WRTG3020: Writing About Spirituality in Literature & Art

Instructor Contact Information

Name: Esther Quinlan
Office: Temporary Building 1, (The Prose Hospital), Room 113
Hours: T 8:30-9:30 & TR 2:00-3:30, as well as by appointment
Phone: 303-735-0823 (office) or 303-443-1405 (home) before 9 p.m.
Email: quinlane@colorado.edu

Required Materials

Thinking and Writing in the Humanities, by Hudson and LeClair
Sin and Syntax, by Hale
Siddhartha, by Hesse (translated by Sherab Chödzin Kohn)
2 pocket folders
Microsoft Word

Course Goals

- Discern the requirements of a Rhetorical Situation
- Learn to write better arguments using logos, pathos, and ethos
- See the positive results of revising writing
- Learn how to critique your own and your peers’ work
- Improve your writing style
- Use and respond to counter voices
- Add depth and sophistication to an analytical essay

Overview

This topic furnishes us with excellent material for analysis and argument, which is the focus of PWR’s upper-division Arts and Sciences written communications requirement course. We will distinguish between religious texts—they have human authority—and sacred texts, which have divine or transcendent authority. For this course we also assume that the spiritual impulse is not merely a result of social conditioning, but rather an integral part of human nature. We will not be working with theological prose, for the subtleties, intensity, and depth of spiritual consciousness are often conveyed more clearly and powerfully in literature and art.

The Writing Workshop

Student papers are distributed either in class or via email. The purpose of a writing workshop is to critique papers. Unlike a criticism, a critique covers the strengths and the weaknesses of a draft.
Your responsibility is to provide thoughtful written and oral commentary on your peers’ writing. Since you are asking your classmates and professor to spend considerable time preparing a critique of your work, your drafts should be serious attempts at fulfilling the assignment.

**Grades**
Formal Papers constitute 75% of the course grade. They will be weighted, and your best work will be put into your Final Portfolio.

Class participation accounts for 25% of your grade. It includes peer reviews, quizzes, and short homework assignments, drafts, and class discussion of assigned readings. A superior grade in class participation can be earned by preparing your assignments before class, demonstrating your mastery of the course goals in peer reviews, informed participation in discussions, and making specific comments in peer reviews that are generally clear and helpful. An average grade in class participation can be earned by preparing for class beforehand, showing mastery of the course goals, but revealing that your reading of the assigned drafts and of assigned material was only cursory. A below average grade comes from being unprepared when called on, doing a slap-dash job of peer reviews, trying to do peer reviews while in class, disruptive behavior, and/or reading assigned materials carelessly.

**Game Rules**
- Attendance and promptness are mandatory. You have two free cuts. Absences beyond those two will lower your final grade. For example, a grade of A would be reduced to an A- with 3 unexcused absences, to a B+ with 4 unexcused absences. Excused absences require written documentation from the appropriate party. More than 6 absences will result in an F for the course.
- Check your university email regularly for messages from your instructor.
- If you miss class, you are still responsible for work due for the next class.
- Late papers will be docked 5 points for each hour they are late.
- A deadline extension may be granted—only if a request is made before the due date.
- Peer Reviews are due at class time. Late reviews are not accepted. (If you won’t be in class, email your review by class time for credit. Bring me a paper-copy at the next class.)
- Late homework, if turned in within 4 hours of class-time, will receive half credit but no credit if turned in after that 4 hours.
- Absences for religious holidays are excused, but only with advanced notice.
- An absence on the day you are scheduled to do a peer review will cost you 5 points.
- All work is to be typed in Times New Roman 12 point, using 1.5 spacing.
Paper Grading Standards

A: A paper that is excellent in form, content, and style: original, substantive, insightful, persuasive, well organized, and written in a clear, graceful, error-free style.

B: A clearly written, well developed, interesting paper that shows above-average thought and writing craft. The paper may have some relatively minor difficulties in content or style, but no major flaws that compromise the general effectiveness of the case it presents or the readability of its prose.

C: A paper that represents a mixture of strengths and weaknesses. The paper may be readable, reasonably well organized, and support a focused thesis satisfactorily, but it will have some important unresolved problems in content and form, and distracting grammatical errors and stylistic flaws.

D: A paper seriously deficient in content, form, style, or mechanics. It may be disorganized, illogical, confusing, unfocused, or contain pervasive errors that impair readability.

F: A paper that is incoherent, disastrously flawed, unacceptably late, plagiarized, nonexistent, or written on a topic other than the assigned one.

Appeals

Students may appeal an instructor’s grade by requesting that another instructor in the Program of Writing & Rhetoric grade their paper. The Program also has its own ombuds-person, Rebecca Dickson. You may contact her at 303-735-4908.

English as a Second Language

If English is not your native tongue, you should see me before the third class meeting so that I can advise you about special ESL sections of UWRP 3020 and/or refer you to appropriate services on campus.

Plagiarism

All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean’s office. If either the draft of a paper or the final version of a paper contains plagiarism, the student will receive—at the very least—a failing grade for that assignment.

Disabilities Statement

If you have physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodation, please let me know by the second class meeting so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Service office in Willard Hall, room 322 (phone 303-492-8671).

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment

This policy applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/
Prospectus for WRTG 3020—Spring Semester 2005
Spirituality in Literature & Art

(Subject to Tweaking)

Week 1 (January 11-13): Introduction to course/ readings for Essay One
Week 2 (January 18-20): Finish Narrative readings/ read Sin and Syntax, pages 1-8 and Chapter 3 “Verbs”
Week 3 (January 25-27): Exercises for verbs/ view Joseph Campbell’s The Hero’s Journey (27th) in Media Library room M210/ read e-reserves on The Five Stages of the Soul in preparation for it
Week 4 (February 1-3): Chapter 13 “Voice” in Sin and Syntax/ application of voice and verbs to sections of Essay One in workshop (Computer Lab)
Week 5 (February 8-10): Essay One, Personal Narrative & Analysis, due on the 8th/ begin discussion of assigned Siddhartha chapters on the 10th

Week 6 (February 15-17): Siddhartha discussion of chapters continues
Week 7 (February 22-24): Chapters 3 & 4 in Humanities/ application of its concepts
Week 8 (March 1-3): Draft of Essay Two due/ Chapter 12, “Sentence Variety” in Sin and Syntax
Week 9 (March 8-10): Workshop drafts of Essay Two
Week 10 (March 15-17): Workshop of Essay Two continues/ Selection of Visual art for Essay Three due/ read Chapter 2 in Humanities over Spring Break

Week 11 (March 22-24): Spring Break

Week 12 (March 29-31): Discuss Chapter 2 in Humanities/ practice exercises
Week 13 (April 5-7): Presentation of selected visual art subjects in workshop/ read Chapter 12 “Sentence Variety” and Chapter 16, “Rhythm” in Sin & Syntax,
Week 14 (April 12-14): Drafts of Essay Three/ workshop drafts
Week 15 (April 19-21): Application of Sin and Syntax concepts to drafts (computer lab)
Week 16 (April 27-28): Essay Three due on April 28 or April 29

Essay One—Personal Narrative: Rhetorical goals are voice, verbs, and showing

Essay Two—Siddhartha: Rhetorical goals are skillful persuasion, planning & drafting, and audience consideration

Essay Three—Visual Art: Rhetorical goals are sentence variety, rhythm, keeping subjective and objective responses separate