Writing for Mass Communication (MMC 2100) Spring Semester 2018

COURSE SYLLABUS

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Lead instructor:** Professor Rob Marino
(Sect. 0089, 208G)
**Email:** through Canvas

**Section instructor:** Mr. Richard Anguiano (Sect. 2A29)
**Email:** through Canvas

**Section instructor:** Mr. Sean McCrory (Sect. 094F)
**Email:** through Canvas

**Section Instructor:** Mr. David Moore (Sect. 094G)
**Email:** through Canvas

**Section instructor:** Mr. David Schlenker (Sect. 2H67)
**Email:** through Canvas

Virtual Office Hours: ***(all through Conferences, Canvas)***
Mondays: 9-11 p.m.
Tuesdays: 9-11 p.m.
Wednesdays: 9-11 p.m.
Sundays: 1-3 p.m.
Sundays: 9-11 p.m.

***It is recommended that you attend ONE of the FIVE virtual office hours each week. Either Professor Marino or one of the four section instructors, Mr. Anguiano, Mr. McCrory, Mr. Moore or Mr. Schlenker, will be moderating each of FIVE office hours during the week to provide immediate feedback on each assignment.

In fact, it would help to work on your written assignments during our office hours. By being enrolled in this class, you have access to any of the FIVE weekly office hours.

The class is structured so you will be writing assignments in addition to taking exams and quizzes working on e-textbook exercises.

You should also be checking the MMC 2100 portal on Canvas several times each week. All course material will be available there: written assignments, tests and quizzes and e-textbook exercises as well as course handouts.

Additionally, you should be checking your primary email every few days. Professor Marino or your section instructor will be emailing weekly course updates.
COURSE DESCRIPTION
MMC 2100 is a pre-professional course designed to promote fundamental instruction and practice in writing as a basis for upper division courses in such areas as advertising, agriculture communications and technical communications. It is also an introductory course designed to provide basic instruction in writing for print and online media, advertising and public relations. Exploration of the role of mass media in today’s world and its impact on our daily lives will be included in the course curriculum.
Instructional Methods: video lecture, student-directed learning, hands-on production and peer evaluation.

GENERAL GOALS AND MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES
The major objective of MMC 2100 is for students to be able to write accurately and comprehensively using the tenets of good news writing. Students should also be able to use persuasive writing to sway selected publics without misrepresentation and to understand the dynamics of communication.
At the completion of the course, students will demonstrate:
- correct newspaper style in news writing
- the ability to write hard news copy in an informative and timely way
- the ability to write an online news story, including breaking news
- the ability to write features that capture reader interest
- the ability to write advertising copy and commercials that stress a unique selling point through emotional or rational appeal
- the ability to write a well-constructed cover letter and include major relevant sections of a resume

Prerequisite for course -- You must have completed the required six hours of English credit, typically ENC 1101 and ENC 1102. This requirement may be fulfilled through Advanced Placement scores.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

***You will need to purchase the access code by following the instructions in the Canvas Start Here module of the course – this is the ONLY way to access the e-book***

MMC 2100 will be participating in the UF All Access program for the Spring 2018 semester. Students will have two options to gain access to the required REVEL digital materials. Students will have to choose to “Opt-In” to REVEL access through a link provided in Canvas once classes begin for a reduced price and pay for these materials through your student account. Students who do not choose this option will be able to purchase a standalone code through the UF
Bookstore. Both options provide access to the same online materials; however, the discounted price will only be available through the Gator1 Central portal. You can log in to the Gator1 Central portal and view your participating courses when classes begin here: https://www.bsd.ufl.edu
(REVEL quizzes are part of your grade in this course. Please have access by the second week of classes.)

Goldstein, Norm, editor. *The Associated Press Stylebook*. Addison-Wesley Publishing. (2011 or later). The bookstores will often place the AP Stylebook in the section for JOU 3101. You may want to purchase the iPhone app, which costs more than the print version but is searchable. ***It is EXPECTED that students have both these books purchased and in their possession by the start of Module 2 (MONDAY JAN. 22) – not having the books by that date will put any student significantly behind in the class***

Other Materials
- Flash memory drive for transporting drafts of required lab assignments
- Reporter’s notepad or small notebook for interview notes
- iPhone for taking photos
- Web Cam and Microphone (Skype account)suggested for conducting interviews virtually

RESOURCES

**Communications Coaching Center (1088 Weimer Hall)** – Student members of the Journalism and Communications Ambassadors staff the center. They can provide coaching on writing assignments, grammar and AP style issues. They also can assist you in applying for internships and finding sources for stories.

**Computers** – Call 392-HELP for locations and hours of computer labs on campus.

**Career Resource Center** – The CRC is located on the main floor of the Reitz Union and provides free career assessment and counseling. Check the CRC web site for information about workshops, career and job fairs, or to schedule an appointment. [http://www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)

**Division of Student Services (352-392-1261)** – Contact this office if you need to miss class due to an on-going medical problem or family emergency. This office will send a courtesy letter to your instructors about your absence.

**Counseling Center (352-392-1575)** – The center provides scheduled and drop-in appointments with counselors to discuss a range of personal issues.

**Disability Resource Center** – Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit [http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints) to submit a complaint.
University Writing Program (352-846-1138)—if you are an English as Second Language Student (ESL), this program offers writing assistance. [https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/for-students/esl-assistance/](https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/for-students/esl-assistance/)

Course Evaluations

“Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/).

COURSE GRADING:
Your grade will be broken down this way:
65 percent -- average of SEVEN written module assignments
15 percent – average of THREE (3) exams
10 percent – Pearson Revel Total Score – average of all quizzes completed through the Pearson Revel e-textbook site
10 percent -- “other” assignments*** must be completed ONLY while that module is open***

ASSIGNMENTS
There are SEVEN (7) written module assignments that each count 100 points (your final written module assignment grade will be the average of those SEVEN assignments – each counts the same and no grades will be dropped):

- Resume/cover letter
- Police briefs (2)
- News Story
- Personality Profile
- Photo Essay
- Blog
- Ad Project
HOW WRITTEN MODULE ASSIGNMENTS ARE GRADED
One of the goals is to make sure all written assignments are comparable. All section instructors use the same grading standard. Your grade on each written assignment will consist of the points earned for content minus the points deducted for stylistic errors, such as grammar and AP Style. There will be a grammar review in Module 1; however, you are expected to know the basic rules of grammar (correct use of commas etc).

***REVISION COMPONENT***
MMC 2100 is structured to include not only faculty-to-student feedback but peer feedback as well. In several written assignments, you will be expected to revise your submission based on feedback received from your section instructor – meaning there will be two deadlines for those assignments: an initial deadline and a final deadline (that includes revisions you made based on the feedback from your section instructor)

***There will be a -5 point deduction ON THE FINAL GRADE FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT if you do not submit a COMPLETED project by the initial deadline***
You will also have access to all your classmates’ submissions on the initial deadline and will be expected to provide brief feedback to TWO classmates. Criteria for that feedback will be provided for these assignments: personality profile, photo essay, blog and ad project visual portion.

***Your section instructor will ONLY comment on content issues, NOT stylistic issues (such as grammar and AP Style) – you are still responsible for accurately proof reading for these***

HERE IS AN ADDITIONAL BREAKDOWN OF WRITTEN MODULE ASSIGNMENTS

Step One: Content
The content grade is based on criteria for each specific writing assignment. A rubric (a listing of grading criteria) will be provided for every assignment. The criteria vary depending on the particular lab assignment — news stories, photo essay, advertising copy, etc. General criteria for all assignments include writing style, organization, clarity and appropriateness for topic and audience.

Step Two: Mechanics
After determining the content grade, points will be deducted for grammatical errors, spelling errors, factual errors and AP style errors. The points are deducted as follows:
- 2 points = grammar/punctuation errors.
- 2 points = AP style errors.

***NO LATE ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED***
Once each module closes, NO assignments WILL BE ACCEPTED
- 5 points = Misused word (their, there etc.)
- 10 points = Spelling error. Deducted both for misspelled and AND TYPOS. If the same word is misspelled more than once in a story, -10 points will be subtracted only once.
- 20 points = Factual error. This includes inaccurate information and errors or typos in proper
nouns, names, numbers, addresses, dates and quotes. ***See document “Fact error examples” for what constitutes a fact error

There will be a sliding scale for fact errors:
In Module 2, a fact error = -10.
In Module 3, a fact error = -15.
Beginning in Module 4, a fact error = -20.
Zero = You will receive a zero for using your friends, family members, employers or work colleagues as sources for stories that require your own reporting, as those would be seen as a potential conflict of interest. You may interview those individuals for background information or to help you identify other sources, but you may not include them in your story. You will receive a zero for making up information or quotes (fabrication) or plagiarism. You will receive a zero for using a photograph that you did not take for assignments that require you to take your own photographs.

THREE (3) EXAMS (15 PERCENT)
Exam One (100 points)
Exam Two (100 points)
Exam Three (100 points)
Each “open exam period” is listed at the end of this syllabus. Each exam will include 50 multiple-choice questions. There will be a study guide for each exam. No make-up exams will be given.

THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM.

REVEL TOTAL SCORE/QUIZZES (10 PERCENT) Your quiz grade will be the average of the chapter quiz grades from the Revel e-book. ***See course schedule for dates*** No make-up quizzes will be given. NO quiz grades will be dropped

“OTHER ASSIGNMENTS” (10 PERCENT)
This grade includes things such as Module 1 written assignment and a media law quiz

CANVAS DEADLINE POLICY
Online courses follow the same deadline policy and contain the same academic requirements/workload as in-person classes. If you have never taken an online class, make sure you have thoroughly read this section and completely understand MMC 2100’s deadline policy. UF’s official attendance policy and can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

However, an online class is quite different in structure than an in-person class.

❖ The majority of the modules – as well as your module written assignments -- will be open for a minimum of SEVEN (7) days, but several will be open for at least TWO WEEKS.

❖ It is expected that you complete ALL assignments for each module in that specified time period.

❖ ***NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED*** Once a module closes, you will be unable to submit an assignment
Attending an out-of-town trip for a UF club or athletic team or for leisure purposes during the week an assignment is due or temporarily losing Internet access or having work scheduling conflicts ARE NOT considered extreme emergency circumstances. It is expected that if a student is out of town for any reason the week an assignment is due that he/she bring along his/her laptop. It is also expected from students in online classes to budget their time properly and submit assignments on time. If you run into unforeseen Internet difficulties, it is up you to find an alternative location to submit your assignment – and NOT wait until the last few minutes when you have limited submission options. ***NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED***

**GRADING SCALE (FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AND THE COURSE OVERALL)**
We do not assign minus grades.

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**ACADEMIC HONESTY GUIDELINES**
Academic honesty is an important dimension of your performance as a student. As a student at the University of Florida, you have agreed to comply with the University Honor Code. “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

More information on the Honor Code can be found at: [https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/)

Review the information posted online that explains what academic dishonesty violations are, how to avoid those, and what the penalties are for those found guilty of violations. In MMC 2100, if you are found to have committed an academic honesty violation in lecture or lab, you will receive a zero (0) for the assignment and may be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. Violations include:

- Receiving or giving help during a quiz or exam.
- Using someone else’s quotes or information without appropriate attribution.
- Using friends, family members or work colleagues as sources in your stories
- Using someone else’s photos for assignments that require you to take your own photos
- Making up quotes or information (i.e. fabrication)

**IMPORTANT DATES**
Drop-Add: Jan. 8-12, 2018
Last day to withdraw with no fee liability: Jan. 12, 2018
Last day to withdraw with 25 percent refund: Feb. 2, 2018
Last day to withdraw and receive a “W”: April 13, 2018
MMC 2100: WRITING FOR MASS COMMUNICATION
TENTATIVE MMC 2100 COURSE OUTLINE/
SPRING 2018

Module 1: Intro and Start Here (Jan. 8-21): ***All Module 1 coursework due by 11:59 p.m. Sunday Jan. 21
Module 1 written assignment: written “prompt”***this grade will count as part of the “other assignments” portion of your overall grade (10 percent)

Module 2: Resume/Cover Letter (Jan. 22-28): ***All Module 2 coursework due by 11:59 p.m. Sunday Jan. 28
Module 2 written assignment: Resume/Cover Letter.

Module 3: Police Brief (Jan. 29-Feb. 4): ***All Module 3 coursework due by 11:59 p.m. Sunday Feb. 4
Module 3 written assignment: Police briefs (2).

Module 4: News story (Feb. 5-11): ***All Module 4 coursework due by 11:59 p.m. Sunday Feb. 11
Writing longer online news story. Direct/indirect quotes.
***Begin personality profile assignment: profile memo – must be submitted BY SUNDAY FEB. 11 BY 11:59 p.m. (-10 point deduction if profile memo is not submitted by this time)
Module 4 written assignment: News Story.
***EXAM #1: (course handouts, Revel e-book CHAPTERS 1-7) – “OPEN PERIOD”: THURSDAY FEB. 8 at 10 a.m. through FRIDAY FEB. 9 at 11:59 p.m.***

Personality profile Module (TWO PARTS) – Part A: interview portion (Feb. 12-18)
Revel e-book: Chapter 6: Writing for Print Journalism (Feature Writing)
***NO Revel e-book quiz this week, but closely review portion indicated***
Conduct interview with personality profile partner through Canvas Conferences/Skype/or in person.
Module 3 written assignment: submit Personality Peer Review Survey BY 11:59 p.m. SUNDAY FEB. 18. (-10 point deduction if survey is not submitted by this time).

**Personality profile—Part B: writing/revision portion -- (Feb. 19-25)**
MANDATORY personality profile rough draft of first “200 words” to be submitted by 11:59 P.M. FRIDAY FEB. 23 -- submit the first 250 words of your profile and comment on TWO of your classmates’ profiles by that time to receive full credit.
***From FEB. 24-25 you should make revisions to your profile based on feedback you receive from your peers and section instructor***
FINAL PERSONALITY PROFILE DEADLINE: SUNDAY FEB. 25 by 11:59 P.M.

**Media Law Module (Feb. 26-March 2):**
***Exam #2: Media Law (Chapter 12): March 1-3: “OPEN PERIOD”: WEDNESDAY FEB. 28 at 10 a.m. through FRIDAY MARCH 2 at 11:59 p.m.
Alligator Media Law Quiz #5 due by FRIDAY MARCH 2 at 11:59 p.m.
**Photo essay memo submitted to your section instructor by FRIDAY MARCH 2 (-10-point deduction if not submitted by this date)**

***UF SPRING BREAK: MARCH 3-11: NO ASSIGNMENTS***

**Photo Essay Module (March 12-25):**
Create Tumblr account once receive photo essay topic approval from your section instructor.
**Photo essay instructions**
MANDATORY photo essay rough draft and peer evaluation to be submitted by 11:59 p.m.
FRIDAY MARCH 23 – submit rough draft of your photo essay and comment on TWO of your classmates’ photo essays by that time to receive full credit.
***From MARCH 24- 25 you should make revisions to your photo essay based on feedback you receive from your peers and section instructor***
FINAL PHOTO ESSAY DEADLINE: SUNDAY MARCH 25 by 11:59 p.m.
Blog memo submitted to your section instructor by SUNDAY MARCH 25 (-10 point deduction if not submitted by this date)
Blogging instructions available beginning Monday March 19.

Blogging Module (March 26-April 8)
No Revel e-book quiz this week, but closely review portion from Chapter 7 on Blogging.
Blog assignment instructions. ***Your blog will be posted ABOVE your photo essay on your Tumblr account once you receive blog topic approval from your section instructor.
MANDATORY blog rough draft and peer evaluation to be submitted by 11:59 p.m. FRIDAY APRIL 6 – submit rough draft of your blog and comment on TWO of your classmates’ blogs by that time to receive full credit.
***From APRIL 7-8 you should make revisions to your blog based on feedback you receive from your peers and section instructor***

FINAL BLOG DEADLINE: SUNDAY APRIL 8 by 11:59 p.m.

Ad project directions available beginning Monday April 2
Ad project memo must be submitted by Sunday April 8. (-10-point deduction if not submitted by this date)

Ad Project Module (April 9-25):
***Ad project memo MUST BE approved by section instructor prior to beginning ad project***
Ad Project/instruction. Two parts = written portion + visual portion.
MANDATORY visual portion rough draft and peer evaluation to be submitted by 11:59 p.m.
SUNDAY APRIL 22 – submit rough draft of your Prezi and comment on TWO of your classmates’ visual portions by that time to receive full credit.
***From April 23-25 you should make revisions to your ad projects based on feedback you receive from your peers and section instructor***

FINAL AD PROJECT DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY APRIL 25 by 11:59 p.m.
***TEST 3 (CHAPTERS 9-10) “OPEN PERIOD”: TUESDAY APRIL 24 at 10 a.m. through WEDNESDAY APRIL 25 at 11:59 P.M.***