

"A word after a word after a word is power." --Margaret Atwood

Introduction to Academic Writing

CRN 35116 • ENGL 111x F11 • Spring 2014 • Tue and Thu 11:30am-1:00pm • Reichardt 203

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Office: 8th Floor Gruening Building • Office Hours: Tues. 10:15-11:15am and Thurs 1:00 – 2:00pm

Course Description

This course is designed to acquaint you with academic writing. In this course, we will look at a variety of interactions with the written word in order to improve our own writing. We will develop our own style and voice in a manner that is appropriate for an academic framework. We will also learn how to think critically about a variety of issues and express this thinking to specific audiences. We will learn to critically observe the world around us. We will examine and respond to academic texts. We will learn to synthesize our ideas with the larger conversation of writing happening around us. We will learn to reflect on those conversations and the effectiveness of our writing. These skills will help prepare you to write concise, thoughtful, relevant papers for the rest of your academic career and throughout your life.

Course Goals

By the end of the course students will be able to do the following:

Identify and explain how features of a text reflect audience, context, and purpose.

Select and analyze evidence for a specific purpose.

Reflect on their own past writing to identify its constraints.

Required Text

Cohen, Samuel, ed. *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology*. 4th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. Print.



Attendance

You are expected to attend every scheduled class throughout the semester. Because this class is discussion-based and rooted in student involvement, attendance to class is mandatory. It is the policy of the UAF Writing Program that students must attend 80% of the classes in order to get a passing grade. I do understand that life does not always go as planned and there may be times when you are unable to attend. If you know that you will be unable to attend a scheduled class, please let me know prior to the class. Also, if you have perfect attendance over the course of the semester, I will add 5 points to your final grade.

GRADING

The more time, thought, and effort you put in to this course, the better your grade will be. If you participate in class and complete all the assignments, you will do well in this class. Only letter grades will be earned. There will be no +/- grades.

100-90	A
90-80	B
80-70	C
70-60	D
60 or less	F

Engagement	20
Weekly Assignments	10
Goal-setting Paper	10
Observation Paper	15
Analysis Paper	15
Research Paper	20
Reflection	10
Total	100

Extra Credit Opportunities

There are a few ways that you can earn extra credit in this class. Each time you visit the writing center to work on a piece of writing for this class, you will receive 1 extra point toward your final grade. If you attend a scholarly event at the university and write a two page response to it, you will get 2 points toward your final grade. The maximum extra credit that can be earned is 10 points.

Yet only through communication can human life hold meaning.

-Paulo Freire

Engagement: Writing is first and foremost a conversation. It is of the utmost importance that each student engages in this conversation. This will take the form of discussions, peer reviews, pair work, and group work. Being completely engaged and communicating effectively in these interactions will be a large portion of your final grade.

Plagiarism: The focus of this course is to develop your voice as a writer and situate your own voice and your own ideas in a larger context. Because of this, using writing by other authors without citing them is strictly prohibited and carries serious consequences. When in doubt, cite! If you are unsure about plagiarism rules, please come see me.

Late Work: I do not accept late work. If you are having trouble or are unable to complete the assignment by the due date, please come see me.

Electronics in the Classroom: The main purpose of our time together in class is to interact and engage with each other. This is why we meet. Because of this, use of cell phones, tablets, or laptops in our classroom will not be permitted except under special circumstances.

Office Hours and Contacting Me: I will be available Tuesday from 10:15-11:15am and Thursday from 1:00-2:00pm every week. Please do not hesitate to come by my office for any reason. If you would like to meet with me and these times do not work for you, we can schedule an appointment for another time. My office is on the 8th floor of the Gruening Building. If you come to the English Department, someone will be able to direct you. Additionally, I am easily reached by email.

What to Expect from Yourself and This Course

Expect to write. This is first and foremost a writing course. Practicing writing is essential to improving. This means that completing all assignments will be very important to your success.

Expect to take an active interest in your own point of view and your own ideas. What you have to say matters and we will work together to help you express these ideas in the most effective way possible.

Expect to learn and grow. This class is required for a reason. You should see this class and the assignments and discussions as opportunities to explore ideas, develop your voice, learn, and grow as a thinker and a writer.

Expect to read. We will have regular reading assignments which will be essential to your success in this course. These assignments will serve as models for our own writing and as

Expect to come to class prepared. This means that you have done the readings and are ready to have an engaged, active conversation on the subject. Come to class with questions and ideas. Come to class ready to listen and participate fully.

Expect to listen. All the students in this course have unique points of view and ideas.

Expect to question. This will not be a course in which you are given correct answers to the questions posed. Be prepared to question your own assumptions and develop your ideas on a variety of topics.

Expect to be responsible for your own learning. If you are having trouble with assignments, class policies, readings, or any aspect of this course, please come talk to me. I am happy to work with anyone who is putting thought and effort into their own education, even if they are finding it challenging.

Class Schedule*

We are a species that needs and wants to understand who we are. Sheep lice do not seem to share this longing, which is one reason why they write so little.

Anne Lamott

Week		Tuesday		Thursday
1	1/14	No Class	1/16	Observation Activity /Course Intro
2	1/21	Setting Standards	1/23	Due: Goal-Setting Essay
3	1/28	Conferences	1/30	Conferences
4	2/4	Discussion Reading 1	2/6	Peer Review
5	2/11	Observation Activity	2/13	Due: Observation Essay
6	2/18	Discussion Reading 2	2/20	Discussion Reading 3
7	2/25	Analysis Activity	2/27	Writing Activity
8	3/4	Analysis Brainstorm	3/6	Peer Review Analysis Essay
9	3/11	Sentence Workshop	3/13	Due: Analysis Essay
10	3/18	Spring Break	3/20	Spring Break
11	3/25	Research Brainstorm	3/27	Library Visit
12	4/1	What is a research proposal?	4/3	Due: Research Paper Proposal
13	4/8	Conferences	4/10	Conferences
14	4/15	Synthesis Activity	4/17	Due: 1 st Draft of Research Paper
15	4/22	Synthesis Activity	4/24	Due: Research Paper
16	4/29	Discussion: Reflection	5/1	Due: Reflection Paper
17	5/6	10:15am – 12:15pm Final		

**This schedule is subject to change.*

Helpful Resources

Student Support Services: Student Support Services programs are designed to provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. To contact them, call 474-6844, go to Gruening Room 514, or visit them on the web at www.uaf.edu/sss/ to see if you qualify.

Rural Student Services: Rural Student Services (RSS) is an academic advising department with 40 years of experience in working with students from all over the state of Alaska. We are here to assist you in achieving student success by linking you to current information pertinent to your education, lifestyle, and goals. RSS is known for its welcoming and friendly environment. They are located in the Brooks Building or you can contact them at 888-478-1452 or 474-7871 or uaf-rss@alaska.edu. You can also find them online at <http://www.uaf.edu/rurals/>.

UAF Writing Center: The Writing Center is a student-staffed, student-oriented service of the English Department. Our tutors, English Department teaching assistants and a few outstanding undergraduate students, can assist you in all phases of the writing process. The Writing Center also features a Computer Laboratory with free printing and is a resource center providing a full range of dictionaries, handbooks, thesauruses. They are located on the 8th Floor of Gruening. You can contact them at 474-5314 or fywrc@uaf.edu. Check <http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/> for hours and more information.

Disability Services: At UAF Disability Services, our goal is to provide UAF students with access to academic classes and course materials through an interactive accommodation process. We enjoy supporting individuality, promoting independence and celebrating graduations. You can find them in Room 208 of the Whittaker Building or online at <http://www.uaf.edu/disability/>. Contact UAF Disability Services by email at uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu, by phone at 474-5655, or by TTY at 474-1827.