



An Overview of the Course, Expectations, Assignments, and Objectives

1200.18

11:00-12:15

T/R

Composition

current topics >>>

Essential Questions to Guide our Semester...

- Why do we write?
- Who do we write for?
- How do we write for meaning for ourselves and our readers?

Questions? Concerns?

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What is Composition?

Personal Narrative, Research, Descriptive, On-Demand

Writers learn to write by reading, and readers learn to write by writing. It's all circuitous. You can't write well, without reading well. We will do both in this course.

Writing is a skill that you need the rest of your life. There will be no ESCAPING it—sending e-mails, text, essay exams, memos, and more. In this course, you will write, write and rewrite. The major difference in this course is that you terms of what you will write. You will experience how to discover topics of writing that are meaningful to you. You will also learn how to make an assigned topic your own. You will learn to know the differences between revision, editing, and proofreading.

You will discover the inherent power that you, as a writer, possess and learn how to harness it to improve your writing. You are expected to bring your writing to a level that it is polished and publishable. You will then share your writing throughout the writing process with the community of writers in class. Also,

you will receive and give thoughtful and critical critiques about your writing and your peers.

The ability to read critically is a skill that you will learn. This helps you to become

a more thoughtful and deeper reader of your own work. You will combine all of this knowledge with your own experience and connect to the wider world (political, social, scientific, historical, etc.).

Through multiple drafts, conferences, and readings of your

work, you will think deeper about your own writing and readings.

This is to help prepare you for the personal and academic writing you will do while here at university and in life. Your words need to have your voice, and you will learn how powerful that voice may be.

While there is a great deal of writing; you, as author, will be in full control of the topics and process.

Nitty-Gritty Details...

This is a writing workshop course and as such, your daily and thoughtful participation is necessary and required. More than five (4) absences will result in a failing grade for this course. Three absences will result in a decrease in a full grade (for example, from a B to a C) for your final grade...

Late Paper Policy:

Simply written, late papers are not accepted. At work, you can not hand in late papers, neither can you in this Also, if a class day is devoted to revision, peer writing, or is a workshop day and you do not have your writing, you will be asked to leave and the missed day will count as an unexcused absence. Papers not handed in on-time will receive zero a (0). **You must be present IN CLASS to hand in a paper.**

A Quick Note About Excuses:

Computer-related excuses will not be accepted. We all have to deal with the multitudes of difficulties when it comes to technology. You should always back up your work in multiple places. Computer crashes, lost thumb drives, running out of printer ink, electronic failures, etc, will not excuse you from having to produce a final document in time for class.

Author's Notes:

Authors notes are notes from the author to the reader of his/her piece of writing. They introduce the piece of writing, describe its composition process, and lay the groundwork for feedback. Authors notes are required on all pieces of writing, including weekly writings. These notes may range from two paragraphs to a page and a half in length. writing assignment is due. **Please take note: without an author's note, your paper is incomplete and WILL receive a zero.**

Paperless Class:

We will be paperless (as much as possible) this semester. This is new to me and any hiccups we experience, we'll experience together. To facilitate this, we will be utilizing Web 2.0 tools. Our world is based in technology so will our class.

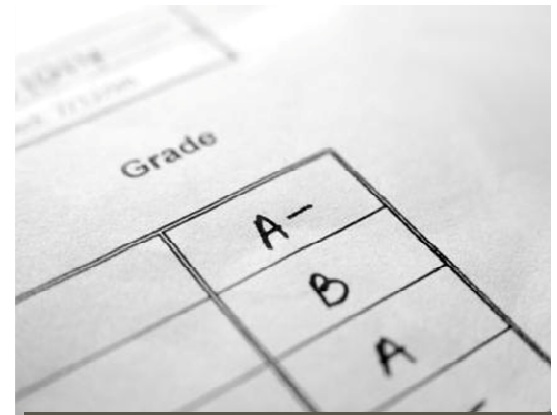
This course has an online component found at: <http://fall2011comp.wordpress.com/> This site will be kept up to date on my end. This blog will contain all electronic handouts, calendar of assignments, and more. It is in your best interest to check this site frequently.

You need to create a Blog where all of your weekly writings will be posted as well as your larger papers with their multiple drafts. It is expected that you will comment on each others work. You will also use your blog for postings. All papers will be submitted electronically to me via Google.

Also, sign up for Gmail (if you don't already). We will use Google Doc (assignment submission) and Google+ for office hours.

Attendance:

Think about it this way... if you don't go to your job, you get fired. Same deal here. You don't attend, you will fail. Any more than three absences and your grade will be lowered. Any more than four and you may not pass this course. This is a workshop class. You can not pass if you're not an active, responsible and contributing member of this classroom.



Grade Breakdown

Participation: 50%

Progress: 30%

Performance: 20%

Course Objectives...

- ✓ This course will give students the knowledge base and develop the positive habits of all successful writers in college and beyond.
- ✓ Give students the opportunity to practice informal, formal and creative writing skills.
- ✓ Develop a topic for writing from the kernel of an idea to a fully developed, well written, and grammatically correct final piece of writing.
- ✓ Understand how to become one's own editor and revise drafts of writing to make them increasingly clear and effective.
- ✓ Students will discover their own unique voice and understand how to apply it to their writing.
- ✓ Utilize the library and the sources in it to integrate into a research paper.
- ✓ Students will develop an ease and comfort level with sharing their written work aloud in front of their peers and with giving and receiving critical feedback.

Academic Support...

Plymouth State University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you should immediately contact the PASS Office (535-2270) to determine whether you are eligible for such accommodations. Academic accommodations will only be considered for students who have registered with the PASS Office. If you have a Letter, give me a copy.

Grading Information >>>

Participation, Progress & Performance

A grade is supposed to reflect how much you've learned during our time together. Grading individual assignments does not accurately reflect this. Grading each paper only provides a mere snapshot of how you did on that one assignment at that time.

The grade you receive at the end of this semester will be determined 100% by you in regards to your Participation, Progress and Performance. (see additional Grading Info)



course calendar...

The following is a fluid schedule of the semester. This will most likely evolve and change as we progress and figure out where we need to spend more or less time.

September 1 (R):

Review Syllabus, "Grading" Policy
Intro Literacy Narrative

September 6 (T):

On-Demand Writing
DUE: 1. Packet 1
2. Literacy Narrative in
300/30/3 & Tagxedo
3. Blog Addresses Shared

September 8 (R):

Descriptive Essay
DUE: 1. Read pp 284 & 412
2. WW1
3. Blog re: Writing Territories

September 13 (T):

Revision Day
DUE: 1. Descriptive Vomit Draft
2. Read pp 359

September 15 (R):

Personal Narrative
DUE: 1. Descriptive Essay
2. WW2

September 20 (T):

Personal Narrative
DUE: 1. Read Pausch selection

September 22 (R):

Levels of Meaning
DUE: 1. Read pp 15
2. WW3

September 27 (T):

Dimensions of an Essay
DUE: 1. Read pp 20
2. Personal Narrative Vomit

September 29 (R):

Revision Day-Hard Copies Needed
DUE: 1. WW4

October 4 (T):

Revision Exercises
1. Read pp 239

October 6 (R):

Share Day
DUE: 1. Personal Narrative Clean Draft
2. 7 Blogs Due

October 11 (T):

Multi-Genre Research Project & Intellectual Browsing
DUE: 1. Read *Singer's Solution to World Poverty & Case Against Babies*

October 13 (R):

Questions, questions & more questions...
DUE: 1. WW4 (Intellectual Browsing)

October 18 (T):

How Not to Plagiarize Part 1
DUE: 1. Paragraph on Research Question

October 20 (R):

How Not to Plagiarize Part 2
DUE: 1. Read pp 159 & 300
2. WW5 on Plagiarism
3. 1 page Research Overview

October 25 (T):

Press Conferences 1 min presentation/1 min
feedback
DUE: 1. Annotated Bibliography
2. Read 196

October 27 (R):

Note Development
DUE: 1. Research Notes, Outline, etc
2. WW6
3. Read pp 436

November 1 (T):

Partner Workshop
DUE: 1. MGRP Vomit Draft

November 3 (R):

Cut it Apart
DUE: 1. 10 Blogs Due
2. WW7

November 8 (T):

Revision Day
DUE: 1. Genre Rational Pages



To succeed in class...

- *Read the syllabus/blog frequently
- *Meet assignment requirements
- *Hand in assignments; on-time
- *Communicate with me
- *Be honest, in your writing & with me

Important Reminders...

- No late papers will be accepted. You will receive a zero (0) for this assignment.
- If there is no author's note attached to your paper, it will receive a zero (0).
- Attendance in class and at conferences is expected and required. There is no difference between an excused absence and an unexcused absence. More than five absences will result in a failing grade for this course.
- Bring all drafts and copies of papers completed to date to each and every class.
- Class will start and end on time. Being tardy is rude. If you make a habit of arriving late for class, points will be deducted from your final grade.

Using Sources Responsibly:

Part of this course involves finding, evaluating, and using sources to improve the reach and impact of what you write. The "Hacker" carefully outlines how to use sources appropriately and effectively. Questions on citing: first, consult your Hacker, second, ask me or the instructor in your course about your question. Finally, beyond your work in this course or others at PSU, look to professional guidelines, rules, or handbooks that will guide the specific use of sources in a particular discipline or field. Lamson Library is also an invaluable source for all source and documenting questions as well as the Writing Center. If I suspect your paper of plagiarism, I will investigate and refer, if a valid claim, to the Academic Integrity Board.



Final Thoughts...

*This is not a class that procrastination is your friend. There is a lot of reading and a lot of writing we all will participate in. Not completing your assignments on time will be detrimental to your grade. That being said, **if you do not complete either the Multi-Genre Project and the Reflective Portfolio, you can not pass this course.***

A helpful tip, and one I strongly encourage, is maintaining all of our your writings created in and for this class in a folder on your computer. This will make your life simpler at the end of the semester.

This course is carefully structured to allow for fluidity in the schedule. You need to pay attention in class and note any changes from this course schedule. I try to meet the needs of the class and this may conflict with this schedule.

November 10 (R):

Conference & Research Week
No Class—Must attend Scheduled Conference
DUE: 1. WW 8

November 15 (T):

Conference & Research Week
No Class—Must attend Scheduled Conference

November 17 (R):

No Class—See Blog
DUE: 1. MGRP Clean Draft
2. WW9

November 22 (T):

No Class—See Blog
DUE: 1. WW10

November 29 (T):

MGRP Share Day-Small Groups
DUE: 1. Reading: pp 72

December 1 (R):

Collaborative Writing
DUE: 1. 15 Blog Posts

December 6 & 8:

Collaborative Writing

You are responsible for creating and maintaining a blog at wordpress.org. This blog will serve as your place to not only respond the readings prior to class, and a public forum to share your writing.

You are also responsible to create 15 blog posts. These posts are intended to allow you to assess and reflect upon your own learning, successes, challenges, strengths and weaknesses.

There are three dates for when the a certain number of blogs are due. Please note though, these entries are NOT intended to be written two nights before the first section are due. These blogs will help you with your final, reflective collection. I will be reading these entries through the semester and will know if you are not writing them throughout the semester.

Helpful Words >>>

A relaxed mind is a creative mind.

Perfectionism is the voice of the oppressor, the enemy of the people.

