



WRITING 2203G
WRITING FOR PUBLICATION

INSTRUCTOR:

Office: Stevenson Lawson 270

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

E-MAIL:

Office Hours: TBA

The course will improve writing intended for various forms of publication, including media releases and public letters, reviews and reports, newspaper and magazine articles. Students will develop skills in the preparation, writing, copy-editing, and formatting of materials for publication, focusing on effective organization at every level of writing.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Ivor Shapiro. Editor. The Bigger Picture: Elements of Feature Writing. 2008. Emond Montgomery Publications Limited.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

William Zinsser. *On Writing Well: the Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. 30th anniversary edition. Quill Harper Resource. (on reserve in Weldon).

ASSIGNMENTS:

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| 1. Front of the book article/letter to editor | 5% |
| 2. Profile of classmate | 15% |
| 3. Query letter | 15% |
| 4. Magazine profile (including presentation) | 10% |
| 5. In-class movie review | 10% |
| 6. Other writing assignments (TBA) | 10% |
| 7. Feature Article (includes outline) | 35% |

ATTENDANCE/ARTICLE SUBMISSION:

I take attendance at the beginning of each class. Should you arrive late it will be your responsibility to ensure that you are not marked as absent by seeing me after class or during break. **Each missed class without proper documentation or discussion with me beforehand will reduce your final grade by 2%.** Attendance is required to improve as a writer. If you miss more than six hours of class meetings (the equivalent of two weeks of class meetings) your final grade will be penalized a full letter grade (an earned grade of 80% would be reported as a 70%); if you miss more than nine hours of class meetings, you will be penalized a further letter grade. This policy will only be waived for medical or compassionate reasons. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty. That advisor may then contact me and your other instructors.

I don't like to penalize late assignments; however, since the purpose of this course is to prepare you for a career in writing for publication, you need to know that the publishing industry thrives on deadlines. If your copy is not ready on time, your story could end up not being published. For these reasons, all assignments will be due on the date specified unless you negotiate an extension at least 48 hours in advance. Following any other policy would be an injustice to you as a future writer. Assignments should be submitted in class or electronically if necessary. You may also place them in the Writing Program drop box outside Stevenson-Lawson room 270. Late assignments will be penalized at 3% per day, including weekends.

NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER April 8, 2009. OUTSTANDING WORK AS OF THIS DATE WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF 0.