

CONF 795: WRITING FOR THE MEDIA

1-Credit Class Fall 2009

Instructor: Michael Shank

Schedule: (5) Mondays: 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Arlington Original Building 105A

Dates:

November 2, 2009

November 9, 2009

November 16, 2009

***No Class November 23 (Thanksgiving Week)*

November 30, 2009

December 7, 2009

Class Objective

To equip ICAR students with the skills necessary so that students can provide succinct analysis of current global conflicts that is publishable in today's print media. The class will be highly experiential, offering students ample opportunities to both learn the basics of letter and op-ed writing and hone their skills as a conflict analyst for print media.

Reading Material and Assignments

Throughout the entire fall semester, students will be required to read daily newspapers, e.g. the *International Herald Tribune*, *Financial Times*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, etc..

Students will be expected to keep current on daily analysis as the letters, op-eds and articles discussed in the newspapers will also be discussed in class.

First Class

Monday, November 2, 2009

Topics: Introduction to Basics of Writing Letters to the Editor (LTEs) and Op-Eds
Role of Conflict Resolution in the Media
Review of Instructor's & ICAR Students' Published LTEs and Op-Eds

Assignments: One Letter to the Editor

- Respond to Current Op-Ed, Article, Editorial
- Due by Friday, November 6, 2009

One Op-Ed for the ICAR News Network, Newsletter or Organization Newsletter

- Address and Analyze Pressing Issue, Conflict for the ICAR NN
- Due by Friday, November 6, 2009

Second Class

Monday, November 9, 2009

Topics: Instructor and Class Critique of Assigned Letters and Op-Eds
In-Class Exercise: Writing and Peer Reviewing Letters to the Editor

- Assignments: One Letter to the Editor
- Same Format as Previous Assignment
- Due by Friday, November 13, 2009
One Op-ed
- Same Format as Previous Assignment
- Due by Friday, November 13, 2009

Third Class

Monday, November 16, 2009

- Topics: Instructor and Class Critique of Assigned Letters and Op-Eds
In-Class Exercise: Outlining (Argument/Structure) and Peer Reviewing Op-Eds
Approaching Newspapers and Submitting Op-Eds

- Assignments: One Letter to the Editor
- Due by Friday, November 20, 2009
One Op-ed
- Due by Friday, November 20, 2009

NO CLASS

Monday, November 23, 2009

Fourth Class

Monday, November 30, 2009

- Topics: Instructor and Class Critique of Letters and Op-Eds
In-Class Exercise and/or Guest

- Assignments: One Letter to the Editor
- Due by December 4, 2009
One Op-ed
- Due by December 4, 2009

Fifth Class

Monday, December 7, 2009

- Topics: Instructor and Class Critique of Letters and Op-Eds
In-Class Exercise
Final Lessons Learned

- Assignments: One Letter to the Editor
-Due by December 14, 2009
One Op-Ed
-Due by December 14, 2009