, to judge their reliability.
- To distinguish between news reports, opinion journalism and unsupported claims. To identify and distinguish between news media bias and audience bias.
- To identify and write effectively about First Amendment issues.
- To assess the impact of digital technologies and place them in their historical context.
- To speak and write effectively about journalism standards and practices, fairness and bias.