JOU 4311: ADVANCED MAGAZINE WRITING
Wednesday periods 4-6, Weimer 1070

PROFESSOR
Ted Spiker @ProfSpiker
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392-6990
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OFFICE HOURS
Wednesday 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Best to make appointment
Skype: ProfSpiker (by appointment)
g-chat: ProfSpiker (by appointment)

REQUIRED READING
Writing Tools, Roy Peter Clark (Little, Brown)
Other readings as determined by class

OBJECTIVE
This course aims to prepare students for magazine-style reporting, writing, and revising articles suitable for publication in various print/digital outlets. You will assume the role of a professional magazine writer, and we will conduct this class in a writer’s-group format. In this capstone course, you are expected to produce senior-level, high-quality work with depth and critical thinking. In exchange, you will receive feedback that will improve and strengthen your writing in new and creative ways.

GOALS
>>To use a variety of advanced research and interviewing techniques
>>To develop advanced writing, rewriting and storytelling skills
>>To develop good marketing techniques to get stories accepted and published

COURSE TOPICS
Idea Generation  Marketing/Audience
Interviewing    Reporting/Research
Diversity of Sources  Revision
Ethical Issues    Writing Short, Writing Tight
Story Structure  Story Genre
Style/Voice    Literary Devices

GRADING
You will be graded on a 1,000-point scale:

A: 925–1000        C: 725–774
A-: 900–924        C-: 700–724
B+: 875–899        D+: 675–699
B: 825–874        D: 625–674
B-: 800–824        D-: 600–624
C+: 775–799        E: 0-599
ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN

Main Story (600 points)
50 points: Idea memo
100 points: Story excerpt
200 points: First draft
200 points: Revision
50 points: Query/pitch

Other (400 points)
75 points: Warm-Up Writing Assignment
100 points: Short feature
75 points: Reading Quizzes
50 points: Reading Presentation
100 points: Attendance/Participation

ASSIGNMENTS

Main story
You will write one narrative, long-form magazine-style piece, using advanced storytelling techniques. In order for this to work, you must find a story worthy of depth and nuance, and you must report it. Word count: About 2,500. Find a story that you want to spend time with and that you will be able to have a reasonable amount of access to. Details of each of the following elements will be discussed in class:

Idea memo:
No more than one page single-spaced.
Due Wednesday 1/27 by email and hard copy in class.
50 points: Judged on overall quality

Story excerpt:
About 500 words of any part of your story.
Due Wednesday 2/10 by email and hard copy in class.
100 points: 50 points on quality of reporting, 50 points on quality of writing

First draft:
Due Wednesday 2/24 by email and hard copy in class.
200 points: Point breakdown to be handed out in class

Query/pitch (no more than a half of a page single-spaced):
Due Wednesday 2/24 by email and hard copy in class.
50 points: Judged on overall quality

Revision:
Due Wednesday 3/30 by email and hard copy in class.
200 points: Point breakdown to be handed out in class
**Other**

**Warm-Up Writing Assignment**
No more than 1,000 words.
Due **1/11 at noon** by email.
75 points: Details given in first class, judged on overall quality

**Short Feature**
About 500 words.
Due **Wednesday 4/13 by email and hard copy in class**.
100 points: 50 on quality reporting, 50 on quality of writing.
Story can be of any magazine-style genre, except news, essays and reviews. Some reporting required (minimum of two live sources). You can do mini-profiles, how-to’s, trends, etc… Ideas must be approved.

**Reading Presentation**
You will choose a magazine-style piece, distribute to class, do a short presentation about it, and lead the class discussion. Dates will be determined the second week of class.
50 points

**Reading Quizzes**
We’ll have short quizzes of 5 points each to make sure you do the reading. They’ll be straightforward if you have done the reading. Please have Writing Tools read by 1/27.

**Attendance/Participation**
You are allowed one unexcused absence (“excused” includes religious holidays and documented medical excuses). After that, your grade will be deducted by an automatic 50 points for each absence. Lateness to class can also result in a point deduction at instructor’s discretion. No makeup quizzes will be given (unless the absence is excused).

**STORY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**
>>Turn in one hard copy, and e-mail one copy (unless otherwise noted)
>>TRIPLE-space all stories
>>Include source info (name, phone, e-mail) at bottom of every story
>>Include a headline and subhed for each story
   (not for grade; to help you think and focus what story is about)
>>Submit first draft with my comments along with final draft of main story
   Failure to follow guidelines will result in a point penalty at instructor’s discretion

**DEDUCTIONS**
Failure to meet deadlines for writing assignments will result in a 20-point deduction for every 24-hour period that it is late. Fact errors will result in a deduction at instructor’s discretion, depending on the error and assignment.
CLASSROOM NEEDS
Students requesting special classroom needs must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide the documentation to instructor.

HONOR CODE
Violation of the honor code includes plagiarizing material from other sources or fabricating material, as well as other forms of cheating. Violations will result in a failing grade, and you will be dismissed from the journalism program and reported to the Honor Court. See the Department of Journalism web site for specific outline of honor code violations.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
This is a workshop-style class in which we will all contribute ideas and critiques of other writers’ work and ideas. Please use professional courtesy. Turn cell phones off. No texting (or checking your phone) in class. If you need to check your phone, please leave the room to do so. Be prepared to bring laptops to class. You will be notified at least 48 hours in advance if we are going to do in-class work.

THE INSTRUCTOR
Professor Ted Spiker is the chair of the UF department of journalism and has overseen the department’s magazine courses since he arrived at UF in 2001. A graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and a former articles editor at Men’s Health, Spiker has had work published in TIME.com, Esquire.com, Outside, O the Oprah Magazine, Fortune, Men’s Health, Women’s Health, Runner’s World, Reader’s Digest, Best Life, and many others. He is also the author of DOWN SIZE and the co-author of a dozen books, including the national bestselling YOU: The Owner’s Manual series. Twitter: @ProfSpiker. Web site: www.tedspiker.com.