WRITING ON THE NEW YORK TIMES
Program for Writing and Rhetoric
WRTG 3020, Fall Semester, 2005

Instructor: Dr. Linda M. Nicita  Office: Temporary Building #1, Room 2
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Office Hours: Mondays: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.; Thursdays: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.; and by appointment

COURSE GOALS: Meant for juniors and seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences, this course will help you:
• gain familiarity with formal and popular writing genres and with methods of presenting information to a general public;
• apply your disciplinary expertise to issues in ethics and public policy; and,
• hone your writing and critical-thinking skills.

ATTENDANCE: This course will be taught as a workshop; your participation is essential to the success of the course. Therefore, you are expected to attend class regularly and to be on time. Late arrival to or early departure from class on three separate occasions will constitute one absence. Each absence in excess of three will diminish your final grade by one grading increment. Absences in excess of five will constitute an automatic failure. If you wish to be excused for any absence, you must submit documentation to me on official stationery detailing the nature of the emergency and the date(s) for which you were unable to attend class. Do NOT schedule doctors’ appointments, appointments with other faculty members, or job interviews during class time. Weddings, work obligations, other class meetings/assignments, and job interviews are not excusable absences. Hospital stays and the death of an immediate family member are (with documentation). In the event that you do miss class, you are responsible for getting any missed material.

TEXTS: The texts for this course are as follows:
• The New York Times (Monday through Friday) [REQUIRED]
• A good and up-to-date English handbook [REQUIRED]
  ✓ The Everyday Writer by Andrea Lunsford and Robert Connors [RECOMMENDED]

The reader is only available through the University Book Center in the UMC. The handbook also may be purchased at the University Book Center in the UMC or possibly at the Colorado Bookstore on the Hill. In addition, you must own a good English dictionary.

Your papers are the primary texts for this class. Because this class is taught in the mobile computer lab, email will be the primary method of distributing your papers. We will establish a schedule for their review, which will vary for each of the assignments. All papers for review are to be distributed the class period before their scheduled review dates. If your paper is reviewed on Monday, then your revision must be distributed to class members by noon on Friday. If your paper is reviewed on Wednesday, then your paper must be distributed to class members on Monday, i.e., in the following class. If your paper is not distributed to the class at the designated time, it will not be reviewed again until your turn comes up in the next rotation. In order to receive a grade, all papers must pass through the workshop process (i.e., at least two workshop review sessions, including at least one full-paper review, for the two larger papers and at least one review for shorter papers, when applicable). All assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins. Please include your name, the draft number and the date of submission at the top of the first page, and please submit all papers in Microsoft Word format.

WORKSHOP NORMS: The workshop format assumes we learn from each other. In order for this to occur, you, as a class member, must commit to carefully considering and critically appraising the work of your peers; in return, you will receive the benefit of your classmates' thoughtful consideration of your own work along with my comments. Your critique of the papers under examination will identify flaws in logic,
organization, and expression. Your comments should include suggestions on how to improve the shortcomings identified in the paper under discussion. The focus will always remain on the writing on the paper before us, not on the person who wrote it. Remember this when it is your paper we are reviewing; defensiveness will undermine the benefits you can reap from the workshop format.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** At the beginning of each class, you will have a ten- to fifteen-minute quiz on the readings assigned for that day. These quizzes cannot be made up. If you miss class or are late to class, you'll miss the quiz. You will write one news article, one summary, and two larger papers during the course of the term. In addition, a number of other activities, including critiques of classmates' papers, will be undertaken and completed. Only final papers will receive letter grades. Any paper submitted after the due date will not be accepted. If you know that you will not be in class on the due date of an assignment, you may submit your paper earlier by leaving it in my box located at the entrance of Temporary Building #1.

**NOTICES:**

- If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities that require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office in Willard 322 (phone 303-492-8671) and to me.
- If you need to make special arrangements to satisfy a religious obligation, please notify me at least two weeks in advance of the holiday to request special accommodation.
- Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH). Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. OSH may be reached at 303-492-2127 or, alternatively, you may contact the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/.
- Plagiarism, the act of passing off another's work as your own, is not only dishonest, but it is also illegal. Stealing, buying, or otherwise using someone else's work, in whole or in part, constitutes plagiarism and is against university policy. Such behavior is taken seriously by the university and the Honors Council, to whom all such incidents will be referred. Should you get caught plagiarizing, you will receive an automatic "0" for the paper and "F" for the course, and a report will be filed with the Honors Council. Consult www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/ to learn more about the CU Honor Code.

**GRADING:** The grades you receive on your individual assignments will contribute to your final grade in the following proportions:

- Summary and feature article 25%
- Short assignments: 20%
  - Includes quizzes, article presentation, miscellaneous assignments, and class participation
- Analysis/Refutation paper 25%
- Proposal/Argument paper 30%

*The lowest of these grades will be dropped

Refer to the grading policies of the Program for Writing and Rhetoric described on WebCT. I will not deviate from these standards in assigning you grades for your work. I may ask a colleague to critique your paper. In that case, I will take that opinion into consideration when assigning a grade. Furthermore, at my discretion, your work may be evaluated through TurnItIn.com, a plagiarism service provided to all faculty at CU-Boulder; this service retains a copy of the submitted work for future comparisons.
WRTG 3020: WRITING ON THE NEW YORK TIMES
Fall 2005
Tentative Schedule

WEEK ONE: 8/22-8/24
- Course introduction (in class, Monday)
- Bring IDENTIKEY to class (Wednesday)
- Read “And Now A Word From Op-Ed” by David Shipley (Wednesday)
- Read “What We Talk About When We Talk About Editing” by David Shipley (Wednesday)
- Read the editorials and op-ed pieces in N.Y. Times (ongoing)

WEEK TWO: 8/29-8/31
- Read ONE of the following, as assigned in class, and write summary (six copies, Monday):
  “Interview with Nicholas Provenzo” by Newswire
  “The Progressive Interview: Shirin Ebadi” by Amitabh Pal
  “For God’s Sake, Please Stop the Aid!” by Der Spiegel
  “An Interview with Stanley Fish: Aiming Low in the Ivory Tower” by National Civic Review
- Read “Questions for Oriana Fallaci: Unquiet on the Western Front” by Asla Aydintasbas (Wednesday)
- Read ONE of the following, as assigned in class: (Monday)
  “Oriana Fallaci’s War of Religion” by Alexander Stille
  “Prophet of Decline: An Interview with Oriana Fallaci” by Tunku Varadarajan

WEEK THREE: 9/7
- INTERVIEW SUMMARY DUE!!! (Wednesday)
- Read “The Socratic Shrink” by Daniel Duane (Wednesday)
- Read “Deep in Suburbia” by Charles McGrath (Wednesday)

WEEK FOUR: 9/12-9/14
- Distribute feature article to group members (six copies, Monday)
- Read “Re-thinking Objectivity” by Brent Cunningham (Monday)
- Read “Have You Seen Her?” by Kristal Brent Zook (Monday)

WEEK FIVE: 9/19-9/21
- Workshop feature articles

WEEK SIX: 9/26-9/28
- Workshop feature articles (Monday)
- FEATURE-ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT DUE!!! (Wednesday)
- Read “Propaganda from the Middle of the Road: The Centrist Ideology of the News Media” by Jeff Cohen (Wednesday)
- Read “Wrong Ism” by J.B. Priestley (Wednesday)
- Read “Media Bias” by Norman Solomon (Wednesday)

WEEKS SEVEN: 10/3-10/5
- Bring in at least three ideas for next paper (Monday)
- Write summary of one of the major articles we have read until this point in the class (six copies, Monday)
- Read “American Bioscience Meets the American Dream” by Carl Elliot
WEEK EIGHT: 10/10-10/12
- Distribute summary of paper #1 along with a detailed outline (copies for class, Monday)
- Read “Opinion Omission: Women Hard to Find on Op-Ed Pages, TV Panels” by Julie Hollar (Monday)
- Read classmates’ papers and comment on them (Wednesday and ongoing)
- Workshop analysis/refutation paper

WEEK NINE: 10/17-10/19
- Workshop analysis/refutation paper
- Read “Writing from the Center: The New York Times and the Florida Election Dispute” by Andrew Sheldon (Monday)
Distribute revisions of paper to class weekly from 10/17 to 10/24:
Revision #1: Introduction and development of first point (9 copies)
Revision #2: Entire paper, including conclusion (5 copies)

WEEK TEN: 10/24-10/26
- Workshop analysis/refutation paper

WEEK ELEVEN: 10/31-11/2
- ANALYSIS/REFUTATION PAPER DUE!!! (Monday)
- Read “Dialing for Dollars” by Ian Ayres (Wednesday)
- Read “Want to Call Me? Pay Me” by Ian Ayres and Barry Nalebuff (Wednesday)
- Read classmates’ papers and comment on them (ongoing)

WEEK TWELVE: 11/7-11/9
- Bring in at least three ideas for next paper (five copies, Monday)
- Read “Statement by Alabama Clergy” and “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King Jr. (Monday)
- Read Letter to Larry Fahn, President of the Sierra Club by Mark Potok (Wednesday)
- Read “Bring Back the Draft” by Charles B. Rangel (Wednesday)
- Read “Dodgy Drafters” by Caspar Weinberger (Wednesday)
- Distribute introduction and part one of final paper; make copies for the ENTIRE class (Wednesday)

WEEK THIRTEEN: 11/14-16
- Workshop argumentative paper/proposal
Distribute revisions of argument paper to class weekly from 11/17 to 12/1:
Revision #1: Introduction and most points (9 copies)
Revision #2: Entire paper, including conclusion (5 copies)

WEEK FOURTEEN: 11/21
- Workshop argumentative paper/proposal
- Read “About A Bird” by Patrick Martins (Monday)

WEEK FIFTEEN: 11/28-11/30
- Workshop argumentative paper/proposal

WEEK SIXTEEN: 12/5-12/7
- Workshop argumentative paper/proposal
- FINAL PAPER DUE!!! (Wednesday)