

Writing for the Media
1-Credit Class

ICAR
Fall 2007

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Dennis Sandole
Co-Instructor: Michael Shank

Schedule: (4) Thursdays: 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.
Location: Truland Bldg, Room 666B
Dates: September 6, 2007
October 4, 2007
November 1, 2007
December 6, 2007

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 urged to read two daily newspapers: the *International Herald Tribune* and the *Financial Times*. 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

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Topics: Role of Conflict Resolution in the Media
Role of Media in Conflict Resolution
Samples of Instructors' Letters to the Editor, Op-Eds, Articles

Assignments: One Letter to the Editor

- Respond to Current Op-Ed, Article, Editorial
- Due by September 20, 2007, to give Instructors and classmates sufficient time, i.e. two weeks, to read and review before second class.

One Op-Ed

- Address and Analyze Pressing Issue, Conflict
- Due by September 20, 2007, to given Instructors and classmates sufficient time, i.e. two weeks, to read and review before second class.

Second Class

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Topics: Instructor and Class Critique of Assigned Letters and Op-Eds
Critical Issues:
- Writing Styles for Different Newspapers

- Writing for Different Audiences
- [*Tentative*] Media Professional as Guest in Class: Journalist, Columnist

Assignments: One Letter to the Editor

- Same Format as Previous Assignment
- Due by October 18, 2007, two weeks before the third class

One Op-ed

- Same Format as Previous Assignment
- Due by October 18, 2007, two weeks before the third class

Third Class

November 1, 2007

Topics: Instructor and Class Critique of Letters and Op-Eds
How to Get Published
[*Tentative*] Media Professional as Guest in Class: Editor

Assignments: One Letter to the Editor

- Same Format as Previous Assignment
- Due by November 22, 2007, two weeks before the fourth class

One Op-ed

- Same Format as Previous Assignment
- Due by November 22, 2007, two weeks before the fourth class

Fourth Class

December 6, 2007

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

Finals: One Letter to the Editor

- Due by December 10, 2007, allowing sufficient time for instructors to review final assignments and submit final grades
- The purpose of this final assignment is to test students' capacity to quickly produce an LTE or an Op-Ed. In print media, most letters and op-eds have to be submitted immediately, responding quickly to current conflicts. This final assignment allows students to practice a prompt turnaround.

One Op-ed

- Due by December 10, 2007, allowing sufficient time for instructors to review final assignments and submit final grades
- The purpose of this final assignment is to test students' capacity to quickly produce an LTE or an Op-Ed. In print media, most letters and op-eds have to be submitted immediately, responding quickly to current conflicts. This final assignment allows students to practice a prompt turnaround.