WRTG 3020

Syllabus

Program for Writing and Rhetoric:
WRTG 3020: Cross Cultural Writing and Film

Spring Semester 2006
Tony Ruiz, Instructor

Office Hours and Contact Information:
MW 1:15-2:45pm and by appointment
Environmental Design Building (ENVD), north entrance, lower level
(across from ATLAS construction site & Euclid parking)
Mailbox in ENVD 1B60 (PWR lobby)
Office phone / voice mail 735-4665
Email: tony.ruiz@colorado.edu (see policy below)

Course website: spot.colorado.edu/~truiz/pwr3020ruiz.html

3020 is an advanced workshop on writing and rhetorical analysis. Both writing for an academic audience and and critical analysis of the discourse grounding a topic area ground our course learning goals. The writing and critical thinking text used for this course (Ideas in Action) advances a specific approach to writing a college essay. We will study this text as a tool to gain some understanding into how and why we write and how writing informs the way a topic area is appreciated. Additionally, a central goal of this writing course is to study a topic area substantively. One cannot approach the artfulness of form and content without a thoughtful consideration of the subject under review.

Given the title of this course, some students may miss the significance of writing and visuality. This is not a film class, but film and media will play a role in our approach to writing. It is now commonplace to note how we are a visual culture. However, the way visuality influences our appreciation of thinking, textual forms, and rhetoric is less well understood. Each of the authors and filmmakers we read will advance, however implicitly, an argument about writing and rhetoric. Therefore, a major consideration of this course is how visuality informs our approach to writing and critical analysis.

Entirely relevant to writing and rhetoric is a notion of form and content. I understand form in the technique of writing (the how) and content in the object under consideration (the what). In order to bring into relief the artfulness of form and content, we will consider topics where the complexity of representation is significant—questions of difference. Our readings and assignments will consider, in a variety of forms, under-represented cultural practices and people (primarily, ethnic and gender). We will analyze several experiments in cross-cultural writing and media that complicate the dominant ideologies of autobiography, culture writing, and difference. Moreover, I will argue how an experimental ethos is a vital critical approach to both creating and deconstructing cultural ideas, forms, practices, and so on.

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

Required Texts
1. Ideas in Action
2. 3020 Website: selected readings (students copy materials)

Additional readings and course materials as handouts.

Course Overview.

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

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

II: Essay: Visuality, Writing, and Cross-cultural Practices  20%

III: Group Project: Ethnography & IMovie (DVD Draft, Storyboards, Presentation)  35%
   1. Essay on Cultural Topic (15%)
   2. Storyboard (5%)
   3. DVD Media Project (15%)

IV: Civic Essay  5%

Participation (contributions to classroom activities and group presentations):  20%

A Special Note On Group Work: Collaborative work is a key feature of a writing workshop course. I will provide opportunities for collaborative work in class; however, there are occasions when work outside class is necessary. In the participation grade, students are held responsible for completing an equal measure of group work and attending group meetings when scheduled.

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.).

Late Papers Grade Reduction: All drafts of essays or short papers are due at scheduled date. For each day late, papers will incur a .10 grade point reduction (e.g., a paper that grades 3.0 and is two days late, will receive a 2.8). Papers received in my mailbox same day will not be counted late. Each day thereafter will count as late. I do not accept papers by email. All late papers must be placed into my mailbox PWR lobby with time and date of submission noted.

Email Policy: Email instructor for special requests only. No need to email regarding absences, late papers, missed classroom activities, or appointments. It is the responsibility of each student to email a peer for information on missed classroom activities (in most cases, schedule will list this information). If I distributed handouts in class, I will place handouts for each class session in my mailbox for a few days; students can retrieve handouts as needed.

Take 3020 this semester only if you are able to meet these requirements.

Participation in a workshop type course includes classroom discussion, writing workshops, in-class exercises, group work, and so on. In addition, much of the writing instruction occurs in class, in group exercises, and on the blackboard or projector (this cannot be "made up").

My attendance policy is clear—if you choose to miss classroom or group meetings, expect your course grade to reflect this choice.

- Perfect attendance (no absences, no late arrivals): raise course grade by one step (e.g., from 3.0 to 3.3).
- 1-4 absences: no change in semester grade. These days allowed for unplanned events or religious observance only.
- 5 absences: semester grade no higher than B
- 6 absences (3 weeks): semester grade no higher than C+
- 7 absences: semester grade no higher than C-

- 8 ABSENCES (4 WEEKS): YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT AN "INCOMPLETE FAILURE" (IF) AND DROP THE CLASS (OR RECEIVE A COURSE GRADE OF "F"). NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.

In cases of major illness or injury, the above policy stands. However, for days 5-7 I can take your issue into consideration.
when grading with the submission of a doctor’s note that clearly explains why you missed X number of days.

Incomplete Failure (IF) requires completing another 3020 course in its entirety. You can take ANY 3020 course within one calendar year to replace the grade.

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

CU Honor Code: In WRTG 3020, the honor code informs your conduct in class, 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.