

J202

Culver

J202 Advice

Week 1

The following are answers recent students gave to this question: what one piece of advice would you offer to students entering J202 next semester? We're providing the answers to give you a leg up as you take on this challenge. We find at times you listen to each other more than you listen to us. (The answers are provided with shorthand, typos, criticism, contradictions, warts and all.)

- Don't pay attention to the '12 credit' thing. I was in 16 HARD credits and didn't have a problem except at the very end, and that was because of poor planning.
- The class is as hard as you make it. The workload is consistent but completely manageable (and this is coming from the procrastination master). You'll bitch about it as you go through it, but you'll also undeniably learn a lot. So find a friend to vent to and realize its means to an end. PS make your lab fun, it makes everything easier.
- DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! While the work load is not as scary as some people make it out to be, it is so important that you keep on top of the assignments, as they can rack up if you aren't on top of it.
- Relax! Breathe! The semester goes by faster than you think it will.
- This course is manageable if you keep on top of your work. This isn't a class you can put off until the night before. Oh, and revise, revise, revise. Don't lose 10 points for a stupid fact error.
- Just stay on top of deadlines, don't get too down about bad grades just keep trying, and when you get feedback from your teacher take it to heart and really work on REWRITING!
- To listen closely to your TA's instructions.
- Stay on top of the readings and assignments, you can get behind fast, and they will show up on quizzes!
- Quizzes are extremely difficult. Do not worry about grades because it is impossible to determine what it is throughout the semester.
- it's not as bad as you think it is i took 12 credits this semester and had oodles of free time
- Most homework assignments are assigned over a weekend. Take advantage of this! If you get assignments done early you still have time during the week to go into your TA's office hours.
- It's not as painful as it looks. Don't stress about grades, you'll learn more in this semester than you can imagine. Have fun with it!
- I took 14 credits and had a part time job and was able to handle everything fine.
- Don't be discouraged if you don't do as well as you'd expect in the beginning. It will get better!
- it's worth it. just do it.
- Eat before lab. It's 3 hours and if you don't you won't think as well.
- Take every deadline and move it up one lab. Do the readings or it won't seem like you are learning anything.
- Don't be overwhelmed by the course workload. It's not that much - it's just a lot of different little things. Also make sure you use your lab time wisely.
- When you're alone and life is making you lonely you can always gooooo Downtown!
- If you stay on top of things, you will be just fine!
- Do the copy editing part of the practice quizzes posted online. You'll feel a lot more comfortable when you get the quiz every week.
- Realize that the purpose of this class is to expose you to the different techniques used in journalism/strategic communication. Don't worry too much over your grade because it really is about what you learn. Take a deep breath and just try to understand why, not how you're doing.
- Just relax and keep up with your work. Procrastination is exciting and stressful but tends not to produce the best work. Become friends with your labmates, as they will prove to be valuable assets throughout the course.
- Learn to stop caring about your grades. It's not worth stressing over. But for your own sanity, spell check names in your stories. You will get docked 10 points for every fact/spelling error and it sucks.
- Everyone tries to scare you in the beginning, but that's just to get you to work hard and try your best. It's not as bad as they say, actually, it's fun and *corny alert* rewarding. Really.
- Don't panic. There are so many projects you can afford some low grades.
- Work hard and stay ahead. Get to know your lab, they will become your best friends. This is one of the most fun classes you will ever be a part of.
- Don't worry...it's really not bad. In fact, it's one of my favorite classes I've ever taken at UW. Bond with your labmates immediately...it makes the semester so much more fun!!

- Do not procrastinate. You will not enjoy the material you are learning if you are pressed for time to complete your assignments.
- Keep up with the news and work quickly and efficiently.
- Learn the AP style as much as you can in the beginning, it will help you on your quizzes and in your work. Don't get freaked out, everyone is freaking nuts the first week, and it is not as overwhelming as it seems.
- Make friends with the people in your lab, they are going to be your best resource for four months and they will make those three hour labs so much more bearable.
- watch out quiz and grammar
- Buy a big binder and stay organized. Subscribe to NYT daily e-mails too.
- Take a deep breath. Don't freak out about every little assignment grade. You are in the j-school, so stop worrying about grades and start worrying about learning.
- It's a lot of work, but if you get to know your lab and connect with other J202 students it will make the work and time fly.
- DONT MISS LAB OR LECTURE BEFORE TALKING TO KATY OR YOUR TA... EVEN IF YOU ARE DEATHLY SICK IN BED
- J202 is incredibly fun and rewarding, but you're going to have to work your butt off for it. Get ready to work hard and you will become a great writer!
- It isn't as much work as they make it sound like it is. Watch for inaccuracies.
- write with guster and all the grammar you can muster!!!!LOL!!!
- The teachers try to scare you in the beginning, but they really don't grade that harsh, even in the beginning. Overall, if you just have fun and not get discouraged, the class is extremely rewarding. I've probably gotten the most out of this class than any other I've taken in college.
- Don't worry. This class is not as bad as it sounds. Keep an organized binder and stick to deadlines.
- seriously, become friends with people in your lab. it is really awkward when your TA asks what you did this weekend and no one answers because they are too scared to talk in front of one another. make sure on the first day of lab, you make it a point to make friends with your lab.
- It's not as scary as it seems on the first day, be confident you got in! Study copy-editing for the quizzes sit at a computer that doesn't face your TA--then you don't have to feel guilty when you are on facebook be friends with your TA, they're pretty cool
- It's a great course, it's very manageable if you get work done in class and put in some effort. J202 isn't that bad (and I'm no genius or workaholic)
- It's not as hard as it's cracked up to be. AP Style is your Bible. You can take more than 12 credits with the course and not die!
- People call this course J-School Boot Camp...but it's really not that difficult. You finally start learning things that you will ACTUALLY use someday in your career, which is pretty rewarding.
- This class is NOT AS HARD as people say it is...it's actually super fun and you will learn to LOVE the people in your lab
- Don't believe the hype ... it's really not that bad.
- DO NOT STRESS. This class is not as hard as they want you to think it is. Just do your work, stay organized, and you'll be surprised that anyone ever told you this class was a lot of work.
- I dropped to 14 credits, and could have handled more. It is front loaded in my opinion, which is a good thing. You will learn A LOT, so get on each assignment. Basically get after it, initiate a snack schedule in lab, love your lab and your TA, and learn to love reading the news. Good Luck, you will love it.
- It's no nearly as bad as it's cracked up to be. Gets MUCH better as the course goes along!
- it's not SO bad.
- Create solid communication with your TA from the start.
- This class was not as hard as everybody makes it out to be. Equanimity is your greatest asset. Just have confidence in your abilities-nobody gets into this school unless they have some bodacious writing moxy, so do your best to keep an even keel and before you know it you'll be watching your final project presentation.
- never look directly into brian ekdale's eyes: they're full of secrets.
- Don't stress about those D's you get in the beginning, they don't pull much weight.
- You will become best friends with your lab. I loved this class.
- Budget your time wisely!
- It's all hyped up, but get scared anyways.
- TAKE MORE THAN 12-13 CREDITS! I can't tell you how many people said this class was a

difficult course load and that students would be overwhelmed. As long as you're able to stick to the syllabus, there really is no way to fall behind. Don't stress out, and you'll be fine.

- Work hard in the beginning, the skills will pay off.
- Two VERY important words: treat schedule
- You might want to consider switching majors.
- WRITE EVERYTHING ON YOUR CALENDAR AS SOON AS YOU GET ANY KIND OF ASSIGNMENT!!
- Do the readings the night before lecture so that you remember everything for the quizzes.
- RELAX! Just chill out, do your work, and you will do great.
- do your work early and seek advice from TA and Katy.
- go meet with Katy and your TA as much as possible with feedback!!
- Use Katy and your TA for feedback on your pieces and don't over worry about your grades, instead look at how you are improving. And watch the news so you do well on the quizzes.
- The workload is no sweat if you just spread it out. Going to your TA or Katy is guaranteed to get you the grade you want, so take advantage of it. And don't worry about grades, you'll be fine in the end.
- Try to be diligent with studying for weekly quizzes and stay up on current events!
- Don't believe what they tell you about taking a light courseload with this class; I took 17 credits and was fine. Just make sure you WRITE DOWN THE DEADLINES. All of them, or you will forget about assignments.
- Be anal retentive about copy editing your assignments. It sucks to get fact errors! However, don't be anal retentive about the grades you get. They're not as important as you think at the time.
- Work hard and take everything as it comes and you will be fine. Ask a lot of questions in order to learn as much as you can.
- look, if you were smart enough to get into the class, you're smart enough to get a good grade. No worries!
- It's not nearly as stressful as people make it out to be. Just keep up with the assignments and you'll be fine.
- GO SEE KATY EVERY DAY! Literally, even when you don't have class... IN J202, there aren't any days off!!! Also, DROP all your extra-currics, I

wish I would have done it sooner! Be good to J202 and IT will be merciful to you :o)

- Don't sweat it. Just apply yourself and hopefully it won't kill you
- The best advice that I have is to be on top of things. Get started right away.....things will be sooo less stressfull. In fact, it's a really enjoyable class if you get started early and relieve the stress of scrambling at the last minute. It's not nearly as scary as people make it out to be! Go to your TA whenever you need help, because they're extremely willing to help.