ED 515 Writing for scholarly publication in the social sciences
Prof. Mary Jane Curry
Warner Graduate School of Education, University of Rochester
Saturdays, February 23, March 2, and March 9, 2013
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., LeChase 184

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This 1-credit course introduces the practices, politics, and conventions of publishing in the social sciences, in particular education, educational linguistics, and psychology. We will briefly discuss the range of genres of scholarly publication, but will focus on publishing in academic journals. Students will be guided through understanding the landscape of journal publishing, including indexes and impact factor, choosing a target journal, and guidelines and submission practices. The course will help students develop awareness of their particular issues and concerns about writing for publication. **This is not primarily a writing workshop** in which students would work on a particular text for submission to a journal, but rather a course in which to gain the background knowledge that would support that step.

Required texts:


Grades will be based on the following work. Assignments should be submitted double-spaced, following APA *Publication Manual 6*th* ed.* guidelines.

1. **Contributions to class** (attendance, preparation, participation) (30%)

2. **A report on journals** in your specific sub-field to which you would consider submitting your work (2-3 pages, covering at least 3-5 journals). Please bring to class a hard copy of this report as well as **printouts of the submission guidelines** from each journal’s website. Describe the main focus of the journal, what type of research (empirical, theoretical, conceptual, etc.) it publishes, who its audience appears to be, and how your proposed article might fit with the journal. (35%). **Due Saturday, March 2 in hard copy. No late assignments.**

3. **One of these options** (35%). **Due Saturday, March 23 on Blackboard:**
   a) If you have an existing, text submit **a revision of at least one key section such as the introduction** and **a plan for specific further revisions** in preparation for submission. **No late assignments.**
b) A 2-3 page concept paper about a proposed article, mapping out the gap in the literature it would address, your major research question, proposed theoretical framework, methods to be used, and preliminary findings along with 6-8 related references in APA format.

c) An alternate assignment to be agreed upon with the instructor.

COURSE CALENDAR, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS

Class I. February 23: Introduction to professional scholarly publishing
- Introductions to course, professor, students
- Types of academic publications, ranking hierarchies
- Find publishing opportunities
  --participating in various networks (conferences, projects, committees, listservs)
  --responding to calls for papers
  --looking for special issues
  --sending query letters
  --professional associations/special interest groups
- Choosing a target journal
- Understanding journal guidelines and submission practices

Readings to do BEFORE first class:
- Belcher, Week 1, Designing Your Plan for Writing
- Belcher, Week 4, Selecting a Journal
- Curry & Lillis, Introduction, Chapters 1, 4, 9, 12

Optional readings (on BB):

Recommended, but not on Blackboard: APA Publication Manual, Chapter 2 (actually the whole book!)

You will find some overlap in these articles but also keep an eye out for conflicting advice we can discuss in class.

Class II. March 2: Planning a journal article
- Conceptualizing an article for submission
- Using literature reviews to identify the “conversations of the discipline”
- Narrowing down your ideas for an article (from previous texts or from scratch)
- Common components of the research article (RA): Deconstructing an article
• The CARS model of article introductions Language and rhetorical features used in scholarly articles: active/passive voice, hedging/modality, reporting verbs, transitional phrases
• Seeking and understanding pre-submission feedback on your article

Readings due for class:
• Belcher, Week 5, Reviewing the related literature
• Belcher, Week 8, Opening & Concluding Your Article
• Curry & Lillis, Chapters 5-8

Optional readings on BB:

Class III. March 9: Submitting your article and responding to feedback
• Understanding the submission, review, and revision processes
• Exploring reviews of submitted articles (to be provided)
• Course evaluations

Readings due for class:
• Belcher, Week 12 Sending Your Article
• Belcher, Week X, Responding to Journal Decisions
• Curry & Lillis, Chapters 13-15

Optional readings on BB: