

WRITING 2203 F 001 - "Writing for Publication"

Mondays 2:30-4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Instructor: Melanie Chambers - mchambe4@uwo.ca

Classroom: P&AB Room 36

Office Hours: Wednesdays - 12:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment

Office Location: Lawson Hall Room 3270

"Writing for Publication" is designed to teach students how to write for various forms of publication styles including service pieces, reviews, profiles, and newspaper and magazine articles. Students will also be encouraged to communicate to a variety of audiences. Students will develop skills in the research, writing, formatting, and marketing of materials for publication.

Students will acquire the ability to develop story ideas, research and interview, write query letters, produce features, revise and edit, prepare and meet the requirements of specific genres and publications.

Strong emphasis will be given to the practicalities of writing as a career, including getting started, working towards success (and coping with rejection), and learning how to manage the organizational side. Students will be encouraged to submit writing to publications while they are taking the course.

Text: *Ivor Shapiro. Editor. The Bigger Picture: Elements of Feature Writing. 2009 Emond Montgomery Publications Limited.*

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

Grading: There will be no tests or exams in this course. Students will be graded on the following assignments and presentations:

Assignment	Grade Value
1) Local news story	15%
2) Profile	20%
3) Query	15%
4) Review	10%

5) Magazine Feature	35%
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READING: It is also recommended that you read a wide range of magazines during this course. Periodically I will bring in new magazines to discuss and will ask that you bring in your favourites.

WORKSHOPPING: We will be using the group workshopping process to discuss writing assignments throughout this course. I will outline workshop etiquette and expect everyone to act with courtesy and professionalism.

Attendance policy: Attendance in this class is mandatory. I will 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. Each missed class without proper documentation will reduce your final grade by 2%. Magazines and newspapers thrive on deadlines and for that reason, all assignments will be due on the date specified unless you negotiate an extension at least 48 hours in advance. Assignments should be submitted in class, or electronically if necessary. **DO NOT** slide them under my office door. Late assignments will be penalized at 3% per day, including weekends.

NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER December, 6th, 2013.
OUTSTANDING WORK AS OF THIS DATE WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF 0.

Attendance also extends to tardiness. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be penalized an hour of attendance. Please make every effort to be on time as late entry can disrupt the flow of discussion in our class.

Early departures from class, which have not been previously arranged with the instructor, will also be counted as an absence. If you leave during the break, you will be docked an hour of attendance.

Note:** a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of ‘make-up class’ in another course **will** count as non-attendance, and **will** attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at the University of Western Ontario ***shall not require a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict with that student’s other scheduled class times. If you are asked or ‘required’ to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counsellor in your Dean’s office. If you elect to miss a class in order to write such a test, that is ***your*** choice; your absence will not be excused.

Prerequisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.” The prerequisite for registration in this course is a) a final grade of 65 or more in one of Writing 2101, 2121, 2111, or 2131, or b) a final grade of 85 or more in

Writing 1000F/G, or c) Special Permission of the Program. **Medical Accommodation Policy: For UWO Policy on Accommodation For Medical Illness, see: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>**

(downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading). Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical or other grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth 10% or more of their final grade** must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds cannot be granted by the instructor or the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication, and the Program requires students in these circumstances to follow the same procedure when seeking academic accommodation on non-medical (i.e. non-medical compassionate or other) grounds. Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth less than 10% of their final grade** must also apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation.

Where in these circumstances the accommodation is being sought on **non-medical grounds**, students should consult in the first instance with their instructor, who may elect to make a decision on the request directly, or refer the student to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty. Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an ‘Attendance’ policy in the course). **All** medical documentation **must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student’s home Faculty.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Special Requests: Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing

Please refer to the “Information for All Students in a Writing Course” for more detailed information. Briefly, remember that I do not have the discretion to initiate, consider, or grant (or not) such requests; you must go directly to the Dean’s office of your home faculty.

Plagiarism policy: Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Assignment overview

Local news assignment	Interviewing sources on campus, students report on the local angle of a national news story. Skills developed include how to use journalism style quotes, how to interview and how to write in an inverted pyramid news style.
Profile	Students further develop their interviewing skills by profiling a classmate; through a series of interviews, students must develop a central profile theme and include revealing and fresh quotes to add colour to their profile subject.
Query letter	Queries are a one-page idea pitch to a magazine editor. The letter is a blueprint of students' feature stories, which is their final assignment for the course. The query includes facts and statistics, and background that explain how their idea fits the publication's style and tone.
Feature	Interviewing three sources, with multiple facts and statistics, students must develop their query idea into a full-length feature, which explores a trend. Unlike the news story, the feature explores the why and how of a trend in more depth.

Review	Using only facts and opinions, students must critique a movie or book. The assignment is done in class to mimic newspaper deadlines.
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Readings

Week One: chapter eight text pages **227-233** and package of article styles online

Week two: handout *Quotation Quandary* online and text pages **243-245 (using quotes)**

Week three: thyroid health story online and Chapter one feature *The Ketchup Conundrum*; Chapter three

Week four: Chapter five and *Toronto Star* Disney story online

Week five: Chapter nine and editing story online

Week six: pages 264-271 and Chapter one

Week seven: Query samples online and Chapter two

Week eight: ethical handouts online, and Chapter 10

Week nine: online reviews:

http://www.quillandquire.com/reviews/review.cfm?review_id=7843

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/2012/12/25/movie-review-les-miserables/DBGVULryIKTSxsZMBzVudO/story.html>