

Writing about the Social and Natural Sciences

CRN 76790 • ENGL 213x F03 • 3 Credits • Fall 2014 •

Tue and Thu 2:00-3:30pm • Gruening 405

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Office: 8th Floor Gruening Building • Office Hours: Tues and Thu 1:00 – 2:00pm

Course Description

This student-centered, audience-based writing course is designed to help students develop rhetorical strategies for active citizenship in the classroom and out of the classroom. This course examines the discourse surrounding the concepts of love, sex, and marriage in the social sciences and natural sciences. Though this is not a course on romantic love, this topic will be the lens through which we look at the different ways we can write about the science, sociology, history, and psychology of these themes. We will explore texts that deal with these topics in the natural and social sciences and read them closely to see what we can discover about texts and discourse. This exploration will be the springboard from which we create and analyze our own texts in order to more fully understand the choices that we make as writers.

From the Catalog: The course provides instruction in critical reading and writing by examining academic questions from the perspective of rhetorical situations. Concentrates on the research methods and techniques necessary to create extended written arguments and multimodal texts for a variety of audiences. (Prerequisite: Completion of ENG 111x or its equivalent).

Course Goals

This course will provide students with instruction in extended written arguments. There will be an emphasis on research methods and techniques for reaching public and academic audiences.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to select and synthesize information from multiple perspectives, rhetorical genres, and audiences, design effective texts in response to changing audiences and purposes, and assess their choices as writers.

Required Texts

Fisher, Helen. *Why We Love*. New York: St. Martin's, 2004. Print.

Lewis, Thomas, Amini, Fari, and Lannon, Richard. *A General Theory of Love*. New York: Random House, 2001. Print.



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.

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 2 extra points toward your final grade. If you every class period, you will receive 5 extra points toward your final grade. If you miss only one class period, you will receive 3 extra points toward your final grade. The maximum extra credit that can be earned is 10 points.

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

Engagement	20
Weekly Assignments	20
Academic Paper	20
Public Paper	20
Multimodal Project	15
Reflection	5
Total	100

Assignments

Engagement (20 points): 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. This grade will include your attendance, punctuality, and participation in class.

Weekly Assignments (20 points total): Each Tuesday you will be responsible for posting one blog post or comment, as laid out on the course schedule.

Blog Posts: Over the course of the semester, you will write five blog posts. Each post will be in response to a prompt given the previous class. Blog posts should be short and concise – between 250 and 300 words – and give thoughtful response to the readings for the week in light of the prompt. Blog posts should not be a summary of the reading (your peers and I will have already read it) but instead should add something to the conversation about the topic and make your instructor, your peers, and the audience outside our class think. Remember that blogs are multimodal, so you may add pictures, video, music or other kinds of media that might help you get your point across. Our class blog is located at <https://lovesexandmarriage213x.wordpress.com/>.

Blog Comments: On the weeks when you do not have a blog post due, you will comment on at least one of your peers' blog posts, though you are free to comment on more. These comments should be thoughtful and academic responses to your peers' writing and should be about 100 words.

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 or ideas by other authors without citing them is strictly prohibited and carries serious consequences. When in doubt, cite! Additionally, using your own writing that was intended originally for another purpose without express permission is also considered plagiarism. 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.

Course Policies

Attendance: You are expected to attend every scheduled class throughout the semester. Because this course is discussion-based and rooted in student involvement, attendance to class is mandatory.

University Writing Program Attendance Policy: Our synchronous writing classes taught at UAF require attendance. Because writing courses depend on class discussion, peer review of writing, in addition to lecture and presentations, our classes share a baseline attendance policy. Students enrolled in writing classes must attend 80% of synchronous class sessions in order to be eligible for passing the course.

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 and Thursday from 1:00-2:00pm. 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.

Helpful Resources

UAF Writing Center: Tutors 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.

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/ss/ 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. 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/ruralss/>.

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. 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.

Veterans' Services: We are dedicated to helping veterans get the resources they need to achieve excellence in the classroom and occupational success once they leave UAF. We provide support to student-veterans and their families in an atmosphere of respect for their service to the nation with the aim of off-setting any disadvantages incurred as a result of their sacrifices. Through education, administrative services, job advisement, and community outreach, we hope to further the cause of veterans on our campus and beyond. The Veterans' Resource Center is located at 111 Eielson Building and can be contacted on the web at <http://www.uaf.edu/veterans/> or by phone at 907-474-2475.

Schedule*

Week	Tuesday		Thursday	
1			9/4	Intro Activity /Course Intro
2 Rhetorical Situations	9/9	Setting Standards	9/11	Discussion: Writing in Rhetorical Situations
3 Genre	9/16	Blog Post and Reading Due: “Lust, Attraction, Attachment”	9/18	Due: Proposal, Academic Paper Library Visit
4 Conferences	9/23	Conferences	9/25	Conferences
5 Citations	9/30	Blog Comment and Reading Due: “Affect, Attachment, Memory”	10/2	Due: First Draft, Academic Audience Paper
6 Audience	10/7	Blog Post and Reading Due: <i>Why We Love</i> p. 1-50	10/9	Due: Second Draft, Academic Audience Paper
7 Consequences	10/14	Blog Comment and Reading Due: <i>Why We Love</i> p. 51-98	10/16	Due: Final Draft, Academic Audience Paper
8 Purpose	10/21	Blog Post and Reading Due: <i>A General Theory of Love</i> p. 1-34	10/23	Due: Proposal, Public Audience Paper
9 Conferences	10/28	Conferences	10/30	Conferences
10 Sources	11/4	Blog Comment and Reading Due: <i>A General Theory of Love</i> p. 35-65	11/6	Due: First Draft, Public Audience Paper
11 Context	11/11	Blog Post and Reading Due: <i>A General Theory of Love</i> p. 65- 98	11/13	Due: Second Draft, Public Audience Paper
12 Choices	11/18	Blog Comment and Reading Due: <i>A General Theory of Love</i> p. 100-144	11/20	Due: Final Draft, Public Audience Paper
13 Reflection	11/25	The Blog Post that Made You Think Blog and Presentation	11/27	No Class: Thanksgiving Break
14 Writing Other Modes	12/2	Brainstorm New Mode	12/4	Due: 1 st Draft New Mode
15 Writing Other Modes	12/9	Due: Program Essay	12/11	Due: Final Draft New Mode
16 Final	12/16	Final Exam 1-3pm		

*Note: This schedule is subject to change.