

Editing&Publishing

(7.5 credits)

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Course Description

The course aims to help students develop their practical knowledge in the field of editing and publishing in English. The course focuses on both theory and practical skills necessary for work in international publishing industries. The course develops a discourse on the evaluation and selection of texts for a publication through the process of blind review. The students have an opportunity to develop their criteria for the selection of texts and participate in the editing process with a skilled editor and potentially even the authors of the selected texts. The course further aims to offer knowledge on the production of a journal (layout, cover, printing), with possible involvement in marketing and a collaboration with external partners.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

Upon finishing the course, students should be able to orally and in writing

- familiarize themselves with and critically examine methodologies related to the publishing industries.
- evaluate issues particular to the publication of literature (from manuscript to published work).
- develop criteria for evaluation of texts for publication and participate in the editing process.

Examination

The course utilizes written and oral assignments, which are assessed according to the above-stated ILOs (also see grading criteria). The seminar activities (oral and written tasks) are worth 65% of the final grade and the critical essay 35%.

a. Written assignments

- shorter tasks during the course
- critical essay (up to 2,000 words)

b. Oral assignments

- presentations and class discussions.

Grading

The course adopts the 7-grade SU scale. To receive a final grade, students must complete all the examination assignments [not done all examination assignments = no mark]. To receive a passing grade (A to E), students must demonstrate that they achieved all the learning outcomes at least at the minimum level on all assignments.

Course format and activities

The course has the form of seminars which are intended to be active, hands-on opportunities for students to practice certain skills. Before each seminar, students are expected to finish the assigned reading, do any accompanying tasks, and be prepared to discuss the readings and tasks at the seminar. Students can compensate for missed seminars by writing an additional assignment, which is a reflection on the topic of the seminar (3-500 words).

Required reading

- Adnan Mahmutović & Lucy Durneen, *The Craft of Editing*
- David Jauss, “Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Abstraction,” and “What We Talk About When We Talk About Flow” (handout)
- Raymond Carver, “So Much Water So Close To Home” (handout)
- Angela Redman, “On Carver” (handout)

SYLLABUS

- 1: Criteria of evaluation**
Read: portfolio of five stories (in resources), and Jauss, “Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Abstraction.”
Written assignment: Paragraph-long evaluations and grades of the five stories. Formulate some basic criteria for your evaluations. This will reflect your current ideas about quality and what makes any work publishable on international markets (by the end of the course, you will be able to reflect on the ways these criteria have changed). Submit your criteria and the evaluations with grades A–F, two days before the seminar by 5 pm.
- 2: Editor’s function and tasks**
Read: Carver, “So Much Water So Close To Home,” and Redman, “On Carver,” and Jauss, “What We Talk About When We Talk About Flow.”
- 3: Craft of Editing I: Editing others and the question of ethics**
Oral assignment: Each study group should present an edit of an assigned passage which will be sent after the second seminar. How to work: first, each student in the group will edit it and share within the group. The group will then work on a final edit which will be presented in class together with any significant notes on the individual edits (major differences, points of disagreement etc.). Discuss the process and everything it involved.
Written assignment: submit the group-edit two days before the seminar by 5 pm. The edits need to be visible so please use track-changes in MS Word or highlight them in some other way if you do not use Word.
- 4: Craft of Editing II: The Process**
Read: from *The Craft of Editing* “Introduction,” and cases Passaro & Drew, Hemley & Sahn, and Solnes-Jonson & Durneen.
Oral assignment: Group 1 will present the case Passaro & Drew, group 2 Hemley & Sahn, and group 3 Solnes-Jonson & Durneen. Select 4-5 issues/challenges that each case contains. Engage in a dialogue around these

with the class. What can we learn from each case? What appears generally useful and what seems more individual? What would you have done differently? To what effect? What can we learn about the processes of creating publishable work?

5: Evaluations of submissions to *Two Thirds North*

Read: stories submitted to *Two Thirds North* (distributed after seminar 4).

Written assignment: Evaluate the submissions and put the grades in the Excell sheet you receive with the texts. Submit grades two days before the seminar by 5 pm. You do not need to submit evaluations but keep notes for in-class discussion. Consider the following: What makes any story publishable? How do we evaluate innovation, authenticity, genre-crossing, form vs. content issues? How do we evaluate the stories in relation to what we know about the type of journal that is *Two Thirds North* and the limited (albeit international) market and finance that it has?

6: Evaluations of submissions to *Two Thirds North*

Read: stories submitted to *Two Thirds North* (distributed after seminar 5). Instructions same as before. Note: depending on the volume of the submissions (if low) we might enter the editing phase earlier.

7: Editing for *Two Thirds North*

Written assignment: By this seminar we should have formed a short-list and each group will be asked to edit one text for discussion in class (first work individually, then towards a joint edit). Submit the group edit 24hrs before the seminar.

8: Journal production

Communications with authors (acceptance and rejections letters), considerations about putting together (and marketing) a journal (including the layout and the cover (details depend on the actual production of *Two Thirds North*).

Written assignment: submit two days before the seminar by 5 pm a letter of positive rejection to one author from the long list who was your favourite.

Final assignment: Deadline November 3 (resubmission December 8)

A critical essay on the topic of evaluation criteria, including a well-considered outline of aesthetic principles for judging quality in prose (up to 2,000 words).

Possible things to consider: what constitutes good contemporary prose (with examples from contemporary works), how do we encounter and evaluate newness (originality) within those criteria you may hold as universal, i.e., how do your criteria adjust to new forms, subjects, styles, attitudes, etc., a reflection on how you may have changed your understanding of what constitutes quality.

Grading Criteria

NB: If the work submitted is close to a passing grade (E) but not sufficient, the student will receive an Fx and will be asked to resubmit.

GRADE	ILO 1	ILO 2	ILO 3
A Outstanding achievement in	familiarity with and critical examination of methodologies related to the publishing industries	evaluating issues particular to the publication of literature (from manuscript to published work)	developing criteria for evaluation of texts for publication and participation in the editing process
B Excellent achievement in	familiarity with and critical examination of methodologies related to the publishing industries	evaluating issues particular to the publication of literature (from manuscript to published work)	developing criteria for evaluation of texts for publication and participation in the editing process
C Good achievement in	familiarity with and critical examination of methodologies related to the publishing industries	evaluating issues particular to the publication of literature (from manuscript to published work)	developing criteria for evaluation of texts for publication and participation in the editing process
D Satisfactory achievement in	familiarity with and critical examination of methodologies related to the publishing industries	evaluating issues particular to the publication of literature (from manuscript to published work)	developing criteria for evaluation of texts for publication and participation in the editing process
E Minimally adequate achievement in	familiarity with and critical examination of methodologies related to the publishing industries	evaluating issues particular to the publication of literature (from manuscript to published work)	developing criteria for evaluation of texts for publication and participation in the editing process
Fx	The student has not demonstrated all of the skills required for E.		
F	The student does not achieve the outcomes on a minimally adequate level.		