Topics in Writing (WRTG/PWR 3020)
Heroism: From Troy to Vietnam

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Fredricksmeyer
Email/Office Hours/Phone: see opposite side

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course uses a variety of material, from Homer's *Iliad* to Lt. Col. Dave Grossman's *On Killing*, as starting points for four critical essays that address questions such as the following.

The most deadly warrior of Homer's *Iliad*, Achilles, appears to lose his humanity and become a killing machine to avenge the violent death of his friend Patroclus. Achilles' peers, the gods, and the narrator seem to fault Achilles for this and other behavior, and at the same time they call him "best of the Achaeans (or Greeks)." What code of ethics do these facts invite us to infer for Homeric society.

REQUIRED BOOKS
Available at the *CU Book Store* in the Student Union.
—*Homer's Iliad*, trans. Lombardo
—*Sophocles. The Three Theban Plays*, trans. Fagles
—*Euripides IV*, trans. Grene et al. (to be ordered)

RECOMMENDED BOOK
*Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (or a comparable, unabridged, college-level dictionary)

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD
You will post your papers electronically. To do so, you need to have an e-mail account, and possess some basic computer skills, including the ability to:

1. use a text editor such as Word,
2. go to a web site, register your name and email address, and
3. use that site's electronic bulletin board.

I will give a tutorial on (2) and (3), but you need to be either comfortable with such uses of the web or willing to learn them.

WEB SITE
For downloading any handouts you miss in class: http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice.
Click link for Topics in Writing, and then for Handouts.

GRADING

1. Each of your four papers counts for 22.5% of your semester grade, or 90% altogether.

2. Class participation, i.e. your contribution in class to the work of other students, and minor writing assignments count for 10% of your total grade.

3. Each paper is graded as follows: 25% of the paper's total grade for the first draft, 25% for the second draft, and 50% for the final draft.
(4) 5 points will be subtracted from an essay’s final score for every day a first or second draft is late, unless the student can provide a doctor’s note for the day on which the draft was due. (Wardenburg has walk-in appointments every day).

(5) No late final drafts are accepted.

(6) There is no Final Exam.

(7) There are no extra credit assignments, and no curve.

WORKSHOP FORMAT
You will develop and revise each of your essays with the help of every other student and me through class discussions.

ATTENDANCE
Since it is especially important in a workshop format for all members of the class to participate in discussion, each absence over three (unless explained by a doctor’s note) will lower your final grade one point (A to A- to B+, etc.). SIX ABSENCES FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER WILL RESULT IN AN F FOR THE COURSE.

BEING ON TIME
Late arrivals disrupt the class and are discourteous to your fellow students and me. Therefore, please be on time. If you arrive late, do not walk across the front of the classroom. Three late arrivals count as an absence.

NO CELL PHONES OR FOOD, PLEASE!

PLAGIARISM
Since you write several drafts of each essay, and we discuss your writing at every stage, plagiarism is virtually impossible. But if it does occur, severe sanctions provided by University rules will be imposed.

EMAIL/OFFICE HOURS/PHONE
Please email me (frdric@colorado.edu) only in emergencies. Normally, it is best for us to speak in person, before or after class, or during my office hours. If you do email me, you should consider it formal communication. Consequently, if you email me:
   1) address me in the body of your message (Dear Dr. Fredricksmeier),
   2) use upper- and lowercase letters, as appropriate,
   3) check your spelling and grammar.
I will read only those messages that follow these conventions.

My office hours are MWF 2-3 in TB1-202. My phone number is 303-492-3606.

SPECIAL NOTES
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. (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices)

I will make every effort to reasonably and fairly accommodate students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, or required attendance. Please make sure to speak with me about such matters well beforehand.
WRTG/PWR 3020 (10 a.m.)
Herofsms: From Troy to Vietnam

Syllabus
Jan 18-Mar 1

PLEASE NOTE: HW = Homework. IWS = Instructor Web Site (see Course Requirements Sheet for URL). PA = Photo Assignment. PE = Prose Exercise. OEA = Occasions Essay Assignment. PEA = Popper Essay Assignment. GR = Group(s). FME = First Major Essay. SME = Second Major Essay. TME = Third Major Essay. This syllabus may be revised at any point during the semester.

Wed Jan 18
Class: Introduction. Handouts: Course Description and Requirements, Syllabus.
Index cards.
HW: If you have not already done so, please get the books for this course at the CU Book Store.
Read Oedipus Rex by Mon Jan 30.
Read the Iliad, and answer the Iliad Passage Questions (available at IWS) by Wed Mar 1.
Read On Killing and answer the On Killing Passage Questions (available at IWS) by Wed Mar 15.
Go to http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice/kids.jpg, print out photo, describe and analyze photo as explained (= PA), bring to class.

Fri Jan 20
Class: Discuss PA.
HW: Go to IWS, print out Prose Exercise handout, and bring to class.

Mon Jan 23
Class: Discuss Prose Exercise handout.
HW: PE, as explained in class. Bring 20 hard copies to class on Wed, or preferably an electronic copy.
Go to IWS, print out Form and the Essay, read and bring to class.

Wed Jan 25
Class: Discuss PE.
Discuss Form and the Essay.
HW: Go to IWS, print out the Occasions essay, and do the OEA as explained in class.
Go to http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice/popper.pdf, print out the Popper essay, and bring to class.

Fri Jan 27
Class: Discuss OEA.
P EA as explained in class.
HW: Make sure to have finished reading Oedipus Rex.
Go to IWS, print out the Oedipus the King (i.e. Rex) Lecture handout, and bring it to class.
Go to IWS, print out Instructions for Electronic Bulletin Board, and bring to class. (Make sure to download the right class time.)
Please bring also the text of Oedipus Rex with you to class.
Mon Jan 30-

Wed Feb 1  Class: Discuss Instructions for Electronic Bulletin Board.
       \textit{Oedipus Rex} Lecture.
       HW: Go to IWS, print out Watching \textit{Memento} handout, and bring to
class.

Fri Feb 3-

Wed Feb 8  Class: Determine 3 GP for FME first drafts. Film: \textit{Memento}. Runtime:
       113 minutes.
       HW: Finish the Watching \textit{Memento} handout, to hand in. Keep a copy
for yourself.

Fri Feb 10  Class: \textbf{Hand in Watching \textit{Memento} handout.} Discuss film.
       HW: GR 1 post FME\textbf{1} by 2 p.m., Sun.
       Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Mon Feb 13  Class: Workshop GR 1 FME\textbf{1}.
       HW: GR 2 post FME\textbf{1} by 12 noon, tomorrow.
       Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Wed Feb 15  Class: Workshop GR 2 FME\textbf{1}.
       HW: GR 3 post FME\textbf{1} by 12 noon, tomorrow.
       Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Fri Feb 17  Class: Workshop GR 3 FME\textbf{1}.
       HW: TBA

Mon Feb 20  Class: TBA
       HW: GR 1 post FME\textbf{2} by 12 noon, tomorrow.
       Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Wed Feb 22  Class: Workshop GR 1 FME\textbf{2}.
       HW: GR 2 post FME\textbf{2} by 12 noon, tomorrow.
       Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Fri Feb 24  Class: Workshop GR 2 FME\textbf{2}.
       HW: GR 3 post FME\textbf{2} by 2 p.m., Sun.
       Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Mon Feb 27  Class: Workshop GR 3 FME\textbf{2}.
       HW: Final \textbf{draft of FME due in class on Mon Mar 13}.
       Finish reading the \textit{Iliad}, and finish the \textit{Iliad Passage Questions}
       (available at IWS) to hand in Mon. Keep a copy for
yourself.

Wed Mar 1  Class: \textbf{Hand in the \textit{Iliad Passage Questions}. \textit{Iliad} lecture.}
       HW: Read the \textit{Minority Report} handout.
PLEASE NOTE: HW = Homework. IWS = Instructor Web Site (see Course Requirements Sheet for URL). PA = Photo Assignment. PE = Prose Exercise. OEA = Occasions Essay Assignment. PEA = Popper Essay Assignment. GR = Group(s). FME = First Major Essay. SME = Second Major Essay. TME = Third Major Essay. This syllabus may be revised at any point during the semester.

Wed Jan 18  Class:  Introduction. Handouts: Course Description and Requirements,
                 Syllabus.
                 Index cards.
                 HW:  If you have not already done so, please get the books for this
                      course at the CU Book Store.
                      Read Oedipus Rex by Mon Jan 30.
                      Read the Iliad, and answer the Iliad Passage Questions
                      (available at IWS) by Wed Mar 1.
                      Read On Killing and answer the On Killing Passage Questions
                      (available at IWS) by Wed Mar 15.
                      Go to http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice/kids.jpg, print out
                      photo, describe and analyze photo as explained (= PA),
                      bring to class.

Fri Jan 20  Class:  Discuss PA.
                 HW:  Go to IWS, print out Prose Exercise handout, and bring to class.

Mon Jan 23  Class:  Discuss Prose Exercise handout.
                 HW:  PE, as explained in class. Bring 20 hard copies to class on Wed,
                      or preferably an electronic copy.
                      Go to IWS, print out Form and the Essay, read and bring to class.

Wed Jan 25  Class:  Discuss PE.
                 Discuss Form and the Essay.
                 HW:  Go to IWS, print out the Occasions essay, and do the OEA as
                      explained in class.
                      Go to http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice/popper.pdf, print out the
                      Popper essay, and bring to class.

Fri Jan 27  Class:  Discuss OEA.
                 PEA as explained in class.
                 HW:  Make sure to have finished reading Oedipus Rex.
                      Go to IWS, print out the Oedipus the King (i.e. Rex) Lecture
                      handout, and bring it to class.
                      Go to IWS, print out Instructions for Electronic Bulletin Board,
                      and bring to class. (Make sure to download the right class
                      time.)
                      Please bring also the text of Oedipus Rex with you to class
Mon Jan 30-
Wed Feb 1  Class: Discuss Instructions for Electronic Bulletin Board. 
*Oedipus Rex* Lecture.
HW: Go to IWS, print out Watching *Memento* handout, and bring to class.

Fri Feb 3-
HW: Finish the Watching *Memento* handout, to hand in. Keep a copy for yourself.

Fri Feb 10  Class: **Hand in Watching Memento handout.** Discuss film.
HW: TBA

Mon Feb 13  Class: TBA
HW: GR 1 post FME1 by 12 noon tomorrow. Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Wed Feb 15  Class: Workshop GR 1 FME1.
HW: GR 2 post FME1 by 12 noon, tomorrow. Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Fri Feb 17  Class: Workshop GR 2 FME1.
HW: GR 3 post FME1 by 2 p.m., Sunday. Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Mon Feb 20  Class: Workshop GR 3 FME1.
HW: GR 1 post FME2 by 12 noon, tomorrow. Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Wed Feb 22  Class: Workshop GR 1 FME2.
HW: GR 2 post FME2 by 12 noon, tomorrow. Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Fri Feb 24  Class: Workshop GR 2 FME2.
HW: TBA

Mon Feb 27  Class: TBA
HW: GR 3 post FME2 by 12 noon, tomorrow. Everyone else download, and prepare to discuss.

Wed Mar 1  Class: Workshop GR 3 FME2.
HW: Final **draft of FME due in class on Wed Mar 15.** Finish reading the *Iliad*, and finish the *Iliad Passage Questions* (available at IWS) to hand in Mon. Keep a copy for yourself.

Fri Mar 3  Class: **Hand in the Iliad Passage Questions.** *Iliad* lecture.
HW: Read the *Minority Report* handout.