Welcome to Mass Communications Online

I like the sound of those five words above and in today’s world they make a lot of sense. Journalism 105 explores the mass media and it’s exciting to be discussing its history, its cultural influence and its future with you in this online course. An online class means just that, we will not meet face-to-face, but we will have a chance to see each other through our avatars and online discussions. The course syllabus and a full description of the class will be available Jan. 2 on Etudes, a few days before class officially begins.

Grade Diggers

I loved to get my hands dirty digging for good grades and that’s what you’ll have to do. The Winter Session moves fast, so I expect you to login Monday through Friday to check for assignments. You will participate in online discussions, take chapter quizzes, exams and turn in homework. You earn points for each test, discussion, quiz and homework assignment. Those points are added at the end of the semester and you will earn the grade that corresponds to your point total (totals detailed on the syllabus).

Text

Shirley Biagi’s Media/Impact (9th edition) will be our text, and it can be purchased at the campus bookstore or online. You need the book by the start of the semester to prepare for quizzes and exams. No exceptions.

Technical Tips

Technical support: Valley College has hired some good people to help with Etudes/computer problems you may face; I am not one of them. To make sure you have the required tools/skills to get started, I suggest that you explore Virtual Valley. The page links you to "Student Resources," "Technical Information" and "Frequently Asked Questions." There is a "Help Desk" icon that provides you with an e-mail address (etudeshelp@lavc.edu) a telephone number (818-778-5834) and a computer lab (Business/Journalism, room 103) that you can use. Please make sure that your computer is Etudes ready before class starts. My syllabus states that I do not accept late assignments for any reason, including “technical problems.”
First Assignment

Your first assignment is an easy one. Once the class opens, Jan. 2, you’ll head to the announcement section of Etudes and look for the three questions I want you to answer. The questions will be based on the syllabus, and I want you to send me your answers in a private message through Etudes. If you do not answer the questions by Jan. 5 at 11 p.m., I will assume that you do not want to take the class and drop you.

End Note

I look forward to sharing the class with you and if you have any questions, please send me an e-mail at dauberwj@lavc.edu. Place “Winter 105” in the subject line, and I will get back to you within 24 hours.

Thanks and good luck,

Bill Dauber