Course Policies for Writing & Rhetoric 3020
Writing about Spirituality
In Literature and Art

Esther Quinlan

Instructor Contact Information

Office: Temporary Building 1, (The Prose Hospital), Room 113
Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2-4, as well as by private appointment
Phone: 303/735-0823 (office) or 303/ 443-1405 (home) before 9 p.m.
Email: quinlane@colorado.edu via WebCT

Required Materials

- Siddhartha, by Hesse (translated by Sherab Chödzin Kohn, Shambala, 2000)
- Two pocket folders
- Microsoft Word (Other programs are not compatible with certain WebCT functions.)
- CD for Art Project
- Mozilla or Internet Explorer browser: these are the only ones compatible with WebCT

Course Goals

- Discern the requirements of a Rhetorical Situation
- 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 through scholarly research

Overview

This topic furnishes us with excellent material for analysis and argument, the two modes of discourse emphasized in PWR’s upper-division Arts and Sciences written communications requirement courses. According to historian Huston Smith, “If we take the world’s enduring religions at their best, we discover the distilled wisdom of the human race.” This wisdom can be divided in religious texts that have human authority and sacred texts that have divine or transcendent authority. We will explore artistic expressions of spirituality in literature and visual art, for the subtlety, intensity, and depth of spiritual consciousness are conveyed powerfully
through art. (Visual art includes painting, sculpture, architecture, or photography.) Readings and assignments relate to mysticism and The Spiritual Quest. Students from all religious traditions and those without any religious tradition are all welcome, with the understanding that the course is built on two assumptions: first, that spirituality is an integral and valid dimension of humanity; and second that all religious traditions offer access to transcendent truth.

The Writing Workshop

The purpose of a writing workshop is to critique papers. A critique or review covers the strengths and the weaknesses of a draft. Your responsibility is to provide thoughtful written and oral commentary on your peers' drafts. 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. Student papers are distributed via posting on the course Webct.

Grades
Assignment grades are given in points and the course grade is calculated proportionately. Two formal projects constitute 80% of the course grade. There are no extra credit assignments.


All other points, to equal a total of 20% of the course grade, are earned from peer reviews, quizzes (announced or unannounced), exercises, effort, class preparation and participation.

Game Rules

Attendance and promptness are mandatory. You have two free cuts. Absences beyond those two will lower your final grade proportionately. For example, a grade of A would be reduced to an A- with 3 unexcused absences, to a B+ with 4 unexcused absences, and so forth. Excused absences require written documentation with specific dates from the appropriate party.

- Check Webct for email messages from your instructor or peers at least 3 times weekly.
- If you miss class, you are still responsible for work due for the next class.
- Late final papers will be docked 5 points for each hour they are late.
- A deadline extension for final papers may be granted—only if a request is made at least 48 hours before the due date.
- Peer Reviews are due at class time. If you won't be in class, email your review by class time for credit. Late reviews are not accepted.
- If you post your draft after the deadline, you forfeit written reviews of your work
- Absences for religious holidays are excused, but only with advanced notice.
- All work is to be typed, unless otherwise specified. Use Times New Roman 12 point with 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/
My signature here below indicates that I have read, understood, and accepted Professor Quinlan’s Course Policies for Writing & Rhetoric 3020.

Name__________________________________________________________

Date________________________________________

Publishing & Copying Permission Form

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I give permission for my work to be copied and/or published for teaching purposes. I understand that, if published, my work may undergo some editing.

Check one:

_____ I wish for my writing to remain anonymous.

_____ I want my name to be included.

_____ I do not give my permission.

Signed__________________________________________________________

Date________