

Course: WRIT 345
Term: Fall 2023
Section: 1

Instructor: Dr. Don Unger
E-mail: dunger@olemiss.edu

Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:45 pm
Classroom: 411
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:30pm, or by appointment
Office: 221 Lamar

WRIT 345 Community Writing Syllabus

Defining Community Writing

Community writing is a research area in rhetoric and writing studies related to professional writing, community engagement or service learning, and cultural rhetorics. It is an umbrella term applied to any community-based work where concerns about writing come into play in the process of carrying out this work. A course in community writing prepares you to engage in your communities, to communicate across communities, and to use writing to promote ethical work among communities that have different practices, values, and beliefs. Many classes prepare you for work in other classes, or they prepare you for the kinds of work that you may do in the workplace. These classes teach you professional practices and expectations: they position the job market and your future employer as the ultimate judge and jury for your professionalism. This course prepares you for your civic lives. Your neighbors, friends, family members, community leaders, and local organizations and institutions all influence writing in your community. Community writing includes everything from a neighbor's campaign materials in a school board election, to a newspaper op-ed. penned by another neighbor about an issue that the school board is addressing, to the message on a sign that you carry at a protest about the school board's decision on this issue. Today, our communities and our writing are not limited by printed text. Therefore, community writing also includes writing online, e.g., the tweets, Facebook posts, and comments on Next Door that your friends and neighbors post about the issue before the school board. Furthermore, community writing is not limited by geographic boundaries, so it includes the online writing that we do to create communities with people around the world.

Overview

In WRIT 345 Community Writing, you investigate how writing, place, and identity overlap and inform one another. Over the course of the semester, you study and assess how these forces shape your own senses of community by conducting library, web, and field research on issues in your communities; and finally, you work with a community partner to develop writing that meet their needs. The overarching goal is to help you understand how writing plays a central role in shaping communities and to provide you with an experiential-learning opportunity focused on writing.

Objectives

- You will develop a vocabulary to address the relationships among writing, place, and identity.

- You will develop a more complex understanding of rhetoric by writing and designing materials for different communities and audiences (i.e., academic, local, online, etc.).
- You will use qualitative research methods to complete projects.
- You will create in media rhetorically relevant to the situations presented in each unit.
- You will work alone and in teams on a major project informed by the work of a community partner.
- You will evaluate what you have learned on each project and at the end of the semester through reflective writing.

Sequence

This semester, WRIT 345 Community Writing is divided into three units: the first defines community writing, and the others provide you with different lenses through which to practice community writing, namely writing *in* and writing *with* communities. Each learning unit is broken into steps in order to help you design *multimodal projects*.

1. What is “Community Writing”?
In the first learning unit, we will read work that addresses how writing emerges from and connects with communities. As the major assignment for the unit, you will create zines that reflect on how writing, identity, and place shape your relationships to different communities of which you are a part.
2. Writing *in* Communities
In the second learning unit, you will choose a campus, local, or online group and create a podcast about them, focusing on who they are, what they do, and how they use writing and other forms of communication in their work. Readings and small assignments from this unit deal with podcasting as a form of media that relies on multiple literacy skills, including writing, and where working in those modes involves many voices.
3. Writing *with* Communities
In the final learning unit, you will work with a community partner to develop written materials that contribute to the partner’s ongoing work. Readings, activities, and assignments—some of which come from professional writing textbooks—teach you how to work in a production team and with a community organization in order to develop professional-quality materials.

Required Materials

- Laptop, Internet connection
- Course readings will be posted as PDFs and/or hyperlinks on Blackboard.

Course Structure

Our course will meet face-to-face in Lamar Hall, room 411 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:45 pm. Should this change because of inclement weather or other issues, I will notify you as soon as possible through your university email account. Please be sure to check your account regularly.

Your course materials, including assignment sheets and calendars, readings and handouts, and grades are located on Blackboard.

Grades

Assignment Weight & Grade Scale

What is Community Writing?	25%	A	93-100
Writing <i>in</i> Communities	30%	A-	90-92
Writing <i>with</i> Communities	35%	B+	87-89
Course Reflection	10%	B	83-86
		B-	80-82
		C+	77-79
		C	73-76
		C-	70-72
		D	65-69
		F	64-below

Contact Information

Our official channels for communication in this class will be olemiss.edu email accounts and Blackboard. It is your job to check Blackboard and your olemiss.edu e-mail account regularly for any important class information.

Office Hours

I will conduct office hours in Lamar 221 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 pm, or by appointment. I encourage you to attend office hours if you have any questions or concerns about assignments and materials or if you want to discuss your work on different projects. Wednesday office hours work on a first-come, first-served basis. If you cannot make it to these office hours and want to meet, please email me, and we can set something else up.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend all class meetings; improving writing and design skills takes time and is a process unlike learning content alone. In acknowledgment of the fact that students may experience some circumstances which prevent complete attendance, the following policy is in effect:

- 5 days missed: final course grade lowered by one letter grade
- 6 days missed: final course grade lowered by two letter grades
- 7 days missed: final course grade lowered by three letter grades
- 8 days missed: failure

The Department of Writing & Rhetoric does not use "excused" or "unexcused" categories; all absences are recorded as absences.

Late Work

It is my policy to accept work after the due date; however, there will be a significant penalty. Projects turned in after the due date receive a 10% penalty to the overall grade. I do not accept work over a week late. Again, email me with any questions or concerns.

Note: Homework is not arbitrarily assigned. In other words, the work feeds in to the larger projects; failure to keep up with the assignments may result in less understanding of, or practice working with, the concepts that can lead to more successful larger projects.

Scholarship Clause

If a student is attending UM with a scholarship requiring course absences (e.g., athletics, band), the following exception applies: students will not be penalized for required absences alone, as long as the student presents to the instructor by the end of the course drop/add period an official letter from the scholarship-issuing program declaring the required absences for the entire semester. If a scholarship student accrues absences beyond those designated by the letter, he or she will incur the penalty listed above. The letter cannot be amended.

Students suffering traumatic hardships (hospitalization, emergency service, etc.) should promptly consult section VI of the M-Book for procedures on contacting the Dean of Students.

If a student is absent from a class, he or she must seek permission from the course instructor as to whether or not the missed work can be submitted for a grade.

Tardiness

Please make every attempt to be in class on time. If you cannot make it on time for some reason, arriving late is preferable to not arriving at all. It is, however, a distraction to the class when a student enters the room late. As a precaution against tardiness, I am including a clause that may impact your grade if it is a chronic problem. The first instance of tardiness will be overlooked; further instances may result in reductions to unit grades. In other words, make all possible efforts to get to class on time, and notify me very early in the semester if you think you might be late due to coming from another class at a long distance or other circumstances; I am happy to work with you in those cases. If you arrive more than twenty minutes late, you will be marked absent, though you are welcome to join in the rest of the day's work.

Disabilities/UM Student Disability Services

If you have a documented disability as described by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 933-112 Section 504) or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and would like to request academic and/or physical accommodations please contact Student Disability Services at 234 Martindale Center, 662-915-7128. Course requirements will not be waived but reasonable accommodations may be provided as appropriate. Please consult <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sds/> for more information on student disability services.

Academic Honesty (including plagiarism)

According to the University of Mississippi Academic Conduct and Discipline policy, “[t]he University is conducted on a basis of common honesty. Dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are regarded as particularly serious offenses.” The following language should clarify what academic dishonesty and plagiarism mean in the context of WRIT or LIBA courses. All work that you submit under your name for credit in Department of Writing and Rhetoric courses should be your original work. If you would like to use your original work in multiple courses, you must have permission from your writing course instructor before proceeding. Similarly, you may not turn in work previously submitted

for credit, even if it is in the same course number, without first receiving permission from your teacher.

Plagiarism is using others' words and/or ideas without properly crediting them. This includes using text written by ChatGPT or other AI programs. Instructors may ask you to incorporate outside source material in your composing, and you must credit others' work when you use it. In your written assignments there are only three methods for properly importing the work of others: quotation, paraphrase, and summary, including proper attribution of outside sources (see pages 346-49 in *Ten Core Concepts*).

The penalty for academic misconduct or plagiarism in any WRIT or LIBA class may include an "F" on the assignment, an "F" in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or other sanctions determined by the UM Academic Discipline Committee.

Upon determining academic misconduct or plagiarism, the instructor will notify the student and the Chair of the Department of Writing and Rhetoric in writing as part of the process of opening an Academic Discipline Case. The instructor will also make a recommendation for the penalty he/she finds most appropriate for the offense. Students may appeal this finding and/or penalty by notifying the UM Academic Discipline Committee within 14 days of the instructor's decision. The applicable full UM policy is [ACA.AR.600.001](#) and should be consulted by any student concerned with academic misconduct or plagiarism. In most cases, academic misconduct and/or plagiarism should be completely avoidable: if you are ever uncertain whether or not you are committing academic misconduct or plagiarism, ask your instructor before submitting work for grading.

Class Decorum

The classroom is a place of learning; others are paying to be here too. Please make sure not to distract others from learning and to respect the opinions of others. From time to time we will review each other's writing, either in peer review sessions or by workshopping informal writing. Please follow the guideline of being a "critical friend" in all of your reviewing of others' work.

Policies Subject to Change

All information in this syllabus is subject to change at any time, especially during the first weeks of the semester. I will announce changes to our schedule during class time and also via Blackboard. You are responsible for changes to the schedule as they arise, regardless of whether or not you attend class.

Resources

Writing Center

Aside from one-on-one meetings with teachers during office hours, the best way to improve your writing is to work with writing consultants at one of the University's Writing Centers. On the Oxford campus, the writing center is on the 3rd floor of Lamar Hall and online. Writing consultants will work with any student writer working on any project in any discipline. To learn more about Writing Center locations, hours, scheduling and services, check out the [Writing Center website](#).

Make contact with a Writing Center consultant early and often. Working with a writing consultant is easy, and you have access to face-to-face and online sessions. You may also upload a draft of your paper once you have made the reservation for a session. If you want to see how an online session works, a how-to video is available for students.

Many successful students begin going to the Writing Center with their first essay and continue working with the writing center over the course of a semester, making appointments with writing consultants for each essay they write. The goal of the Writing Center is to help students become better, independent writers, so the writing consultants don't "proofread" or merely "correct" errors. Instead, they do something better - they will help you to brainstorm, talk about research and explore resources, and help you improve your editing strategies. Remember, online appointments are available. If you have questions about the writing center, use the LiveChat tool on the website to talk with someone in the writing center, call us at 662-915-7689, or send email to cwrwc@go.olemiss.edu.

Speaking Center

The University of Mississippi Speaking Center offers free public speaking consultation services for UM students. Their highly trained peer consultants work alongside UM students on projects in all disciplines. They provide free access to one-on-one consultations, group workshops, and other speech communication-focused resources. If you need to create a presentation for a class or for a university-related activity, you can get feedback and advice from consultants in the Speaking Center. Their services are delivered face-to-face and online. Their goal is to cultivate individualized strategies with UM students to help them become independent, effective, and confident speakers.

To learn more about the Speaking Center, [check out their website](#). Or, use [this link schedule an appointment for a consultation](#). This link will prompt you to complete a registration form before scheduling your appointment.

Career Center

The Career Center offers drop-in or email appointments for resume review, workshops for interviewing, resume writing, career development, and many other resources and events throughout the semester. Even as a freshman, the career center can help to guide you through and set up a plan for you to determine career options and set you up with internships, and even network to help you find your future employment after graduation. Visit [the Career Center website](#) for more information.

UMatter Office

If you have concerns about a friend or classmate: [UMatter](#) serves the University of Mississippi community by coordinating support efforts both on and off campus to assist students who face challenges to their personal and academic success.

A person of concern can be a member of any UM constituency (faculty, staff or student) dealing with an emotional, psychological or physical crisis that may interfere with his or her ability to continue attending classes or working at the University of Mississippi.

Situations individuals face that may be cause for concern include:

- Ongoing alcohol and/or drug use
- Financial hardship
- Hospitalization for physical or mental health reasons
- Injury or accident affecting physical and/or mental ability to do course work
- Potential threat to themselves or others

Signs of a person of concern may include but are not limited to:

- Physical health issues
- Current or emerging mental health issues
- Challenges with academic schedule
- Social adjustment
- Family matters
- Policy violations

Making a Referral

The referral process begins by making a report. Once a referral is made about a student of concern, a staff member from the university's Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) will review the information and may contact you for additional information about the student.

Anonymity

Please know that anonymity cannot be guaranteed, although staff uses discretion when discussing a concern with an individual. A report may be completed without including a reporter's name; however, you are strongly encouraged to provide your name and contact

information to allow staff members to call or email you with additional questions about your report.

Helping Persons of Concern

Once a person is reported, outreach will begin. Staff members will gather more information about the person of concern and may reach out to that individual by phone call or, in some cases by a series of meetings.

[Make a referral here.](#)

Counseling Center

The University Counseling Center is a professional facility offered by the University of Mississippi to assist students, faculty, and staff with many types of life stressors that interrupt day-to-day functioning, including the stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. They offer individual counseling, couple's counseling, group counseling, stress management, crisis intervention, assessments and referrals, outreach programs, consultations, and substance abuse services. There is no fee for currently enrolled University students and everything you say to your counselor is confidential. You can contact the Counseling Center for information about mental health issues [through their website](#) or by emailing counslg@olemiss.edu, or by calling 662-915-3784, 320 Lester Hall. You can schedule an appointment or get information about appointments by calling the UCC at 662-915-3784.

Title IX Compliance

The University of Mississippi is committed to protecting students from sexual discrimination, sexual assault, stalking, sexual harassment, and relationship violence. If you are affected by any of these issues, please reach out to the Title IX Coordinator at 662-915-7045. The university may be able to offer services and assistance. Also, the Title IX Coordinator may contact you if you write about or report any of these concerns to any faculty or staff members. (Faculty and Staff are required by law to report sexual discrimination, but you are not required to follow up on the report.) If you are dealing with any other issue involving unlawful discrimination, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Regulatory Compliance at 662-915-7735.

Violence Prevention Program

Confidential and safe place for students affected by any type of sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking. You are encouraged to reach out with any concerns, and you may be eligible for academic accommodations and other services. Contact Shelli Poole at 662-915-1059 or email at sapoole@olemiss.edu for more information.

Grove Grocery

Grove Grocery seeks to end campus hunger and alleviate poverty by discreetly providing nutritious food products and hygiene products free of charge to students and employees in the Ole Miss community. Grove Grocery is located in 213 Kinard Hall on Rebel Drive. Email grovegrocery@go.olemiss.edu with any questions or concerns.

Craft Your **MESSAGE**

rhetoric.olemiss.edu/major | rhetoric.olemiss.edu/minor

Enjoying this course? Consider the **Rhetoric Major** or **Professional Writing Minor**! Rhetoric majors take 11 writing, speech, and rhetorical theory courses. They learn how language and other symbols shape meaning, experience, identity, and point of view, and they become powerful speakers and writers. Professional writing minors take six professional communication courses that build the writing, speaking, teamwork, and project management skills employers are seeking. For more information contact: Karen Forgette, Rhetoric Major Advisor, kforgett@olemiss.edu; or Dr. Karla Lyles, Professional Writing Minor Coordinator, kmlyles@olemiss.edu.

WRIT 345-01 Fall 2023 Calendar Overview			
Unit	Dates	Content	Due Dates
What is Community Writing?	Week 1: 8/22 & 8/24	Class & Unit 1 Intro and Academic vs Home Communities	Response 1
	Week 2: 8/29	Representing Your Communities	Response 2 No class 8/31
	Week 3: 9/5 & 9/7	Making Zines	Response 3 Zine Roughs Due 9/12
	Week 4: 9/12 & 9/14	Zine Review Workshop	Response 4
	Week 5: 9/19 & 9/21	Putting Our Zine Together/ Unit 2 Intro	Zine Pages Due 9/26
Writing in Communities	Week 6: 9/26 & 9/28	Developing Our Podcasts	Response 5
	Week 7: 10/3 & 10/5	Planning & Scripting Workshops	Response 6
	Week 8: 10/10	Recording Tutorial	Response 7
	Week 9: 10/17 & 10/19	Editing & Publishing Tutorials	Draft Podcast Files Due 10/24
	Week 10: 10/24 & 10/26	Podcast Review Workshop	Response 8
Writing with Communities	Week 11: 10/31 & 11/2	Unit 3 Intro: Meeting Our Partner	Podcast Revisions Due 11/2 Response 9
	Week 12: 11/7 & 11/9	Working with a Community Partner to Develop a Sense of Purpose	Response 10
	Week 13: 11/14 & 11/16	Planning & Carrying Out Your Project	Project Draft Due 11/28
	Week 14: 11/21 & 11/23	Fall Break	
	Week 15: 11/28 & 11/30	Course Recap	Final Project Due 12/5 Course Reflection Due 12/5
	Finals Week	No class, submit final work online by 5 pm on 12/5	