WRTG 3020 (066): Composing a Civic Life  
Fall 2004  
CHEM 133 | M/W 6-7:15

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<tr>
<th>Instructor: Michelle Albert</th>
<th>Office: ENVD 1B50A</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mailbox: ENVD Basement Lobby</td>
<td>Office Phone: (303) 735-4674</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:michelle.albert@colorado.edu">michelle.albert@colorado.edu</a></td>
<td>Office Hours: T 2-4, W 1:45-2:45, or by appt</td>
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Required Materials:
*Composing a Civic Life: A Rhetoric and Reader for Inquiry and Action*, Michael Berndt and Amy Muse  
Photocopies of your work as requested  
A reference book of your choice  
Several two-pocket folders for turning in your essays and for saving your work  
Some class readings may be accessed via the PWR connection on the library website (http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/pwr) or through the library’s e-reserves

Overview:
Open to juniors and seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences, WRTG 3020 reinforces and builds on skills taught in WRTG 1150, with a greater emphasis on the situational quality of writing -- in other words, the rhetorical context: the relationship between writer, reader, subject, and purpose in the formation of a text. The particular topic area we will use as a framework for this course is civic engagement; we will use writing as a tool to examine, understand, and debate what it means to be a citizen in a diverse, often contentious world. The writing classroom can serve as a model of rigorous, ethical inquiry and action and as a space for socially engaged and historically and politically informed writing. In this course we will explore issues of citizenship and community through our reading, thinking, discussing, and writing. This semester, you will:
- Learn to rhetorically analyze writing situations  
- Practice writing as an ongoing process that happens in many stages and includes lots of lots of revision  
- Respond to and participate in public conversation and debate  
- Cultivate habits of questioning and analysis that make you more informed community members  
- Learn strategies for bringing your own values and beliefs into active dialog with others’  
- Explore contemporary perspectives on pressing issues

Attendance  
Is required. This is a workshopping class; participation and preparation are crucial to your success as a writer and to the success of this class. If you have to miss a class, you are responsible for finding out what you missed from a classmate. **You are allowed 3 absences. Each additional absence will lower your grade half a letter (i.e., B to B-).** Be aware that there is no difference between an excused and unexcused absence, except in extreme circumstances (i.e., serious illness, death of immediate family member); in these cases, if you contact me ASAP and submit adequate documentation detailing your situation, I will make accommodations. **Two late arrivals count as one absence.**

Participation  
In this class we work as a community of writers seeking to understand one another's perspectives and explore new ideas. Participation includes, among other things, providing quality written and
oral feedback during peer reviews/workshops; making intelligent and relevant contributions to class discussions; thoughtfully completing all in-class writing activities and being willing to share some of them with the class; actively participating in class activities; and acting professionally and respectfully when interacting with me and your classmates.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. General CU guidelines regarding expectations of classroom behavior are available online at www.colorado.edu/policies/index.html. Also: turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other beeping, buzzing, singing electronic things before class!

**Assignments**
This course approaches writing as a process. You will have time to work on your major writing projects in stages, from brainstorming and generating topic ideas, to exploring your ideas in rough drafts, to writing complete drafts of each essay. You will receive peer and teacher feedback along the way to help you develop your ideas and find the right words to express exactly what you want to say. We will have many in-class small-group workshops, which will give you the opportunity to read and comment on each other’s papers, and I will give you thorough written ungraded feedback on at least one draft of each essay. You will also meet with me individually in conference at least once during the semester. **Writing is a generative process, meaning that putting words on paper often generates new ideas that you never knew you had.** E.M. Forster asks, “How do I know what I mean until I see what I say?” This semester, I encourage you use writing to explore, test, speculate, experiment, and, most of all, to learn.

The writing projects you will complete this semester are:

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<tr>
<th>Name of Project</th>
<th>Due Date (subject to change)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Citizenship Narrative (3-4 pages)</td>
<td>9/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call to Action (3-4 pages)</td>
<td>10/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploratory or Critical Response Essay (3-4 pages)</td>
<td>11/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal Project (individual or in groups) (6-8 pages)</td>
<td>12/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal: Reading Responses and Reflections</td>
<td>(ongoing)</td>
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You will also give an informal oral presentation at the end of the semester based on the work you did on your Proposal Project.

Note: When you turn in your final draft for each major writing project, you will also submit all pre-writing activities and all the rough drafts you have written for that essay. So, it is very important that you **save all your work**! You will submit everything to me in a two-pocket folder.

**Late Papers**
All papers must be turned in on time. I will deduct one whole letter grade for each class day a paper is late. If circumstances arise that prevent you from submitting a paper on time, contact me before the due date and I will take your situation into consideration.

**Conferences**
You will meet with me at least once this semester for a 20-minute individual conference. I will give you a conference guidesheet to help you prepare ahead of time. You will take the lead in this conference. This isn’t a time for you to passively sit back and listen to my input, but to engage with me in thoughtful discussion, ask me questions, point out strengths and weaknesses you see in your own writing, and to dialog with me about ideas you may be considering for the current writing project.
Calculation of Grades

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Citizenship Narrative</td>
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<td>Exploratory or Critical Response Essay</td>
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<td>25%</td>
<td>Proposal Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>10%</td>
<td>Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Participation/homework</td>
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Format for Assignments
Unless otherwise noted in class, all papers should: be typed using a standard 12-point font; be double-spaced; include page numbers; include an interesting, relevant title; and include a header in the upper left-hand corner (your name, course number, my name, the assignment, the draft number, and the date). Example:

Linda Cheng
WRTG 1150/Albert
Personal Narrative, Draft 2
September 13, 2004

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the act, whether deliberate or unintentional, of passing off another author's work as your own. Plagiarizing all or part of a paper will result in an automatic failure for that paper and possibly failure for the course. I may also choose to report a plagiarism case to the Honors Council. You are responsible for reading and complying with the CU Honor Code: www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode

Disabilities
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. For more info: www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices

Religious Holidays
If you know you will miss class or not be able to make an assignment due date because of observation of a religious holiday, please contact me within the first two weeks of the semester so we can make accommodations. For more info: www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_religion.html

ESL
If English is not your first language and you are concerned that your English language skills might not be at a level appropriate to this class, contact me before the third class meeting so that I can better assist you in the course, advise you about designated ESL sections of this course, and/or refer you to appropriate services on campus.