COMM 2350.002  MEDIA WRITING AND PERFORMANCE   Spring, 2014

Ruth Aipperspach, Instructor

Bay Hall, Room 372    Office Hours:  Tuesday  12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
                       3:30 – 4:00 p.m.  
825-2586,                  Wednesday  3:00 – 4:30 p.m 
                       Thursday  12:45 p.m.–1:45 p.m.
                       5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

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or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:  This course is designed to teach students pronunciation, effective writing and on-air performance techniques for all kinds of media environments with videotaped presentations.

COURSE MATERIALS:

note cards
cue cards (2 packets of 14 x 22 inches posters)
writing paper for in-class writing
2 Blue Books for exams
1 Folder with pockets (with name on the front, and develop portfolio).
1 flashdrive

GOALS:  To introduce the student to media environments where both writing and oral skills are critical.  This includes pronunciation exercises, understanding audiences, and learning media formats. In addition, students will achieve oral skills and performance by participation with on-camera, or audiotape assignments.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Students will gain experience using media formats, writing skills, oral Presentations for entry level positions in media environments. These include, but not limited to radio, television, the Internet, public relations/ marketing positions in corporations and other media entities.
2. Instructor evaluations on taped presentations and writing assignments will give students proficiency for future media-related positions.
COMM 2350.002 MEDIA WRITING AND PERFORMANCE  
(R. Aipperspach)  

ATTENDANCE (& absences) .  
1. This is both a writing intensive course and a performance based course. with, taped presentations.  
2. There are no make-ups without proper documentation and informing the Instructor within 24 hours before performance or within 24 hours after scheduled performance. We have a tight schedule to adhere to to get everyone taped. Three absences will incur three points off the final grade.  
3. Anyone absent for the mid-term and/or final exam, contact the Instructor within 24 hours of the Exam.  

COURSE CONTENT:  
1. Lecture, oral participation, in-class writing assignments, delivery skills, and pronunciation, are critical for effective delivery  
2. Students will write and deliver copy on tape (and/or in-class presentation) on assignments scheduled for the course.  
3. Solo performances include PSAs, Promotional announcements, commercials, a weathercast for K-BREEZE, and serve both as interviewer and interviewee in interview settings.  
4. Each student will complete a final written media project.  
5. Mid-term and final examinations will test competency, proficiency and understanding of both writing principles and oral skills for future applications  

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: All writing assignments must be ready by deadlines in order for the Instructor to review copy before performance. That means students will need to come by the Instructor’s office to check timing and writing of presentations before on-camera performance.  

Note: Do not e-mail the Instructor copies of your work or assignments. Hard copies are needed for your performance; plus for grading purposes. The only copy you can e-mail the Instructor will be critiques from viewing videotaped assignments.  

DELIVERY: Instructor critiquing will include mood, tone, inflection, pauses, rate, delivery, and pronunciation. Writing skills will also be evaluated.  

DRESS  
Dress is important for on-air camera presentations. (See handout)  

NOTE: OPTIONAL: Students can review their taped presentations and turn in a one-half page evaluation for assessing performances. Each is worth up to 5 pts extra credit. Taped evaluations include review of: PROMOTION, COMMERCIAL, and INTERVIEW. These must be done within two weeks of each presentation. Check with Instructor for review procedure.
NOTE:
(1) To avoid distractions in the classroom at all times, please turn off cellular phones at the beginning of class. These are a distraction to both the Instructor and the other students.
(2) Also, turn off other technology and ear phones and put them in your bag. No texting messages in class.
(3) Do not check your phone during class, and don’t leave the classroom to make or answer a call. That can wait until you leave the room at the end of the class period.
(4) Do not bring cell phones or other technological equipment into the classroom during mid-term and final exams. For anyone using a cell phone or other equipment during an exam, the instructor will remove that student’s exam and consider it finished.
(5) Anyone using a laptop or tablet must sit near the front to avoid distractions. Laptops and tablets are for taking lecture notes, or reading the textbook on line, so please let the Instructor know.
(6) DO NOT BRING FOOD OR DRINK INTO THE CLASSROOM.
(7) Refrain from using e-cigarettes or other tobacco products during class time.
(8) Preferred Method of scholarly citations where appropriate will be MLA Style

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM: University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero.

CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

ACADEMIC ADVISING: If you are majoring, or planning to major, in a field taught in the College of Liberal Arts, and if you have not yet obtained a signed degree plan, you should see your Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and useful to successful progress toward graduation. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood, and can be reached at
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in CCH 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Dropping a class: I hope you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. (………………..) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

This Syllabus describes the day to day class schedule. If any changes are made due to illness, inclement weather, or other reasons, etc., the Instructor has the right to make alterations and those changes will be announced in class.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
Week 1
Jan 23 R Introduction to course. (ch. 1)

Week 2
28 Tu Delivery techniques Introduction to Writing (ch. 2)
30 R Delivery for effective communication Consumer Behavior & Motivation (ch. 4-5)

Week 3
Feb 4 Tu Introduction to writing PSAs in radio & television formats and discussion On writing on-line PSAs (ch. 13)
6 R Bring information on PSAs to class for in-class writing for radio and TV Discuss PSA for on-line (ch.13)

Week 4
11 Tu Read PSAs in-class & turn in 2 copies of PSAs Bring copy to next class for TAMUCC promotional announcement

Feb 13 R Introduction to writing TAMUCC promotional copy in preparation for next class.

Week 5
18 Tu Write TAMUCC Promotion copy in radio & TV formats; discussion on integrating cue cards.
20 R All students show and describe on-line PSA. Discuss TAMUCC PROMOS & cue cards

Week 6
25 Tu Videotape TAMUCC Promotions with cue cards (one-half of class) Turn in the two TAMUCC copies
27 R Videotape TAMUCC Promotions with cue cards (one-half of class) Turn in the two TAMUCC copies

Week 7
Mar 4 Tu Introduction to writing commercials; principles, practices, and audiences (ch. 6-11)
6 R Copy Platform criteria; & practice reading CA. copy (ch. 6-11)

Mar 11-13 ----------------SPRING BREAK --------no classes
Week 8
18 Tu  Bring information to write TV CA in class. Discuss cue cards, prop and practice delivery.

20 R  MID TERM EXAM  (Blue Book exam = subjective/objective questions)

Week 9
Mar 25 Tu  Videotape TV commercials with prop & cue cards  (one half of the class)
            Turn in 2 CA. cop + Copy Platform for TV copy

27 R  Videotape TV commercials with prop & cue cards  (one half of the class)
            Turn in 2 CA copy + Copy Platform for TV copy.
            All students go to PRNewswire.com and click on News Releases. Bring one copy to next class.

Week 10
Apr. 1 Tu  Students re-write News Release in class.  (radio format)
            Explain guidelines for interviewing assignment

3 R  Introduction to writing a feature on-line.
      Introduce Final Writing Project  & Proposal

Week 11
8 Tu  in-class writing feature due (ch. 16)

10 R  Writing assignment.  Proposal due
            Assign Weathercast guidelines

Week 12
15 Tu  4-6 min. Interviews (half the class)

17 R  4-6 min. Interviews (half the class)

Week 13
22 Tu  Legal/Ethical Issues; Trademarks

24 R  Business news for writing assignment

Week 14
29 T  Oral performance TBA

May 1 R  In-class writing assignment dealing with health issues
May 6 Tu  Final class; Weathercast 2-3 min. (all students)
   Final Writing Project due at the beginning of class

May 13 TBA  FINAL EXAM (1:45 – 4:15 p.m.)
   (Blue Book – subjective/objective)
   (No exams will be given ahead of the scheduled exam time)

Grading:
   Writing Assignments & Final Written Project  50%
   On-Camera & in-class performance skills        25%
   Mid term & Final Exams                        25%

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = don’t ask)
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS & IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION (50%)

Writing Skills:
- PSA (radio format) ___ /20
- PSA (TV format) ___ /20
- PSA (online format) ___ /20
- TAMUCC Promo (Radio) ___ /20
- TAMUCC Promo (TV) ___ /20
- Copy Platform (TV format) ___ /10
- Commercial (Radio format) ___ /20
- Commercial (TV format) ___ /20
- News Release ___ /20
- Feature writing (online) ___ /30
- Health news ___ /20
- Final Writing Project ___ /100

On-Camera & in-class PERFORMANCES (25%)

- PSA (non-taped) ___ /20
- Oral description of on-line PSA ___ /15
- TAMUCC Promotion ___ /30
- Commercial ___ /30
- News Release reading copy ___ /20
- Weathercast (non-taped) ___ /30
- Interview ___ /50

EXAMS (25%)

- Mid-term Exam ___ /100
- Final Exam ___ /100

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Grading Sheet