WRTG 3020: Cross Cultural Writing and Film
Fall 2005

Program for Writing & Rhetoric
University of Colorado, Boulder

Experimental Ethnography

Section 24 MWF 1:00-150pm
Section 28 MWF 2:00-2:50pm

Tony Ruiz
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00pm
Environmental Design Building
Ofc: 735-4665
Email: 3020ruiz@gmail.com

Media Lab: XXXXXXXX

This course will employ the principles of ethnography as we analyze current trends in cross-cultural writing and film. A principal concern will be rhetorical forms and strategies appropriate to upper division students. Our readings and assignments will focus on the rhetoric of ethnographic representation and experimental ethos. It has become commonplace to observe how ethnography—methodology and practice—has advanced beyond the objective discipline that represented the cultural practices of others. To advance ethnography as a question of representation is to understand that it is not only a science but an art, an art of writing and rhetoric. We will analyze several experiments in cross-cultural writing that complicate the dominant ideologies of autobiography, culture writing, and difference. We will also consider how cinematic devices in experimental film contribute to writing and rhetorical strategies. A central writing sequence will have students create their own ethnographic accounts: perhaps an experiment with literacy, which entails locating and exploring the sites where people learn to think of themselves as readers and writers, particularly readers and writers of their cultural selves; and, in a major group assignment, creating an innovative media project or film on a cultural phenomena of interest.

Readings

Syllabus

Schedule

Special Announcements

Time Magazine: The New Frontier / La Nueva Frontiera

"Bridging the Gap"

TOROLAB: LABORATORIO OF THE FUTURE IN THE PRESENT

Raul Cardenas Osame, "Safe: Design Takes On Risk"

Colectivo Torolab
WRTG 3020

Syllabus

WRTG 3020: Cross Cultural Writing and Film
"Experimental Ethnography"

Fall Semester 2005
Tony Ruiz, Instructor

Office Hours and Contact Information

MWF 12-1 p.m. and by appointment
Environmental Design Building (ENVD), north entrance, lower level
Mailbox in ENVD IB60
Office phone / voice mail 735-4665
Email: 3020ruiz@gmail.com

This course will employ the principles of ethnography as we analyze current trends in cross-cultural writing and film. Some time will be devoted to the rhetoric of ethnographic representation and experimental ethos. It has become commonplace to observe how ethnography—methodology and practice—has advanced beyond the objective discipline that represented the cultural practices of others. To advance ethnography as a question of representation is to understand that it is not only a science but an art, an art of writing and rhetoric. We will analyze several experiments in cross-cultural writing that complicate the dominant ideologies of autobiography, culture writing, and difference. We will also how cinematic devices in experimental film contribute to writing and rhetorical forms. A central writing sequence will have students create their own ethnographic accounts: perhaps an experiment with literacy, which entails locating and exploring the sites where people learn to think of themselves as readers and writers, particularly readers and writers of their cultural selves; or, as an option, creating an innovative media project or film on a cultural phenomena of interest.

As a prerequisite to taking this course, students acknowledge and accept all policies listed on this syllabus.

Required Texts
1. Reader for 3020
2. 3020 Website: selected readings (students copy materials)

Additional readings and course materials are as handouts and in Library eReserve.

Course Overview.

Assignments: All essays submitted for grade must be original and drafted in this course.

I: Readings: Experimental Ethos & Ethnography  20%
   1. Journal Entries
   2. Prompt 1

II: Research Analysis Paper/Media Essay  20%
   1. Prompt 2

III: Mid-Term Exam  10%

IV: Group Project: Essay & IMovie  30%
V: Reflective Essay 10%

1. Prompt 5

Participation: 10%

See Details on Grade Points for Assignments and Course here.

Grading:
Course grades are based on individual and group written work, oral presentation, and participation in all phases of project planning and implementation. I use the standard numerical scale detailed in your student handbook to calculate final grades (3.0=B, 3.3=B+, etc.).

Attendance & Participation: Take 3020 this semester only if you are able to meet these requirements. 3020 is a workshop course first and lecture course second—a class unlike most you will take at the CU. The success of this course depends on a clear understanding and practice of the qualities of a workshop environment—present and creatively engaged with your peers and the material. Therefore, we must take attendance and participation seriously.

1. Perfect attendance (no absences, no late arrivals): raise course grade by one step (e.g., from 3.0 to 3.3).
2. 1-5 absences: no change in semester grade.
3. 6-7 absences: semester grade no higher than B.
4. 8 absences: semester grade no higher than C+.
5. 9 absences: semester grade no higher than C-
6. Absences more than 9: semester grade no higher than C; possible "Failing Incomplete" required.

Permission to Use Work:
Enrollment in a course offered through the Program for Writing and Rhetoric implies permission to reproduce and use any part of a student's writing for educational purposes. In special circumstances, a student may request an exception to this policy. All writing will be used anonymously.

CU Honor Code: In WRTG 3020, this code informs your conduct in class and group projects outside of class, and your written work submitted for grade. All essays submitted for grade must be original and drafted in this course. The Code is based on the ideals of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. It is my policy in all my classes to fail anyone who engages in “academic dishonesty.” For detailed information, visit the University of Colorado’s Honor Code website for further information: http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Special note to students with disabilities:
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

Special Note to students who speak English as a second language:
If you speak English as a second language, you should contact me before the third class meeting so that I can better assist you in the course, advise you about special ESL courses, and/or refer you to appropriate services on campus.