

**COMM 5301 – Literature of Journalism**  
**Syllabus – Fall 2020**

**I. Faculty Information**

A. Dr. Marsha Little Matthews

1. CAS 225
2. Office Hours: TBA – Zoom – by appointment
3. Phone: 903-566-7099
4. E-mail: [MMatthews@uttyler.edu](mailto:MMatthews@uttyler.edu)
5. Twitter: @MCommProf

**II. Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories**

- A. Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations. The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its Honor Code and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.
- B. Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

**III. Course Description**

- A. A survey of the literature of literary journalism. Students will read general and specialized literature as a basis for group discussion.

**IV. Student Learning Objectives**

- A. Students will be able to
  1. Explain communication from a variety of communication theoretical perspectives. (Program Student Learning Objective – Theoretical Knowledge)
    - a) Evaluate mass communication from a variety of theoretical perspectives.
  2. Evaluate the communication rules, norms, listening skills, and rhetorical strategies used by people. (Program Student Learning Objective – Communication Assessment)
    - a) Demonstrate understanding of the history, criticism, and writing of literary journalism from many sources through writing reading reaction abstracts.
    - b) Understand the storytelling role of journalism through readings, discussions, and writing exercises.

- c) Identify and understand the techniques that comprise and define the genre of literary journalism.
  - d) Develop his/her individual writing style using the techniques of literary journalism.
3. Conduct original research using a method appropriate to the research question. (Program Student Learning Objective – Research)
    - a) Write and present a conference ready research paper on the topic of literary journalism.

## V. Course Requirements

### A. Texts

#### (AOF – abbreviation)

Kerrane, K., & Yagoda, B. (eds.). (1997). *The art of fact: A Historical anthology of literary journalism*. New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster. (ISBN: 978-0-684-84630-9)

#### (OWW – abbreviation)

Zinsser, W. (2006). *On writing well: The classic guide to writing nonfiction*. New York: Collins. (ISBN: 978-0-06-089154-1)

**Book 1** - Hersey, J. (Feb. 1989). *Hiroshima*. New York: First Vintage Books Edition February, 1989. (ISBN: 978-0-679-72103-1)

**Book 2** - Truman, C. (1994). *In cold blood*. New York: First Vintage Books Edition February 1994). (ISBN: 978-0-679-74558-7)

**Book 3:** Any ONE of these books:

- [\*The Bottom of the Harbor\*](#) by Joseph Mitchell
- [\*Dispatches\*](#) by Michael Herr
- [\*Hells Angels\*](#) by Hunter S. Thompson
- [\*Slouching Towards Bethlehem\*](#) by Joan Didion
- [\*The Year of Magical Thinking\*](#) by Joan Didion
- [\*The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test\*](#) by Tom Wolfe
- [\*The Right Stuff\*](#) by Tom Wolfe
- [\*The Armies of the Night\*](#) By Norman Mailer
- [\*Let Us Now Praise Famous Men\*](#) by James Agee
- [\*Somebody Told Me: The Newspaper Stories of Rick Bragg\*](#) by Rick Bragg
- [\*Reporting Notes on Journalism\*](#) by Lillian Ross
- [\*Picture\*](#) by Lillian Ross
- [\*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius\*](#) by David Eggers (“a quasi-fictional memoir)
- [\*Any book by John McPhee\*](#) (just let me know which one you choose)

**Book 4:**

- A contemporary memoir – your choice. Let me know asap whom it might be.

Other selected readings to be handed out or posted on Canvas.

*The Narrative Digest* - <http://www.niemanstoryboard.org/category/essays-on-craft/> - good examples of contemporary literary journalism & essays on the craft.

**Not Required – HIGHLY Recommended – great tips and information from 50 well-known writers**

- Kramer, M. & Call, W. (Eds.) (2007). *Telling true stories: A nonfiction writers' guide from the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University*. New York: PLUME, Penguin Group. (ISBN: 978-0-452-28755-6)
- B. **Canvas** - Check Canvas OFTEN. We will work on assignments in and out of class through Canvas Also check your CANVAS and PATRIOT EMAIL OFTEN. CANVAS email will arrive in your Patriot email as well as within Canvas. The Canvas email is the only email address I will use to communicate with you regarding this course.
- C. Seminar Discussions/Participation/Attendance/Other Writing Assignments
- D. Reading Reaction Abstracts
- E. Short Writing Assignments
- F. Research Paper
- G. Readings

## VI. Evaluation and Grade Calculation

Research Paper	40%
(Includes grades on first 3 stages of the paper & presentation)	
Reading Reactions	25%
Short Writing Assignments	25%
Discussion/Participation/Other Writing Assignments/Attendance	10%
Total	100%

## VII. Miscellaneous

- A. **Electronic Devices: TURN THEM OFF.** Keep these devices in your backpack during class.
- B. **Use of Computers in Class:** Do not use computers during class for reading/writing e-mail, surfing the Web, playing games, working on assignments for other classes, or writing letters. You may use a laptop computer for taking class notes and other items as related to the class discussion. If you use your laptop for any other purpose, I will require you to immediately close the computer.
- C. **Assignment Policy:**
1. Written Assignments/Presentations
    - a) All work must be prepared as a Microsoft Word file.
    - b) Submit all work as attachments and name them properly to receive credit.
      - (1) Name your files using your LAST name followed by an underscore ( \_ ) and the exercise slug.

(2) Example for Reading Reactions Abstracts:

Matthews\_RR#1\_for\_WK2

(3) Example for Short Writing Assignments:

Matthews\_You\_the\_Reporter

2. Assignments will be given throughout the semester. Students are responsible for all course materials, including, but not limited to, class lectures, handouts, workbook and textbook reading assignments.
3. Assignments and due dates may be changed at the instructor's discretion with fair notice to students.

**D. Late Assignments:** Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the date specified.

**E. Attendance and Tardiness Policy:**

1. This is a graduate course. You are expected to attend class. See the current UT Tyler catalog for the university's policy on student responsibility for missed classes and assignments. Be familiar with the university's drop policy. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to religious observance or university-sponsored activities should inform the instructor by the second class meeting.
2. This class meets synchronously via Zoom and you are expected to attend and participate on **WEDNESDAYS FROM 6:00 – 8:50 P.M. You need to arrive on time and be prepared to contribute.**

**F. Academic Honesty Policy:** Students will adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Anyone caught cheating will earn a "0" for that assignment and will be subject to academic and disciplinary action. Plagiarism (the use of written and oral words or ideas of another person, including another student, without the expressed acknowledgment of the speaker's or writer's indebtedness to that person) will not be tolerated. This includes the use of papers or other materials previously submitted to instructors in other classes, as well as video and audio recordings. Students caught plagiarizing will fail this class and be subject to academic and disciplinary action.

**G. Course Withdrawal:** The last date to withdraw from classes without penalty is **November 2, 2020.**

**H. Final Examination Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020.**

## VIII. University Policies

**A. Class Recordings of Lectures**

1. Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this class. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the class and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the class in any form without express permission.

**B. UT Tyler Honor Code:**

1. Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do. Students Rights and Responsibilities To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

### C. Campus Carry:

1. We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

### D. UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University:

1. All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

**E. Academic Honesty Policy:** Students will adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Anyone caught cheating will earn a “0” for that assignment and will be subject to academic and disciplinary action. Plagiarism (the use of written and oral words or ideas of another person, including another student, without the expressed acknowledgment of the speaker’s or writer’s indebtedness to that person) will not be tolerated. This includes the use of papers or other materials previously submitted to instructors in other classes, as well as video and audio recordings. Students caught plagiarizing will fail this class and be subject to academic and disciplinary action. **(See next section for University Policy)**

### F. Student Standards of Academic Conduct

1. Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.
  - a) “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:
    - (1) copying from another student’s test paper;
    - (2) using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;

- (3) failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
  - (4) possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
  - (5) using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
  - (6) collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
  - (7) discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
  - (8) divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
  - (9) substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
  - (10) paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
  - (11) falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
  - (12) taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
  - (13) misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- b) “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
  - c) “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

- d) All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

G. **The U-T Tyler Writing Center** provides professional writing tutoring for all students in all disciplines. If you wish to use the Writing Center, you should plan for a minimum of two hour-long tutorials per assignment: the first to provide an initial consultation and drafting plan, and the second to follow up. Be prepared to take an active role in your learning, as you will be asked to discuss your work during your tutorial. While Writing Center tutors are happy to provide constructive criticism and teach effective writing techniques, under no circumstances will they fix, repair, or operate on your paper. Location: BUS 202. Appointments: 903-565-5995.

## H. Disability/Accessibility Services

1. In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

During the Fall 2020 semester, SAR will be conducting all appointments via ZOOM. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices> or call 903.566.7079.

## I. Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies:

1. Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the **Census Date is Sept. 4, 2020.**) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

2. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.
3. The **Census Date (Sept. 10th)** is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:
  - a) Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
  - b) Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
  - c) Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
  - d) Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
  - e) Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

**J. State-Mandated Course Drop Policy:**

1. Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).
2. Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

**K. Student Absence due to Religious Observance:**

1. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**L. Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities:**

1. If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time, the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.



**M. Social Security and FERPA Statement:**

1. It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**N. Emergency Exits and Evacuation:**

1. Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

**O. UT Tyler Resources for Students:**

1. UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
2. UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
3. The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
4. UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

## Resources for Success for UT Tyler Students

**Faculty Office Hours:** These are times when you can meet with your faculty to ask questions about the content, better understand the discipline, make career connections and more. Make use of office hours. Faculty list three hours a week (minimum) that they are available to you and also provide an appointment option if you have class or work during their office hours.

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center provides all undergraduate and graduate students a place to work on their writing projects and skills. There are tutoring options as well as workshops available to support you in your academic writing.

**Math Learning Center:** The Math Learning Center provides drop-in tutoring for lower-level math courses throughout the week. The MLC also has computer workstations for your use.

**PASS Tutoring Center:** The PASS Tutoring Center supports a variety of courses. Due to COVID-19, we are asking that you schedule an appointment for your face-to-face tutoring support. Tutoring is also available through Zoom tutoring sessions. Check the website to see the courses supported for the Fall 2020 term.

**Supplemental Instruction (SI):** SI is a series of weekly peer-assisted study sessions in courses identified by previous students as difficult. Due to COVID-19, SI sessions will be conducted face-to-face and via Zoom this fall. Check the website to see the support courses for the Fall 2020 term.

**Upswing (24/7 Online Tutoring):** Upswing is a free, confidential, and convenient way to receive help in nearly all of UT Tyler's undergraduate courses.

**Robert R. Muntz Library Staff:** UT Tyler has an incredible staff of librarians ready to assist you. [Discipline/major library liaisons](#) are available to support you and you can also schedule appointments for research consultations. In addition, the Robert R. Muntz library's Head of University Archives and Special Collections can assist you with scholarly communications, primary sources, and archive materials.

**Canvas 101:** This Canvas course provides you with a wealth of information – including how to navigate in Canvas, use ProctorU (and even take a practice test), tips for being a successful online and hybrid learner, how to use Zoom, and more!

**Digital Support Toolkits:** Digital Support Toolkits are supplemental materials generated by faculty to help you be successful in targeted courses typically taken by our freshman and sophomore population. Students registered in Digital Support Toolkits supported courses will find these in their Canvas dashboard. You don't have to register – just take advantage of this great resource.

**UT Tyler Testing Center:** The Testing Center provides securing testing opportunities to meet the needs of students and the community in an environment conducive to student and academic success.

**Student Accessibility and Resource (SAR) Office:** The SAR Office works to provide students equal access to all educational, social, and co-curriculum programs through the coordination of services and reasonable accommodations, consultation, and advocacy.

**Student Counseling Center:** The Student Counseling Center supports students in developing balance, resiliency, and overall well-being both academically and personally. They have in person and virtual counseling options. In addition, the Student Counseling Center offers [TAO](#), a self-help, completely

private online library of behavioral health resources. Sign in to the TAO website using your UT Tyler credentials.