



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

**Course Prefix, Number and Title:** JOUR 334 - Feature Writing

**Course CRN # and Section:** 20296 - 01

**Semester Taught (including year):** Spring 2019

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisites:** ENG 102, JOUR 211

**Course Time (if applicable):** TR 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Building and Room Number (if applicable):** Library B8

**Professor:** Ms. Heather Hamilton

**Office Location:** Fine Arts M03

**Office Hours:** MWF 10:00 - 10:50

TR 12:30 - 1:30

By Appointment

**Email:** hmhamilton@concord.edu

**Phone:** 304-384-5303

**Course Description/Rationale:** In this course, students will plan and write features stories that would appear in both newspapers and magazines. Students will learn through hands on experience as well as practical examples.

**Course Management System** (Blackboard/Moodle or other systems): Blackboard

**Hardware/Software Needed** (include privacy policies, if applicable): Reliable Internet

**Text requirements:** *Feature Writing: The Pursuit of Excellence*. Edward Jay Friedlander.  
ISBN: 978-0205747801

**Recommended Texts:** Current AP Stylebook

**Concord University Educational Goal(s)**

Goal 1.1b: “Effective inter-communication skills and literacy adapted as needed for the demands of various kinds of discourse: reading & writing, graphic communication, media literacy.”

**National Standards (if applicable):** N/A

**Specific Learning Outcomes:** The primary focus of this class is to help you become a better feature writer. By the end of this course, I hope you will have learned the following:

- To define feature writing and distinguish between newspaper and magazine features.
- To identify the student's niche and feature writing style
- To enhance research, interviewing and observation skills
- To understand what makes a good feature story and how to watch for story ideas
- To write different kinds of specialized feature stories
- To understand the difference between news writing and feature writing
- To edit and revise all feature stories with proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, and AP Style

**Course Requirements:**

Eight Stories . . . . .	450
Assignments . . . . .	400
Final . . . . .	150
<u>Attendance/ Participation. . .</u>	<u>50</u>
Total . . . . .	1,050

**Grading Policy and Scale, Make-up Policy, Late Work**

**Scale:**

- 100 – 90 . . . . . A**
- 89 – 80 . . . . . B**
- 79 – 70 . . . . . C**
- 69 – 60 . . . . . D**
- Below 59 . . . . . F**

**Late Work:**

Deadlines are a major part of your educational career and will be in your professional career. Therefore, it is your responsibility and highly important to consistently meet the deadlines assigned for this class. With that said, **if an assignment or activity is not received by your instructor prior to the deadline, 10 points will be deducted from your assignment. If the assignment is not handed into your instructor by the next class period, you will receive a grade of zero for that assignment.**

Should extenuating circumstances arise, you are responsible for contacting me as soon as possible, preferably beforehand, for consideration.

**Reading:**

You are responsible for all assigned reading. You should have the chapter(s) completely read before the class hour, so that you can ask questions, discuss points, and/or complete an assignment in and out-of-class. Throughout the semester, you should also be reading various feature stories. You will be reading some of these pieces for assignments, but you should also be reading these on your own.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism—the act of presenting the ideas and/or words of an outside source, published or not, as if they were one’s own—*will not be tolerated* and is subject to the most stringent punishment, including failure on the assignment, failure in the course and/or dismissal from the college. Please be responsible in this regard.

**Attendance:**

Your university experience calls for the same level of professionalism and punctuality as employment. It is expected that everyone attend class on a regular basis to ensure the greatest chance for learning and understanding. Each student is given *four absences* to be used for illness, interviews, school sponsored events or other personal circumstances. Every additional absence results in a *10-point deduction from the final grade*.

Just as with an employer, it is expected that you inform me when you miss class. For extenuating circumstances (e.g., death of close family, jury duty, etc), I ask that you tell me as soon as possible so I can work with you to reach some sort of compromise. With the availability of e-mail and cellphones, there is no excuse for not contacting me about situations that arise.

**Classroom Conduct:**

It is important that everyone behave professionally in order to accommodate learning and show respect. Your conduct should never disrupt the ability of others to listen.

Disruptive behaviors that violate this right to listen will be subject to the strictures of the Academic Catalog; whereby, students will be given a warning if they are disruptive. Further disruptions in that or future lectures can result in the dismissal from that day’s class and/or dismissal from the course.

Please refer to the Academic Catalog at [catalog.concord.edu](http://catalog.concord.edu) for any additional information.

**Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)**

Course Schedule is attached to the back of this syllabus

## **Technology:**

Technology has an undeniable presence everywhere in society, with smart phones and watches, tablets and laptops. But there is a place and time to properly use these devices. With that said, out of respect for those around you in the class, cell phones must be silenced and put away before class begins. Intentional cell phone usage of any sort, *including texting*, is strictly prohibited.

In situations where an important phone call is expected, students should inform me of the situation beforehand and set their phone to vibrate. Conversations should be taken outside into the hall to avoid disruption.

Tablets and laptops are permitted for the use of taking notes *only*. Should these devices be used for any other purpose other than taking notes, the student will be asked to turn off the device and put it away immediately.

For the B8 Mac lab, the computers should be used for note-taking, an in-class assignment your instructor has asked you to do, or working on a story or assignment during dedicated time for those specific assignments. If the privilege of being in the Mac lab is misused, the first time of misuse – i.e. working on another class' work, social media, mindless perusing on the Internet, etc. – will be a warning, the second time of misuse, students will be asked to log off the desktop immediately and the desktop will not be used for a time at the discretion of the instructor.

Should the use of technology overwhelmingly distract the class from its learning, *the instructor reserves the right to have devices set in plain sight at the front of the classroom or prohibit technology being brought to class altogether.*

## **Accessibility/Accommodations:**

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

## **Concord University Honor Code**

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

*"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."*

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

## **Class/Online Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

## **Emergency Alert System**

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

## **Emergency Information**

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:

<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

## **Inclement Weather Policy**

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

### University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

### Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

### Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

*\*Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

### **Student Conduct**

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

### **Sexual Harassment & Assault**

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or [titleix@concord.edu](mailto:titleix@concord.edu). Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

### **Technology Services**

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail [cuhelpdesk@concord.edu](mailto:cuhelpdesk@concord.edu).

### **Syllabus Disclaimer**

**"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."**

## **JOUR 334 – Feature Writing Semester Schedule**

**Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 – 12:15**

### **Library B8**

Week 1	Tues. Jan. 15: First day of class; syllabus + fun activity Thurs. Jan 17: Introduction to & the Art of Feature Writing
Week 2	Tues. Jan. 22: Finding your Niche Thurs. Jan. 24: Kinds of Feature Stories
Week 3	Tues. Jan. 29: Newspaper Feature Story Ideas & Story Thurs. Jan. 31: Writing the Newspaper Feature
Week 4	Tues. Feb. 5: Magazine Articles & Story Idea Thurs. Feb. 7: Writing & Marketing a Magazine Article
Week 5	Tues. Feb. 12: Specialized Features & Enterprise Thurs. Feb. 14: Researching and Interviewing for a Feature
Week 6	Tues. Feb. 19: Service Features & Recipes Thurs. Feb. 21: Service Feature lab
Week 7	Tues. Feb. 26: Human Interest Thurs. Feb. 28: Human Interest lab
Week 8	Tues. March 5: Science & Technology Thurs. March 7: Science & Technology lab
Week 9	Tues. & Thurs. March 12 & 14: SPRING BREAK
Week 10	Tues. March 19: Travel and Seasonal Features Thurs. March 21: Travel Features lab
Week 11	Tues. March 26: Sports Features Thurs. March 28: Sports Features lab
Week 12	Tues. April 2: Product and Company Feature Thurs. April 4: Product and Company Feature lab
Week 13	Tues. April 9: Profile and Personality Features Thurs. April 11: Profile and Personality Features lab

Week 14	Tues. April 16: Commentary Thurs. April 18: Commentary lab
Week 15	Tues. April 23: Alternative Story Forms Thurs. April 25: Alternative Story Form lab
Week 16	Tues. April 30: Legal and Ethical Considerations Thurs. May 1: Editing and Rewriting
Week 17	Tues. May 7 11:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. – FINAL EXAM

\*\* This is schedule is subject to change throughout the course of the semester. You will be notified when such changes take place.