

EN 490: Directed Study: Journalistic Writing for Social Justice
Spring 2025
MWF, 10:30-11:20 a.m.
206-B Henry Hall

Instructor

Prof. Justin Wyble
Office: 206-B Henry Hall
Office hours: MWF 1:30-2:30pm (and at other times by appointment)
Office phone: (808) 739-8534
Email: justin.wyble@chaminade.edu

Description

Instruction for this course will focus on writing for news publications. It will cover the intricacies of specific types of journalistic writing, including features, news, and opinion articles. It will also focus on topics of social justice and advocacy writing that develop a compelling message that resonates with a target audience. The student will study journalistic writing samples from newspapers, magazines, and online media outlets to learn about the stylistic complexities of writing for these types of publications. At the end of this course, the student will have a final, edited copy of an article to be submitted to a news publication or advocacy organization for freelance publication.

Required Texts

No textbooks required, although it may be necessary to subscribe to one or more publications.

A paper notebook or journal will be required.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Explore different types of journalistic writing (including features, news, and opinion articles) published in newspapers, magazines, and online media outlets.
- Produce a reading journal documenting the study of select publications.
- Write a final, edited news article to be submitted for publication.

Requirements

- Attendance and participation = 20%
- Reading journal = 30%
- Draft article 1 = 10%
- Draft article 2 = 10%
- Draft article 3 = 10%
- Final article = 20%

*English majors should save graded copies of their essays in all English classes, insofar as a subset of these essays will be required for the Senior Seminar portfolio in English 499.

Attendance and Participation

Absences due to illness may be excused only if you provide a doctor's note. All other absences, other than those officially excused by the university, will be unexcused.

Late arrivals and/or early departures will be counted as unexcused tardies. Three unexcused tardies will count as one unexcused absence. Tardy students are responsible for seeing me after class in order to confirm that their initial absence has been changed to a tardy.

Your attendance grade will be determined as follows:

0-3 unexcused absences = 100 points
 4 unexcused absences = 88 points
 5 unexcused absences = 82 points
 6 unexcused absences = 78 points
 7 unexcused absences = 72 points
 8 unexcused absences = 68 points
 9 unexcused absences = 62 points
 10 or more unexcused absences (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class) = 0 points

Your attendance record may also impact the participation component of your grade. For example, in-class assignments (including reading quizzes, short response papers, etc.) cannot be made up unless your absence is excused.

Remember, if you are absent for two consecutive weeks or more, the professor may administratively withdraw you from the class.

Policies

No electronic devices (including laptops, tablets, cell phones, ear buds/headphones, etc.) are allowed in class, unless approved in advance by the professor. Please keep your devices silenced and in your bag.

Late assignments will earn a 10% deduction for each day (or fraction thereof) they are late.

In-class assignments cannot be made up unless your absence is excused.

Plagiarized assignments and AI-generated or AI-assisted assignments will earn zero points. In this course, students are not permitted to use generative AI applications (e.g., ChatGPT, Bard, Bing, QuillBot, etc.), in whole or in part, to generate course materials or assignments. Simple grammar and spell checking tools such as those integrated into MS Word or Google Docs may be used. If you have any questions about whether a particular tool or specific use is permitted, check with the professor. I reserve the right to require you to submit your written assignments via Canvas, which uses Turnitin's plagiarism and AI detector.

We will use Canvas only for the submission of major assignments. In-class lectures and discussions, as well as homework assignments, will **not** be posted to Canvas.

I expect all students to treat each other and the professor with respect at all times. This includes listening carefully and speaking thoughtfully to others during our class discussions.

Marianist Characteristics

Chaminade is a Marianist Institution and uses the following characteristics as a guide:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith
2. Integral Quality Education
3. Educate in the Family Spirit
4. Service, Justice, and Peace and the Integrity of Creation
5. Adaptation and Change

Credit Hour Policy

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement. This equates to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester, 10 week term, or equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. Direct instructor engagement and out-of-class work result in total student engagement time of 45 hours for one credit.

The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

This is a three-credit hour course requiring a minimum of 135 clock hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in this course are anticipated to spend 35 hours in class. In addition, students are expected to spend 24 hours writing three draft articles (8 hours per article), and 16 hours writing the final article. The remaining time (60 hours) will be devoted to the assigned readings, averaging approximately 4 hours each week.

Overview of Course Schedule (Subject to change.)

Weeks 1-4:

- Magazines
- Draft article 1

Weeks 5-8:

- Newspapers
- Draft article 2

Weeks 9-12:

- Online media outlets
- Draft article 3

Weeks 13-15:

- Final article

Final Exams Week:

- Submit final article for publication.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an "F" grade for the work in question, an "F" grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University of Honolulu does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at the [Chaminade University Title IX Office Contact Information and Confidential Resources website](#). On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](#).

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: <https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](#). Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system

asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kōkua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kōkua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring & Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check [Kōkua 'Ike's](#) website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.