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*I am best reached by email.

Semester: Fall 2011
Class Time: MWF 10:30-11:30AM
Meeting Place: Gruening 301
Section: F21
Course No: 74886

ENGL F111x: Introduction to Academic Writing: Writing and the Social Self

“Yet only through communication can human life hold meaning.”
– Paulo Freire

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this document and the course as appropriate throughout the semester. The course schedule/calendar is subject to change.

Required Text

Readings for Writers. Comp. UAF Composition Committee. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2011. Print.

Course Description

From course catalogue: Instruction and practice in written inquiry and critical reading. Introduction to writing as a way of developing, exploring and testing ideas. Concentration on research methods and techniques. 3 Credits. Prerequisites: Writing Placement or DEVE 070.

What this means in our class: Pragmatically, you will learn how to write college level compositions for your other courses at UAF. But in my course, you’ll also learn how to observe and question the world around you. Through the course readings and texts, we will consider how individuals narrate their own stories, ideas, and locations while becoming engaged with the concept of community and society at large. What is the difference between the individual self and the social self? How do we become aware of and critical of what is outside of us, and the social systems we are a part of? Concern and engagement with the world can be achieved through various means – awareness of social issues and injustices, active citizenship, political or protest writing, or simply by reflecting on one’s own identity and experiences.

Questions to consider throughout our course:

- What is the social self?
- How does one’s writing reveal and influence one’s place in a community?
How does one’s place in a community reveal and influence one’s writing?
- Why might reflection be important to the critical thinking process?
- How can we use writing to become engaged with our own communities?

Learning Objectives

You will produce four formal compositions (main essays) 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.
- Through composition, critical thinking, and open discussion, reflect on personal and societal identity, experiences, issues, and development.

Blackboard

You will need Internet access for this course. This syllabus and all other important class documents, readings, and assignments will be posted on Blackboard (which can be accessed through UAOnline). If you have questions about how to use Blackboard, please see me for assistance.

My Teaching Style (and some disclaimers)

I believe that teaching is a form of service. So my role is to help guide you through this experience and provide any helpful knowledge and resources I might have. If you have any questions about this course, UAF, or life in general, feel free to visit me during my office hours! I do **not** want to lecture at you for an hour every class period. I am not the final authority on any topics we discuss; we will all learn from each other through experience and class discussion. I expect you to **meaningfully** and respectfully participate in the discussion every class. The course readings and texts are carefully selected to challenge us as readers, writers, and critical thinkers. Keep in mind the theme of the course (Writing and the Social Self) as we work through the readings and texts. Do not be afraid to question readings and assumptions; an open mind and attitude will really help you in this course.

The Spirit of the Class

In this course, we are a community. Therefore, we must treat everyone in the class with dignity and respect. I expect you to share your thoughts and opinions in an authentic, honest way, but you must be respectful and considerate. Our classroom is a safe space; it is essential that each student feel safe in expressing his/her own thoughts and sharing his/her own writing.

Policies (the serious stuff)

- ***Attendance, Absences, and Tardiness:*** You must attend my course to do well. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. ***Any more than three absences will result in a loss of 50 points for each absence (5% per absence being taken off your final grade).*** If you have an absence, the assignments due and work done in class that day cannot be made up, and the lesson will not be repeated. Every three tardies (coming to our class late) will equal one absence. I understand that unavoidable situations and emergencies arise that may impact your attendance. If this happens you must begin communicating with me about it ***as soon as possible***, and I may be able to make special accommodations for you.

- **Participation and Preparation:** You are expected to come to class on time (be in your seat and ready to work by 10:30AM) and stay for the entire time. You must be prepared to *actively participate* in class discussion, so you will need to have completed all homework assignments and readings before each class. You must bring a notebook and folder or binder for handouts, a writing utensil, the *Readings for Writers* book, this syllabus, and any assignments and readings to class *every day*. Failure to do any of this will result in a reduction of your final grade. All assignments must be turned in by the due date and time (beginning of class); I will not accept late work.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is stealing another writer's work or ideas and passing them off as your own. All work in this class must be your own and all sources must be properly cited. If you are unsure of what plagiarism is or how to properly cite information, please see me immediately. You may also consult the latest edition of the *MLA Handbook* or visit the Writing Center in Gruening Hall. *Plagiarism of any kind could result in failure of this course.*
- **Submitted Work:** All essays must be formatted in MLA style. They should be typed, double spaced, one-inch margins, 12 point, legible font, and printed on 8.5x11 in. paper. To count toward page length, you must fill $\frac{3}{4}$ of the page. Works cited pages do not count toward page length. Your name, class name, assignment, and date must be typed in the top left hand corner with pages numbers in the top right hand corner after your last name (i.e.: Scarano 1). Please staple all work before handing it in.
- **Email Communication:** You will need Internet access for this course. I will mainly communicate with you via email outside of class. Check your university email account every day and respond in a timely fashion. My email address is coscarano@alaska.edu.
- **Electronic Devices:** Use of laptops, music players/headphones, and cell phones will not be allowed in our class, it is distracting and disrespectful to our class community. *Cell phones will be turned off or kept on silent mode in our class. You will not text in our class at all.* If you must answer a phone call in the case of an emergency, please step out of class to do so.

Course Evaluation (how you will be graded)

Essay 1: Observation	15%	150 points
Essay 2: Analysis	15%	150 points
Essay 3: Research paper/project/presentation	30%	300 points
Essay 4: Reflection	10%	100 points
Writing Assignments	20%	200 points
Class Participation and Preparation	10%	100 points
Total	100%	1000 points

A= 900-1000

B=800-899

C=700-799

D=600-699

F= 0-599 points, failure of course

** I will not issue a passing grade to anyone who does not complete all/ each of the main four essays.*

Teaching and Learning Methods

- ***Essays 1, 2, and 4:*** These are major essays that will occur as we move from one main unit or topic to the next. Essays 1 and 2 are worth 15% of your grade, while Essay 4 is worth 10% of your grade. These essays will be several pages in length and completed in MLA format. I will give you specific instructions regarding these essays closer to their due dates.
- ***Essay 3:*** Essay 3 will be the most significant product of your work in our course. It can be in the form of a research paper, research presentation, or a research project (the emphasis of this assignment will be on meaningful inquiry and research). I will give you specific instructions regarding Essay 3 closer to its due date.
- ***Writing Assignments:*** Includes any writing prompts, essay rough drafts, or reading responses I ask you to complete and turn in throughout the semester. I will provide specific instructions for each Writing Assignment.
- ***Class Participation and Preparation:*** This includes all homework reading and in-class work and discussion. This could be free writes in class, work in groups or pairs, ungraded writing, class discussion, peer review, presence and attentiveness in class, etc. ***You must visit the Writing Center once this semester for my course;*** this required visit is included in the participation points. See “Writing Center” Under “Helpful UAF Services” in this syllabus for more information. Once or twice in the semester, I will cancel class and require each student to meet with me individually in my office to discuss the progress on their essay. You are required to attend these conference(s) for full participation points.

Opportunities for Extra Credit

- Visit the Writing Center (after your first required visit) during which you are tutored for work pertaining to our class. Must prove attendance the same way you prove attendance for required visit. 10 points per visit.
- Attend a Visiting Writer Event. Send me a 1-2 page essay (by email) summarizing this event and your reactions to it. 10 points per event.
- Attend a UAF or community theater performance. Bring me your ticket stub and a 1-2 page essay summarizing the performance and your reactions to it. 10 points per event.
- Attend a musical performance on-campus. Bring your ticket stub or program, and a 1-2 page essay summarizing the performance and your reactions to it. 10 points per event.

- Is there another on-campus event or performance that you want to write about for extra credit? See me and we can discuss it.

*Total extra credit can be no more than 50 points (5% added to your final grade, potentially).

Helpful UAF Services

- ***Writing Center:*** The tutors in the Writing Center can help you with essays and writing assignments in any stage of the process (forming a thesis through final edits). The Writing Center is located on the 8th floor of the Gruening Building. This service is free. ***You are required to visit the Writing Center once this semester and have a tutor review a paper or writing prompt for this course before it is due.*** I suggest scheduling your visit near the time a major essay is due (take a draft of Essay 1, 2, or 3 a week or so before it is due, ideally), so that you can work on that with a Writing Center tutor. In order to receive credit for this, bring me a Writing Center business card (available at the front desk), dated and signed by your tutor. You may also gain extra credit points by visiting the Writing Center after your required visit.
Writing Center Hours: Mon. – Thurs.: 10am – 4pm, 7-10pm, Friday: 10am-1pm, Sunday: 1-6pm. Appointments are suggested, but walk-ins are welcome. Contact: 907.474.5314
- ***Disability Services:*** If you have a disability that you feel may affect your performance in class, UAF Disability Services will take the necessary steps to accommodate you. Contact: 907.474.5655
- ***Rural Student Services:*** RSS specializes in providing advising and tutoring to rural and Native students in a multitude of forms. A Writing Center Tutor is available there Mon. through Thur. from 2–4 p.m. Contact: 907.474.6619
- ***Student Support Services:*** This service offers tutoring and other support systems for qualifying students. Please visit them in Gruening 512 or email: fysssp@uaf.edu. Contact: 907.474.6844

Special Circumstances

If you have any special circumstances (disabilities, personal or family situations, etc) that you feel I should know about and/or that may impact your success in this course, please ***speak to me in person as soon as possible.*** You may see me after class or email me to set up a meeting in my office.

I am very willing to work with the Office of Disability Services (208 Whitaker Building, 907-474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities.

Important UAF Dates

- Friday, September 9: Deadline for adding classes, late registration and fee payment, and deadline for 100% refund of tuition and fees (6PM in person; midnight at UAOnline)
- Friday, September 16: Deadline for student-initiated and faculty-initiated drops (course does not appear on academic record) and deadline for 50% refund of tuition (tuition only, no fees refunded)
- Friday, October 28: Last day for withdrawals – students and faculty
- Monday, November 14: Registration for spring semester 2012 begins
- Thursday, November 24 – Sunday, November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Monday, December 12: Last day of instruction
- Final Examinations: Wednesday, December 14 – Saturday, December 17

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	In class work	Readings or assignments due for next class
		Week 1 – Introductions
9/2	Introductions and index cards	Due: Letter on Wednesday, 9/7 at 10:30AM
		Week 2 – On Observation (Unit 1)
9/5	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY	No assignments or readings.
9/7	- Letter due at 10:30AM -Syllabus and expectations	Read: Syllabus and write email me 2 questions you have about anything in it due by Thursday at 9M.
9/9	-Postcards activity and discussion	Due: <i>Writing Prompt 1: Writing About an Object</i> on Monday, 9/12 at 10:30AM Read: Haines’ “Writer as Alaskan” (on Blackboard)
		Week 3 – On Observing and Writing Place & Perspective (Unit 1)
9/12	- WP 1 due at 10:30AM -Discussion of Writing Prompt 1 -Discussion of Haines’ “Writer as Alaskan”	No assignments or readings.

9/14	-Discussion of Haines' continued	No assignments or readings.
9/16	-Observation activity	Due: Reading Response on Tannen's essay on Sunday, 9/18 by 9PM Read: Tannen's "There is No Unmarked Woman" (in <i>Readings for Writers</i>)
		Week 4 – On Observing and Writing Place, Perspective & Identity (Bridge)
9/19	-Group activity and discussion of Tannen's "There is No Unmarked Woman"	Due: <i>Essay 1: Observation</i> on Wednesday, 9/21 at 10:30AM
9/21	-Essay 1: Observation due by 10:30AM -Discussion of "There is No Unmarked Woman" continued	No assignments or readings.
9/23	-Newspaper article activity and discussion	Due: Reading Response on Cisneros's essay due Sunday, 9/25 by 9PM Read: Cisneros's "Only Daughter" (in <i>Readings for Writers</i>)
		Week 5 – On Analysis of Identity (Unit 2)
9/26	-Discussion of Cisneros's essay	No assignments or readings.
9/28	-Discussion of Cisneros's essay	Due: <i>Writing Prompt 3: TBA</i> on Friday, 9/30 at 10:30AM
9/30	-WP 3 due at 10:30AM -Discussion on WP3	Read: Allen's "Where I Come From is Like This" (in <i>Readings for Writers</i>) Due: Reading Response – due date and time TBA
		Week 6 – On Analysis of Identity and Community (Unit 2)
10/3	-Discussion of Allen's essay	No assignments or readings.
10/5	-Discussion of Allen's essay continued	Read: Davis' "Visualizing the Disabled Body" (in <i>Readings for Writers</i>) Due: Reading Response – due date and time TBA
10/7	-Discussion of Davis' essay	No assignments or readings.
		Week 7 – On Analysis of Insiders

		vs. Outsiders (Unit 2)
10/10	-Discussion of Davis' essay continued -Discussion of Essay 2 and WP 4	Due: <i>Writing Prompt 4: Topic Ideas</i>
10/12	-WP 4 due at 10:30AM -Topic ideas workshop	Read: Diamond's "Soft Sciences Are Often Harder Than Hard Sciences" (in <i>Readings for Writers</i>) Due: Reading Response – due date and time TBA
10/14	-Discussion of Diamond's essay	Due: <i>Essay 2: Analysis (rough draft)</i> on Monday, 10/17 at 10:30AM
		Week 8 – On Analysis of Insiders vs. Outsiders (Unit 2)
10/17	-Essay 2 (rough draft) due at 10:30AM -Peer review -Discussion of Diamond's essay continued	Read: TBA
10/19	-Discussion of reading	Due: TBA
10/21	-Discussion of reading	Due: <i>Essay 2: Analysis (Final)</i> on Monday, 10/24 at 10:30AM
		Week 9 – Insiders vs. Outsiders and Social Systems and Issues (Bridge)
10/24	-Essay 2: Analysis due at 10:30AM. -Discussion of Essay 2	No assignments or readings.
10/26	-Preparation for Freire reading	Read: Freire's "The 'Banking' Concept of Education" (in <i>Readings for Writers</i>) Due: Reading Response – due date and time TBA
10/28	-Discussion of Freire's essay	
		Week 10 – On Social Systems and Issues (Unit 3)
10/31	-Activity and discussion of Friere reading continued	No assignments or readings.
11/2	-Discussion of Essay 3 and WP 5	Due: <i>Writing Prompt 5: Thesis ideas</i> due Friday, 11/4 at 10:30AM
11/4	-WP 5 due at 10:30AM -Thesis workshop -MLA/Research Boot Camp	Read: TBA Due: Reading Response – due date and time TBA

		Week 11 – On Social Systems and Issues (Unit 3)
11/7	-Reading discussion -MLA/Research Boot Camp continued -Conference sign ups	No assignments or readings.
11/9	-Library visit!	Read: TBA Due: Reading Response – due date and time TBA.
11/11	-Discussion of reading -Final Essay 3 (rough draft) questions	No assignments or readings – work on Essay 3 (rough draft).
		Week 12 – On Social Systems and Issues (Unit 3)
11/14	-Individual conferences	No assignments or readings – work on Essay 3 (rough draft).
11/16	-Individual conferences	No assignments or readings – work on Essay 3 (rough draft).
11/18	-Individual conferences	Due: <i>Essay 3 (rough draft)</i> on Monday, 11/21 at 10:30AM
		Week 13 – On Social Systems and Issues (Unit 3)
11/21	-Essay 3 (rough draft) due at 10:30AM -Peer review of Essay 3 (rough draft) -Sign up for presentations	No assignments or readings – work on Essay 3 (final).
11/23	-Peer review of Essay 3 (rough draft) continued.	No assignments or readings – work on Essay 3 (final).
11/25	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	No assignments or readings – work on Essay 3 (final).
		Week 14 – Experience and Community (Bridge)
11/28	-Essay 3 due at 10:30AM -Presentations of Essay 3	Read: TBA Due: Reading Response – due date and time TBA.
11/30	-Presentations of Essay 3 -Discussion of reading	No assignments or readings.
12/2	-Presentations of Essay 3. -Discussion of Essay 4 and WP 6	Due: <i>Writing Prompt 6: TBA</i> on Monday, 12/5 at 10:30AM
		Week 15 – On Personal Reflection (Unit 4)

12/5	-WP 6 due at 10:30AM -Discussion of reflection	Read: TBA Due: Reading Response –due date and time TBA.
12/7	-Discussion of reading	
12/9	-Discussion of reading	No assignments or readings – work on Essay 4: Reflection.
		Week 16 – On Reflection of the Social Self (Unit 4)
12/12	-Wrap-up	Due: <i>Essay 4: Reflection</i> on Wednesday, 12/14
12/14	Essay 4: Reflection due	