AUG 26  Introductory Class. What is a Feature?
   Distinguishing hard news stories from features?
   Discussion of: reading and writing assignments,
   Writing NY and Bi-Weekly Blog Postings/Comments
   Class Focus: The Survival of a Neighborhood
   About Places and About Faces

   **Reading Assignment for 9/2:**
   *Here is New York by E. B. White*

AUG 31  Ingredients of a Feature Story

   **Writing Assignment for 9/2:**
   250 Words on Neighborhood of Your Choice

SEPT 2  Discussion of *Here is New York*
   Discussion of Neighborhoods

SEPT 7  **Neighborhood Research Workshop**
   Professor Stephen Francoeur

   **Writing Assignments:**
   1. **Neighborhood Faces Query** (250 Words) 9/16
      (Describe the neighborhood person you wish to profile.
      Possibilities include: cop on the beat, local teacher,
      local activist, newspaper editor, long time resident, etc.)

   2. **Backgrounder on Your Neighborhood**—500-750 Words.
      (A Resource/Not a Paper*) Due September 21
      Include information on: a) Demographics b) Schools
      c) Local Businesses d) Real Estate e) *Conflicts/hot button issues
      Please make sure that you include relevant web resource links

   **Writing Assignment for 9/23:**
   First Draft Neighborhood Faces Story on Disk

SEPT 9  No Classes
SEPT 14  No Classes (Follow Friday schedule).

SEPT 16  Discussion of Neighborhood Faces Query

SEPT 21  Discussion of Neighborhood Backgrounders

SEPT 23  In-class workshop Neighborhood Faces Story (disk)

**Writing Assignment for 9/28:** Final Neighborhood Faces Story

**Reading Assignment for 9/28:**
Joseph Mitchell: *Joe Gould’s Secret*

SEPT 28  **Reading Assignment:** *Joe Gould’s Secret*

**Writing Assignments for 9/30:**
1. Neighborhood Places: Small Business Story Proposal
   (250 words) Be prepared to give class a little talk on the range of businesses in the neighborhood.

SEPT 30  Discussion of Small Business Proposal
(Proposals must include a list of sources).

**Assignment 10/5:**
Bring in neighborhood newspaper for class discussion

OCT 5  Neighborhood Newspapers: Local Coverage

**Writing Assignment for 10/7:**
Reporting Workshop for Small Business Stories
Bring in source list, notes, ideas, and if possible your lead.

OCT 7  Reporting Workshop Small Business Story

OCT 12  **Reading Assignment:** A. J. Liebling (excerpt)

OCT 14  Workshop: Small Business Story
Final Draft due: March 19.

**Reading Assignment for 10/19:**
Richard Price (excerpt)

**Writing Assignment for 10/21:**
Detailed notes on Community Services in Neighborhood

OCT 19  Class Discussion Richard Price Reading

**Evening:**
Harman Reading by Richard Price
Reception at 5 PM; Reading at 5:45 PM
Newman Conference Center/Library Building/ 750
Writing Assignment for April 2nd:
Feature/Profile: Richard Price (500-750 words)

OCT 21
Reading: Sheri Fink (Propublica, in collaboration with The New York Times Magazine, finalist Pulitzer Prize Feature Writing/Investigative Reporting:
http://www.propublica.org/feature/the-deadly-choices-at-memorial-826

Writing Assignment: Neighborhood Community Services Proposal for 10/26.

OCT 26
Discussion: Neighborhood Community Services Proposals

OCT 28
Blog work/Continuing Discussion
Community Services Story Proposals
Writing Assignment: 1st Draft Community Service Story 11/2.

NOV 2
Writing Workshop: Community Services Stories
Final Community Services Stories Due: 11/9.
Writing Assignment: Conflict Story Proposals and Outline 11/4

NOV 4
Discussion: Conflict Story Proposals + Outlines

NOV 9
Blog Work
Conflict Story Sources and Questions (minimum of 3 sources with five questions for each source)

Nov 11
Writing Workshop: Conflict Stories (Lead and Page One)

Nov 16
Reading: “The Girl in the Window,” Lane DeGregory, St. Petersburg Times, Pulitzer Prize Feature Writing 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing 2000
http://www.tampabay.com/features/humaninterest/article750838.ece

Nov 18
Writing Workshop: Page 1 + 2: Conflict Stories
Nov 23  **Reading:** “A Muslim Leader in Brooklyn, Reconciling 2 Worlds,” *The New York Times,* Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing 2007
http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/05/nyregion/05imam.html?_r=1&ref=muslimsinamerica

Nov 30  **Writing Workshop:** Pages 1, 2, and 3 Conflict Story

**Writing Assignment 5/7:** First Draft Conflict Story

DEC 2  First Draft Conflict Story on Disk (1,000 to 1,200 words)
In-class rewrites

DEC 7  In-class edits, Conflict Story

DEC 9  Final Conflict Story Due: (1,200 words)
PREDICTING THE FUTURE—
ORAL PRESENTATION ON IDEA FOR A FUTURE STORY.

**Required Reading/Books:**
*New York Times Metro Section*
*Here is New York* by E. B. White
*Joe Gould’s Secret* by Joseph Mitchell

**Recommended:**
*New York Times City Section,* Sundays

**OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS:**

This workshop course in FEATURE ARTICLE WRITING will focus on neighborhoods. During the semester, each of you will become an expert on your neighborhood by researching its demographics, attending local community board meetings, and, through interviewing, building a source list of contact people who may be community leaders, politicians, teachers, newspaper reporters, business owners, and/or residents—single or married, native-born or immigrant, young or old—all of whom contribute to the vibrancy of the community. What makes the neighborhood tick? What are its chief assets? What are its biggest problems? Who is in power? Who is left out? And, most important of all, how do neighborhoods survive in a period of economic downturn?

Good feature writing is based on a solid command of structure, insightful reporting, research, observation, a feel for style and narrative, an appreciation (and grounding) in the writing of other fine writers, and significant re-writing. We will hone our feature writing skills through a number of in-class writing and editing assignments as well as several short feature-writing assignments (500 to 800 words maximum), one longer assignment (1000 to 1,200 words) and a thorough rewrite. Your skilled reporting, original research, and lively writing will yield feature stories that no one else has written before—little known stories about people, places and
issues in neighborhoods that deserve to be told.

In addition to formal written assignments, the class will publish a neighborhood BLOG, which you will post bi-weekly as a neighborhood reporter. The goal here is to share community coverage and, at the same time, give you practice writing for social media.

Classroom Guidelines:

1. ALL assignments are due on time; no late papers or assignments will be accepted unless agreed upon with me before the due date. You must meet all deadlines.
2. All rewrites are due one week from the date you receive them.
3. All papers must be double-spaced with name and e-mail address at the top.
4. Read NYT daily. Recommended: City section on Sunday.
5. Class session: Class begins at 9:30 AM, unless otherwise discussed. Much of our class activity will involve class discussion about your blog posts and in-class writing; therefore, timely attendance and participation are important. Two late arrivals equal one absence. Baruch attendance guidelines will be followed.
6. Know the college’s policy on plagiarism. Go to the website: www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic_honesty.html. Evidence of plagiarism of any kind will result in sanctions that range from an F on the assignment to a failing grade in the course. A report of suspected academic dishonesty will be sent to the office of the Dean of Students. Any sources consulted MUST be attributed to those sources – websites, articles, books, etc., Ignorance of the policy is no excuse.
7. Grading and other class policies:

Breakdown of your final grade: Neighborhood Research* (10 %); Class participation and blog posts (20 %); Feature Stories: (50); and final feature/conflict story (20 %).