

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
3221F: Crime Scene to Courtroom: Forensic Writing
Fall 2022

Location: SH 3305

Email: marntfie@uwo.ca

Class hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Office: 0000912 0 612 92 reW*BT/F2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 120.86 55

Tentative Course Schedule

Part I: The Fundamentals of Forensic Writing

‡ Week 1: The Forensic Age in Perspective

Read Arntfield & Gorman, pages 3-46

‡ Week 2: Lexical Distinctions & Hostile Audiences

Read Arntfield & Gorman, pages 78-108

Part II: Documenting Crime & Criminal Offenders

‡ Week 3: Field Notes & Expository Writing for Justice Professionals

Read Arntfield & Gorman, pages 109-172

‡ Week 4: Describing crime scenes

Read Arntfield & Gorman pages 173-200.

Peer review session for crime scene summary

‡ Week 5: Overview of Investigative Journalism

No readings

Crime scene summary due via OWL by 11:59 p.m.

Part III: Investigative Writing & Reporting

‡ Week 6: Forensic Writing & Advocacy Journalism

Read Arntfield & Gorman, pages 337-344

‡ Week 7: Source Integrity & Legal/Ethical Considerations

Read Arntfield & Gorman, pages 345-367

Peer review session for investigative journalism feature

‡ Week 8: READING WEEK 6 NO LECTURE

Read Arntfield & Gorman, pages 368-379

Part IV:

Assignment Format

All assignments are to be typed, using 12 point font unless otherwise specified. All assignments must be double-spaced. When using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA, APA, or CMS standards for documentation, detailed in *The Brief Penguin Handbook* sections 22, 23, 24, and 25.

Assignment Deadlines

Assignments are due via OWL by 11:59 p.m. on the date specified on the schedule. Late essays will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day unless I have granted you an extension, as explained in the previous section. Note that late assignments submitted after 4:30 p.m. will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day. You must apply for extensions, via self-tutoring. The purpose of this course is to prepare you for a career in writing, you need to know that deadlines are not a matter of negotiation. For these reasons, all assignments will be due on the date specified barring some catastrophic event. Following any other policy would be an injustice to you as a future writer.

N.B.: NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE TERM/STUDY PERIOD ENDS AT 4:30 P.M. ON DECEMBER 8, 2022.

How to Submit Assignments

Assignments are due via OWL on the date specified on the schedule. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day unless I have granted you an extension, as explained in the previous section. Note that late assignments submitted after 4:30 p.m. will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day. Assignments received the day after they are uploaded.

Hard copies of assignments are not currently being accepted via the drop-box. Further, do not:

- fax assignments
- e-mail assignments

Also, be aware that **you are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments submitted.**

*N.B: In addition to submitting final drafts on/by the due date for each assignment, you are required to bring a rough draft of each assignment to class for each of the scheduled peer-review sessions. Failure to attend a scheduled peer-review session with a sufficiently completed rough copy to enable a meaningful review, or to otherwise participate in the peer-review session, **will** result in the earned mark for that assignment being reduced by 10%. In other words, an assignment that would have normally earned a 75, for example, will instead receive a recorded grade of 65. This penalty will be applied in addition to any other penalties incurred, e.g. for late submission.*

Attendance policies

Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. Here is the Writing Studies attendance policy in this class:

You may miss up to three hours (the equivalent of one week of class) of class meetings during the term without explanation. That means that the first three class hours you miss will be recorded as absences but *excused provided you don't miss any more*.

However, if you miss a total of four to nine class hours (the equivalent of up to three full weeks of class), your final grade will be reduced by 10% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).

If you miss a total of more than nine hours of class meetings (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class meetings) your final grade will be reduced by 15% (e.g.

Scholastic

Accommodation Policy

Note: the official Western Accommodation Policy appears below. This is in effect, but may be modified temporarily by the university during the academic year as conditions change.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the course credit. The self-report must be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence. Students

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should

