BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Department of English

Spring 2011          English 304 –Feature Writing          3 hours, 3 credits

Prof. Claire Pamplin
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Office: N730
212-220-8000 x7297 - Use this only if you know I am at my desk at BMCC. Otherwise use Skype phone, Skype, or use gmail IM!

Skype user name: vincentmillay    Skype phone #: 347-410-9575

Office Hours. N730: Tuesdays, 3-4     Wednesdays, 10-11
Online: Thursdays, 12-1 on phone, Skype, or gmail chat.

Prerequisites
English 201 or 121.

Course Description
This course provides opportunities for students to explore journalism. Students conduct interviews, cover stories around the campus or the city and write journalistic articles. Opportunities are provided for specialized coverage in areas such as politics, consumerism, science, education, finance, the arts, social change and family life. Topics include basics of journalism ethics.

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<th>Student Learning Outcomes. By the end of the course, students will be able to</th>
<th>Measurements (means of assessment for student learning outcomes.)</th>
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<td>Demonstrate ability to recognize article ideas, good sources of information, and to develop article ideas.</td>
<td>Graded articles.</td>
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<td>Gather information from various sources, including interviews, online sources and others. Research and revise at least three feature articles of 1000-2000 words</td>
<td>Graded articles.</td>
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<td>Critically analyze numerous reading assignments from various sources.</td>
<td>Graded short responses and quizzes.</td>
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<td>Summarize, paraphrase, and quote from readings</td>
<td>Graded short responses, quizzes, oral report.</td>
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<td>Demonstrate a command of edited American English, using vocabulary and syntax appropriate to college-level work and to contemporary journalistic writing.</td>
<td>Graded articles, short response papers.</td>
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Below are the college’s general education learning outcomes, the outcomes that are marked in the left-hand column indicate goals that will be covered and assessed in this course.

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<th>General Education Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Measurements (means of assessment for general education goals listed in first column)</th>
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<tr>
<td>X Communication Skills- Students will be able to write, read, listen and speak critically and effectively.</td>
<td>Graded articles.</td>
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<td>□ Quantitative Reasoning- Students will be able to use quantitative skills and the concepts and methods of mathematics to solve problems.</td>
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<td>□ Scientific Reasoning- Students will be able to apply the concepts and methods of the natural sciences.</td>
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<td>□ Social and Behavioral Sciences- Students will be able to apply the concepts and methods of the social sciences.</td>
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<td>Arts &amp; Humanities- Students will be able to develop knowledge and understanding of the arts and literature through critiques of works of art, music, theatre or literature.</td>
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<td>X Information &amp; Technology Literacy- Students will be able to collect, evaluate and interpret information and effectively use information technologies.</td>
<td>Graded articles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>X Values- Students will be able to make informed choices based on an understanding of personal values, human diversity, multicultural awareness and social responsibility.</td>
<td>Graded articles other assignments that address the vital significance of social responsibility, human diversity and multicultural awareness in journalism.</td>
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**Required Texts**

*Into the Wild*
Author: John Krakauer
Publisher: Anchor; 1 edition (January 20, 1997)

**Use of Technology**
Students must have reliable daily high-speed access to the Internet, and a valid email account that they check daily. Access is required to Blackboard and/or other online platforms. These may be used for distribution of handouts, required online discussions, etc.

**Evaluation and Requirements of Students**

Two feature articles, 1000 to 1200 words each. 40 percent.

A Discussion Board post analyzing some aspect of mass media, such as comparing two feature articles from different publications covering similar subjects, comparing print and online feature writing, etc. 20 percent.

Tests, including a mid-term and a final exam, on reading, viewing and other assignments. 20 percent.
No make-up tests will be permitted. One test grade will be dropped: the lowest or a missed test.

Blackboard discussion board participation based on reading and lecture assignments. 20 percent.

Other requirements:

- schedule and attend a minimum of one conference, online or in person with the instructor.

**Online Attendance Policy**

If you miss more than two weeks’ of work such as tests and Discussion Board assignments, you may receive a failing grade.

**College Attendance Policy**

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

**Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

**BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC’s website, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).