

Instructor: Christopher Drew

Group meetings: On Zoom, 4:15 – 5:15 p.m., Thursdays, before legislative sessions start.

Office Hours: By appointment on Zoom.

Instructor Phone: cell) 973-698-8828 o) 225-578-3984

Use this email address for all work correspondence: [manshipxgr@gmail.com](mailto:manshipxgr@gmail.com)

Use this email address for all personal correspondence: [cdrew2@lsu.edu](mailto:cdrew2@lsu.edu)

Graduate assistant: Drew Hawkins, [whawki9@lsu.edu](mailto:whawki9@lsu.edu), cell) 504-881-3898

Work hours: During the redistricting

To give students practical e

grade, and any violations of

- Writing Political Analysis Stories. How to step back and assess whether legislative actions will solve the problems they are meant to address and what controversial votes might mean for the legislators who make them.

- Campaign Finance. How to take your analysis one step farther by using campaign-finance records to show how certain individuals and industries might have influence with legislators on critical issues.

Assignments come about in three ways. Either you or I will propose a story, and I will assign it to you with a deadline that you must meet (at least with a first draft). Stories on breaking news, such as when you cover a hearing or a floor vote, typically range from 400 to 800 words in length and will be due the same day the news occurs. We also would like to do profiles, analysis and enterprise pieces, and they could range from 900 to 1,300 words and have longer lead times. You will team up on some stories to cover more ground or dig more deeply. You are responsible for informing me if you run into any problems as you work on a story. I will edit the stories through a shared Google document so you can follow along. You will receive

I prefer to treat students in advanced courses like young professionals in a newsroom, and I expect you to be as engaged and diligent as you would be on your first job. One of the keys to success is consistent effort, and I expect each of you to turn in a reporting memo or one or more stories each week. I will grade each of these memos and stories based on their quality and thoroughness, including any revisions you need to make, and these scores will total 50 percent of your final grade. If you don't turn in a solid memo or a story during a week, you will receive a zero for that week.

Just as teams of you gained expertise in different aspects of redistricting in MC 4250, you will each have primary coverage areas, or beats—like health care, education, budget and taxes etc.—once we get into the regular session (while also being ready to cover breaking news in other areas on days that you are working). I expect you to suggest your own story ideas as much as possible. Your initiative and originality will constitute 20 percent of your grade.

Attendance, class participation and meeting deadlines are imperative and will represent 10 percent of your final grade

Many of you will work at times with a partner or two, so 10 percent of your grade will be based on how cooperative you are within your group and if you handle your appropriate share of the work. Irresponsible teammates can sink stories, but I will not let them sink

The final 10 percent of your grade will come from my overall assessment of the output and quality of work. Some students might work mostly on a string of breaking news stories or features, while others might work mainly on a long-range project. Both tracks are acceptable and can earn top marks in this category if you work consistently and in a cooperative manner and meet deadlines.

97 and above	A+
94.00--96.99	A
90.00--93.99	A-
87.00--89.99	B+
84.00--86.99	B
80.00--83.99	B-
77.00--79.99	C+
74.00--76.99	C
70.00--73.99	C-
67.00--69.99	D+
63.50--66.99	D
60.00--63.99	D-
59.99 and below	F

Please note that LSU requires students to attend all scheduled meetings. This semester, all the meetings will be on Zoom at times based on your schedules. I expect to see you at all the classes, group and instructor meetings and work periods for

All courses within the Manship School focus on the importance of writing, and all of our news  
outle

All lectures, conversations and comments in

If you know of any type of disability or barrier to your success in this class, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to contact the Office of Disability Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions



MC 4151 – Statehouse Bureau, Spring 2022

Professor Christopher Drew

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the class syllabus carefully. I hereby agree to all of the requirements in it about the class and assignment schedule, grading, attendance, class and group participation, and strict adherence to all journalistic and academic ethical standards and other university rules.

I also acknowledge that, given the health risks from COVID-19, I am not required to leave campus, and I have a choice about whether to do interviews and cover hearings and floor action in person or virtually by watching the video streams. If I choose to travel back and forth to the Capitol, I recognize that I am commuting at my own risk, just as if I were going to school or a job, and I will not hold my professor or LSU responsible if I have any pr

CAPITOL