

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 304
ENGLISH 304: JOURNALISM: FEATURE WRITING	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 304 provides further opportunities for students to explore journalism. Students conduct interviews, cover stories around 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 layout, headline composition and basics of journalism law.

B. Prerequisites and Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

Note: English 303 is not a prerequisite for English 304. Either course may be taken independently.

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts (including making informed decisions in their own writing).
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts (which may include student writing).

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Feature Writing for Newspapers and Magazines, E. Freidlander and J. Lee (HarperCollins)
Professional Feature Writing, B. Garrison (Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc.)
Interviews That Work: A Practical Guide for Journalists, S. Biagi (Wadsworth)
Best Magazine Articles, T. Fensch (Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc.)

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Assignments in the course will include a human-interest story, an interview, a movie review, an editorial, a neighborhood feature article, and other writing assignments designed to explore the range, types, and strategies of feature articles in the print media. A midterm examination and a final will be given, and students must submit written assignments on time. There may be quizzes on reading assignments from the text, and class participation is expected. Final grades will be based on students' overall work in the course, with the quality of written work emphasized

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 web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

F. Outline of Topics

Week 1: Introduction: Feature Writing in the 1990's

Week 2: Descriptive Writing

Week 3: Interviewing

Weeks 4-5: Writing and Editing

Week 6-7: Human Interest Articles

- Week 8: Profiles
- Week 9: Seasonal Features
- Week 10: Reviews and Criticism
- Week 11: Editorials
- Week 12: Travel Writing
- Week 13: Humor
- Week 14: Final Examination