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# **INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING**

ENGL 111X, Section F02 - MWF 9:15-10:15 - Room G410 - 3 credits

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to prepare you for academic writing throughout your college career. You will be honing your critical thinking skills, presenting statements, arguments and information while drawing on the rhetorical situation. We will examine the academic discourse between the essays we read and the essays we write in class, because every time we write we are joining the ongoing conversation and pushing the conversation in a new direction. It is not enough to simply respond to an essay with an agree/ disagree verdict, but instead we must attempt to add something to what has already been discussed. Our goal is not only to examine purpose, audience and context, but to also find our own voice within academic discourse.

Prerequisites: Writing Placement or DEVE 070

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

You will produce four formal compositions in order to do the following by the end of the course:

- Reflect on previous writing to identify constraints
- Design texts to reflect form and function
- Introduce, analyze, and synthesize sources for specific rhetorical purposes.
- Consider how information becomes knowledge with the use of the web.

## **REQUIRED READING MATERIAL**

*Readings for Writers*, Custom Reader from Bedford/St. Martin. ISBN: 4576-1469-3

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR THIS CLASS**

- A notebook/ binder for in-class writing. This must have perforated pages, or loose-leaf paper if I should ask that you turn in a particular assignment. I will not ask for this journal as a whole, so this can also be used for note taking or other courses.
- A writing utensil of some sort.
- Access to a computer with Internet.

## **ATTENDANCE/ TARDINESS POLICY**

This majority of this course is based on class discussion and writing, so your regular attendance is paramount to your success in this course. I will take attendance every day. You are permitted three absences before your grade will be negatively affected. Any absences beyond three will result in your grade being decreased by 10% for each additional day. That being said, if you have a pressing health concern, family issues, etc, please come talk to me and we will work

something out. If you know you have an unavoidable absence, please let me know before the missed class rather than later. In addition, if you are tardy three times, this equals one absence. **If you have a flawless record of attendance, I will add 2% to your final grade at the end of the semester.**

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION/ BEHAVIOR**

During class you are expected to take part in class discussion, activities and writing. Please come prepared to each class, so that you can earn full participation points. We will be discussing a wide variety of topics and you are encouraged to express your opinions. It goes without saying that when engaged in discussion that you're expected to be courteous with your classmates. This requires listening, not interrupting and treating the opinion expressed with respect.

### **CLASS BLOG AND PERSONAL BLOG**

In addition to accessing a class blog ([www.engl111-crn74869.blogspot.com](http://www.engl111-crn74869.blogspot.com)) you will be asked to create a personal blog for use in this class. We will go through the various options for blog hosting (blogger, wordpress, etc) and a blog tutorial on the first day of class. Once the blog is created, you will publish reading responses and various assignments. These will be read and commented on by me, and a link to your blog will be added to the class blog homepage. You are not required to use your real name when creating this blog, and no formal essays will be published here. In addition, the date a post is due requires that it be published online no later than midnight of the due date.

If you anticipate that you'll have a problem regularly accessing the Internet during this course, or feel challenged by the use of technology, please see me immediately.

### **READING RESPONSE POSTS**

Several times over the semester you will be asked to write and publish a reading response on your personal blog. You will select one or more of the readings assigned during that particular week of class and write a short analysis (500 words). These responses are not intended for the sake of summary or reporting whether you liked the reading or not. I will be looking for critical thinking, interest and creativity applied to the approach of subject matter and/or relevant analysis of evidence. This space is yours for expressing your ideas, thoughts, realizations, findings, questions, etc. in these assignments.

### **FORMAL ESSAYS**

All papers must be formatted in the MLA style. They should be typed, double spaced, one-inch margins, 12 point font and printed on 8.5x11" paper. To count toward page length, you must fill  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the page, but if a paper is supposed to be 3-4 pages you need AT LEAST 3 pages. Works cited pages do not count toward page length. Your name, class name, assignment and date must be typed in the top left corner with page numbers in the top right corner. Please staple all work before submitting, and while we do write our reading responses on our blogs these essays must be printed and submitted in class as I will not accept these via email. For more information, refer to the "MLA" section in *A Writer's Reference* or (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>). Papers are due in class on the date assigned. Late papers will lose points, more specifically, for each day the paper is late there will be a loss of 10% to the paper's overall grade. If an "A" grade is earned and it is

one day late, the highest grade possible will be a “B.” If a “B” grade is earned and is two days late a “D” is the highest grade a student can receive. It is important that you communicate with me and turn in your papers when they are due.

### CONFERENCES

We will meet twice during the semester for individual conferences: once to discuss your first essay and again to discuss your Academic Research topic. These conferences will take place during class time and will be scheduled in advance. If, for some reason, you are unable to attend your assigned conference time, please let me know as soon as possible. These meetings count as class and should you choose not to attend it will count as an absence.

### WRITING CENTER

You are required to visit the Writing Center AT LEAST once during the course of the semester. This visit will be tallied into your Attendance/ Participation grade. I strongly urge you to plan your visits around your essay assignments. In order to receive full credit, you need to bring me a Writing Center business card (available at the front desk), dated and signed by your tutor. The Writing Center is located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of Gruening and can be reached at (907) 474-5314. Every visit that you make after your required two will earn you 2% extra credit added to your final grade.

Writing Center Hours:            Mon – Thurs: 10:00 – 4:00pm, 7:00 – 10:00pm,  
   Friday: 10:00 – 1:00pm  
   Sunday: 1:00 – 6:00pm

### OFFICE HOURS

I will keep regular office hours Monday from 10:15am – 12:15pm, immediately following our class. **Please feel free to come to my office for any reason.** If you need to arrange an alternative time to meet outside of class, just let me know. My desk is located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of Gruening. Turn right after stepping off the elevator and it’s the first door on your left.

### GRADING RUBRIC

ATTENDANCE/ PARTICIPATION	10%
OBSERVATION ESSAY	15%
ANALYSIS ESSAY	15%
RESEARCH PAPER	30%
REFLECTION ESSAY	10%
READING RESPONSES	20%

A+ = 97 – 100%	A = 93 – 96%	A- = 90 – 92%
B+ = 87 – 89%	B = 83 – 86%	B- = 80 – 82%
C+ = 77 – 79%	C = 73 – 76%	C- = 70 – 72%
D+ = 67 – 69%	D = 63 – 66%	D- = 60 – 62%
F = below 60%		

\*YOU **MUST** TURN IN ALL THREE ESSAYS AND THE RESEARCH PAPER TO PASS THIS COURSE.

### **EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES**

- Writing Center (or RSS) Tutorials (after your first required visit), in which you are tutored for work pertaining to our class: **1% extra credit**
- Attendance at Visiting Writers Events. Send me a paragraph or two summarizing the event by email: **1% extra credit**
- Attendance at UAF or community theatre or musical performance. Bring in your ticket stub, and a paragraph or two summarizing the performance: **1% extra credit**
- Writing content for our class website. Ideas include: a book review, if you stumble across an interesting article or Youtube video you can use critical inquiry to write about its relevance to our classroom discussion. **2.5% extra credit**
- Is there an on-campus event or performance that you want to write about for extra credit? Any alternate ideas not listed? See me.

Total Extra Credit: No more than 5% (not including the 2% for perfect attendance). So – you could potentially earn up to 7%!

### **CAMPUS SERVICES**

**Rural Student Services (RSS):** Supports students who have lived most of their lives in rural Alaskan communities.

<http://www.uaf.edu/ruralss> • 202 Brooks Building • (907) 474-7871

**Students with Disabilities:** The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. If you have a disability please see me so that we can discuss accommodations.

(907) 474-5655 • [fydso@uaf.edu](mailto:fydso@uaf.edu)

**The Writing Center:** The Writing Center is an excellent resource for all UAF students. The tutors on staff are available to go over your work at any stage and offer suggestions to make your writing stronger. You do not need an appointment for tutorials. However it is helpful to make an appointment to ensure that a tutor will be available.

<http://uaf.edu/english/writingcenter> • (907) 474-5314

### **PLAGARISM**

Diana Hacker defines plagiarism as: (1) failing to cite quotations or borrowed ideas; (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words.

If you are unsure about citation, please ask a representative at the Writing Center, or consult with your instructor. Appropriate action will be taken for any instance of plagiarism.

#### WEEK ONE

9.2 Introductions and Blog Tutorial

#### WEEK TWO

9.5 LABOR DAY: NO CLASS

9.7 Observation Unit Introduction  
Read: Syllabus, "Visualizing the Disabled Body"

**Due: Blog Address/ Intro Post**

9.9 **Due: Reading Response Post**

#### WEEK THREE

9.12 Museum Visit  
Read: "People as Pictures" on blog

9.14 **Due: Museum Response Post**

9.16 **Due: Reading Response Post**

#### WEEK FOUR

9.19 Peer Review  
**Due: Draft Observation Essay**

9.21 Sentence Workshop

9.23 Analysis Introduction  
**Due: Observation Essay**

#### WEEK FIVE

9.26 Read: "Soft Sciences Are Often Harder Than Hard Sciences"

9.28 Conference Sign-Up  
Read: "Understanding Comics"

9.30 Library  
**Due: Reading Response Post**

#### WEEK SIX

10.3 CONFERENCES: NO CLASS

10.5 CONFERENCES: NO CLASS

10.7 CONFERENCES: NO CLASS

#### WEEK SEVEN

10.10 Read: "Only Daughter"  
**Due: Conf. Response Post**

10.12 Read: "Neat People vs. Sloppy People"

10.14 **Due: Reading Response Post**

#### WEEK EIGHT

10.17 Read: "Learning the Language"

10.19 Read: "Me Talk Pretty One Day" on Blog

10.21 **Due: Reading Response Post**

#### WEEK NINE

10.24 Peer Review

**Due: Draft Analysis Essay**

10.26 Sentence Workshop

10.28 Synthesis Introduction  
**Due: Analysis Essay**

#### WEEK TEN

10.31 Read: "Beyond Information Revolution"

11.2 Read: "Where I Come From Is Like This"

11.4 **Due: Reading Response Post**

#### WEEK ELEVEN

11.7 Research Topics

11.9 Conference Sign-Up

11.11 **Due: Research Plan Post**

#### WEEK TWELVE

11.14 CONFERENCES: NO CLASS  
**Due: Research Prospectus**

11.16 CONFERENCES: NO CLASS

11.18 CONFERENCES: NO CLASS

#### WEEK THIRTEEN

11.21 **Due: Annotated Bibliography**

11.23 Citation

11.25 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: NO CLASS

#### WEEK FOURTEEN

11.28 Peer Review

**Due: Draft Research Paper**

11.30 Sentence Workshop

12.2 **Due Research Paper**

#### WEEK FIFTEEN

12.5 Read: "The Banking Concept of Education"

12.7 Reflection Activity  
**Due: Final Reading Response  
Post**

12.9 Peer Review  
**Due: Draft Reflection Essay**

WEEK SIXTEEN

12.12 Sentence Workshop

12.14 Final Exam  
**Due: Reflection Essay**

*\*Subject to Change if Necessary*