JOHN FELICE ROME CENTER
SYLLABUS
UCWR 110, WRITING RESPONSIBLY
Fall Semester, 2022 - Academic Year 2022-23
Instructor: Suzanne Eleanor McMillen
E-mail: smcmillen@luc.edu
Mobile: (+39) 320.2696996

Class time schedule: TBA
Reception hours: TBA in Common Room JFRC ground floor or by appointment

Course Description
The primary aims of this course are to improve invention, drafting and revising competencies, organizational and critiquing skills, theses formulation and support while using the English language correctly for academic writing, style and theme in MLA format. The overall aim is to enable students to generate effective writing and research to tailor discourse for all audiences. Throughout the semester, particular areas of concentration will be: effective revising, synthesizing and final editing, vocabulary acquisition, sensitivity and accurate usage, library and research skills and structure and guidelines for all writing. A variety of writing assignments, readings, activities and discussions will provide the framework for improvement, inquiry, discovery, problem solving and effectively reaching the aims of the course. This course has another important goal, the overall understanding of the necessary requirements for writing in order to be effective communicators. At the end of this course, students should be able to brainstorm to develop and arrange ideas clearly, read texts carefully and critically, determine which sources of information are valid to assess, analyse and filter through which information is necessary to paraphrase and summarize the same. Students are obliged to keep a personal journal. In addition to keeping a journal, writing essays, in-class writing and a final research paper, there will be a presentation, mid-term assessment essay and a research paper which will count as the final exam.

Learning Outcomes
As a facet of effective communication, writing is also a practical art, one that society respects and regards as necessary for success in all careers and professions. Students should have begun to understand the ways that effective language and communication approach shape experience, construct meaning, and foster community. They should be able to identify and understand the importance of the use of original ideas to achieve a specific rhetorical goal for the application of an appropriate style for revision and editing. Furthermore, they must have an understanding of the key role research plays in all writing by judiciously using field research, library resources, and sources retrieved from electronic media. Ultimately, they will have acquired the skills to be effective communicators able to use American English appropriately to produce discourse for academic and prose writings that are concise and clear.

Required Materials:
- Various readings will be found through links on the syllabus; others will be sent to your luc.edu e-mail address

Recommended Materials
- Your laptop
- An English-only dictionary and thesaurus: Webster's, Collins, Longman, etc.
- The Loyola University of Chicago Writing Center: www.luc.edu/writing
- MLA Handbook (online)

Attendance Policy
In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, our course adheres to the following absence policy: for this class, which meets twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences. Attendance is expected in order to successfully complete your classes. According to the Loyola attendance policy, you are expected to be in class 100% of the time. Be on time for classes. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be marked absent. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit”.
Note: for classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence: for classes that meet twice a week, two unexcused absences are tolerated.
Assessment Components and Grading:

Grades will be based upon the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Journals</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay writing assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>Mid-term Exam Essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>74-76</td>
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<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>60-66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>59 or lower</td>
<td>F</td>
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Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook. In all your Academic Writing for Loyola University of Chicago, the MLA format for bibliography and annotated bibliography source citing are required.

NOTE: Wikipedia is NOT considered a valid source for a bibliography as it is not an acceptable academic resource.

Late or Missed Assignments

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

Accessibility/Special Needs Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the JFRC, the first week of classes to make arrangements.

It is said that in order to write, one must read…
Well, we will read, read, read and write, write - write fervidly in order to respect this convention… and apply it during the semester!!!

Assignments and Readings

Assignments and readings are a required part of the syllabus. Lectures are based on the readings, and all readings share a theme and relate to each other. The weekly readings and videos are not suggestions, they are required course material and should be dealt with in an academic manner before class.

Writing assignments are due the day they are due through electronic submission in the week and the assigned time on the syllabus. You must also document all bibliography and research citations with proper bibliography citations according to MLA format. Any assignment handed in late will be docked one full letter grade for each day after the due date. Class presentations and in-class writings assignments cannot be made up. If, for any reason beyond your control, you are prevented from completing an assignment or the course requirements, they will be considered incomplete. Do not hesitate to contact me if something unexpected arises. Emergency situations will be dealt with directly through the Dean’s office.
## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS WEEK BY WEEK

### Week 1

**Journal Introductions**  
**Essay (in class)**  
**Readings:**

1. *The Allegory of the Cave,* by Plato  
2. *America’s Founding Documents* by the Founding Fathers  
3. *First Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln*  
4. *Second Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln*  
5. *Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address*  
6. *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine  
7. *The Eruption of Vesuvius, (Letters)* by Pliny the Younger

**Essay Assignment:** Think about a writer of your choice of one of the assigned texts and write a dialogue you might have had with the author about their writing. Due Friday, 12:00 noon. Suggested essay length minimum 1,000 words - double spaced.

### Week 2

**Readings:**

1. *WHY I WRITE* by Joan Didion  
2. *WHY I WRITE* by George Orwell  
3. *REVISION STRATEGIES OF STUDENT WRITERS AND EXPERIENCED ADULT WRITERS* by Nancy Sommers  
4. *SHITTY FIRST DRAFTS* by Anne Lamott  
5. *A WAY OF WRITING* by William Stafford  
6. *NOTES ON PUNCTUATION* by Lewis Thomas

**Assignment:** Think about the process of writing and how you approach writing. This can be a narrative or process essay. Due Friday, 12:00 noon. Suggested length minimum 1,500 words - double spaced.

### Week 3

**MLA INTRODUCTION**  
**MLA/APA Correctly Citing Sources**  
**MLA Annotated bibliography**  

**NOTE:** Wikipedia is NOT considered a valid source for a bibliography as it is not an acceptable academic resource.

Meeting with the Librarian of JFRC, Anne Wittrick –  
Lecture on the presentation of and accessing JFRC/Loyola’s myriad of university databases and lecture on “Why libraries and librarians are still so important to us”. 
**Week 4**

Memory, geographic separation and alienation, psychological and physical alienation and social class distinction in writings

Literary Analysis Techniques

Dialogue in writings

Readings:

1. HOW IT FEELS TO BE COLORED ME by Zora Neale Hurston
2. GRADUATION by Maya Angelou
3. ALWAYS LIVING IN SPANISH by Marjorie Agosin
4. TALKING WRONG by Patricia Smith
5. ON SEEING ENGLAND FOR THE FIRST TIME, Jamaica Kincaid
6. THE HUMAN COST OF AN ILLITERATE SOCIETY, Jonathan Kozul
7. NOBODY MEAN MORE TO ME THAN YOU, and the future Life of Willie Jordan
8. THE GERANIUM by Flannery O’Connor
9. ALL THE PRETTY HORSES by Cormack McCarthy

Assignment:

**LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY**

Choose one of the writings and write a literary analysis essay. Due Friday, 12:00 noon.

Suggested essay length minimum 1,500 words - double spaced.

Remember MLA bibliography and annotated bibliography format.

**Week 5**

STEREOTYPING AND BIAS IN WRITING AND MEDIA

Narrative Essay Writing vs Research Paper Writing and Scientific Writing

Readings:

1. Welcome to Your World Baby by Lynda R. Willer
2. Immigration as Dangerous Waters; The Power of Metaphor by Otto Santa Ana
3. The Psychosocial Implications of Disney Movies – MDPI
4. A Welcome Mat for Lesbian and Gay Customers by Cliff Rothman
5. Native American Mascot Controversy and Mass Media Involvement: How the Media Play a Role in Promoting Racism through Native American Athletic Imagery by Elizabeth A. Locklear
6. Women are from earth, men are from earth

Assignments: Narrative Essay Writing

**ASSIGNMENT:** Think about bias and stereotyping in society. Were you ever the victim of it?

Do you know someone who was? Describe the experience. Due Friday, 12:00 noon.

Suggested essay length minimum 1,500 words - double spaced

1. TOPIC AND OUTLINE FOR FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE FRIDAY, 12:00 noon.

2. PERSONAL JOURNALS DUE
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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Newspaper/Media origins</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Hype/Propaganda/Fake news/Journalistic responsibility/Photojournalism</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Joseph Pulitzer</td>
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<td>2. William Randolph Hearst</td>
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<td>3. <em>Boston Globe</em> Article – <em>Spotlight</em></td>
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<td>4. <em>Did we really land on the moon?</em></td>
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<td>5. <em>Apollo 11 Moon Landing Conspiracy Theory</em> article:</td>
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<td><strong>Opinion essays:</strong></td>
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<td><a href="https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/argumentative_essays.html">https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/argumentative_essays.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment:</strong> Essay on your opinion of “Media notions, hype journalistic responsibility and their effect on society”. Due Friday, 12:00 noon. Suggested essay length 1,500 words - double spaced</td>
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<th>Week 7</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flows of information</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Food for thought...</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. What is out there?</td>
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<td>2. Can we avoid progress in flows of communication?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Are we aware?</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. How can be be discerning news/information receivers?</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. What about the future?</td>
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<td><strong>Reading:</strong> <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49763419">https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49763419</a></td>
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<td><strong>Assignment:</strong> Do you agree/disagree with the BBC article that in the future we will communicate through body implants and holograms?</td>
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<td><strong>Opinion Essay due:</strong> Friday, 12:00 noon. Suggested essay length 1,500 words - double spaced.</td>
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**LEGALESE**

Readings:

Language and the Law

Rule of Law v Rule by Law-difference
The same in debate and literature

STATUTORY INTERPRETATION
JUDICIAL ERROR

Language in the EU
Being on the “same page”
Mistake

Assignment: Essay on Mistake, due Friday, 12:00 noon.

Guideline of questions:

What are your feelings regarding mistake?
How do you interpret mistake?
Have you ever been a victim of mistake?
Do you know anyone who has been a victim of mistake?
Essay length minimum 1,500 words - double spaced

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### Service Learning Preparation – “Giving Back”

Readings:

1. **THE STORY OF MY LIFE** by Helen Keller
2. **THE ETHIC OF COMPASSION** by The Dalai Lama
3. **NO EASY WALK TO FREEDOM** by Nelson Mandela
4. **Questions and Answers from A Deaf Life** by Moore and Levitan
5. **Letters from Birmingham Jail**, Dr. Martin Luther King
6. **A Homemade Education** by Malcolm X
7. **Wealth** by Andrew Carnegie

Assignment: Service Learning Essay/Story due Friday, 12:00 noon.
Suggested essay length minimum 1,500 words - double spaced
### Week 10

Academic and Scientific Writing Research Papers—choosing a topic – brainstorming outline
Suggested research paper length minimum 8 to 10 pages - double spaced
Outlining in detail, annotated bibliography MLA Format

**Readings:**
1. *THE METHOD OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION, 1863* by Thomas Henry Huxley
2. *Scientific Writing 101 Essay* (file to be sent to students)
4. George Orwell, *POLITICS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE* and *SHOOTING AN ELEPHANT*

**Assignment:** Research paper – topic and detailed outline due Friday, 12:00 noon

In-class Presentations on Compassion from a film which shows compassion

### Week 11

**Memoir, narrative and humor in writing**

**Readings:**
1. Four essays by Mark Twain:
   a. *My First Literary Venture*,
   b. *How to tell a Story*,
   c. *Italian Without a Master*,
   d. *The Killing of Julius Caesar “Localized”*

2. A few Short Stories by Bill Bryson

**Assignment:** Research Paper – draft #1 due in class

### Week 12

Other writings: legal, scientific, blogs, news, PR, advertising, autobiography, biography, plays, films, critiques, etc.

**Assignment:** Research Paper—draft #2 due: Wednesday, 12:00 midnight

### Week 13

Final Exam

Date and time TBA