

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
3221F 001: Crime Scene
to Courtroom: Forensic
Writing

Fall 2023

Course Objectives

From true crime reporting to writing search warrants and workplace harassment and discrimination reports for employers, this course introduces students to advanced investigative composition and the process of chronicling noteworthy incidents likely to result in criminal prosecution, litigation, arbitration, or public inquiry. Students will also learn the art of drafting rhetorically complex documents capable of withstanding public, political, and media scrutiny across a wide range of legal and investigative occupations, including how to defend these documents in court.

Required Texts

📖 Arntfield, Michael & Gorman, Kelly A. (2014) *Introduction to Forensic Writing*. Toronto: Carswell.

📖 Arntfield, Michael (2020)

Tentative Course Schedule

Part I: The Fundamentals of Forensic Writing

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Assignment Format

All assignments are to be typed, using 12 point font unless otherwise specified. All assignments o wuvj cxg" { qwt'pco g. "eqwtug'pco g. "ugevqp'pwo dgt. "cpf "vj g'r tqhguuqtu'pco g'qp'vj g'htuvr'ci g0 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 qh'7' 'r gt'f c{. "penw'kpi 'y ggngpf u. "wrguu'kxg'i tcvvf "cp"gzvpuqp cv'rgcu'94'j qwtu'kp'cf xcpeg'cpf "kp'y tkkpi 0C"öf c{ ö'gpf u'cv'6-52'r 0 0] qw'o wuv'cr r n' hqt extensions, via self-tgr qt vpi. "pq'rguu'vj cp'c'y ggncj gcf "qh'vj g'f wg'f cvg0Kf qpø'hng'v' r gpcrk e late assignments; however, since 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. *vj g'gpf "qh'vj g"ödwukp'guu'f c{ ö+'kp'uwdugs wgpv'f c{ u'ctg'i tcf gf "cu'vj qwi j "vj g{ "ctg'tgegkxgf 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
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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

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. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 68).

Note that the three-hour exemption does not, however, apply to missed peer review sessions. These editing workshops are essential to the collective success of the class. Failing to attend peer review workshops without corresponding approved accommodation will result in an immediate 10% deduction on the associated pending assignment once submitted.

This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have good and need or want to miss another class meeting) discuss these reasons with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss your

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

The University Senate requires the following statements, and Web site references, to appear on course outlines:

Uej qmwe"qhpegu"ctg"cnpp"ugtkwun("cpf"uwf gpw"ctg"fkgevgf"q"tgcg"j"g"cr r tqr tkvg policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

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

Students mus

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to

My Additional Policy on “Wrong Version” Resubmissions