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

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course involves an array of small writing assignments, and also uses a variety of material, from Vergil’s *Aeneid* to Lt. Col. Dave Grossman’s *On Killing*, as starting points for three lengthier critical essays on such questions as follows.

The most deadly warrior of Vergil’s *Aeneid*, Aeneas, appears to lose his humanity and become a killing machine to avenge the violent death of his friend Pallas. In doing so, does Aeneas abide by or violate the ancient warrior code established by the Greeks, adopted by the Romans, and implied in the *Aeneid*?

REQUIRED BOOKS
Available at the CU Book Store in the Student Union.
—Vergil’s *Aeneid*, trans. West
—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% of your semester grade, or 88% altogether.

(2) Class participation, i.e. your contribution in class to the work of other students, and minor writing assignments count for 12% of your total grade. Your critiques (explained in class) will be especially important for this part of your 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 (fredrice@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. Fredricksmeyer),
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
Heroism: From Troy to Baghdad
Syllabus
Jan 18-Mar 23

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. A second syllabus will be supplied for Apr 2-May 4.

HW: If you have not already done so, please get the books for this course at the CU Book Store.
Read Oedipus Rex before Mon Jan 29.
Read the Aeneid, and answer the Aeneid Passage Questions (available at IWS) before Wed Mar 2.
Read On Killing and answer the On Killing Passage Questions (available at IWS) before Wed Mar 14.
Go to http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice/kids.jpg, print out photo, describe and analyze photo as explained (= PA), bring to class.

Fri Jan 19  Class: Discuss PA.
HW: Go to IWS, print out Prose Exercise handout, and bring to class.

Mon Jan 22  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 http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice/form.doc, print out, Read, and bring to class.

Wed Jan 24  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 26  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.
Please bring also the text of Oedipus Rex with you to class.
Mon Jan 29-
Wed Jan 31   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 2-

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

Fri Feb 9   Class: **Hand in Watching Memento handout.**

            Discuss film.

            HW: Develop a thesis to discuss in class on Mon.

Mon Feb 12   Class: Finish discussing film.

            Discuss theses.

            HW: GR 1 post FME1 by 12 noon tomorrow.

            Everyone else print out, prepare to discuss, and bring to class.

Wed Feb 14   Class: Workshop GR 1 FME1.

            HW: GR 2 post FME1 by 12 noon, tomorrow.

            Everyone else print out, prepare to discuss, and bring to class.

Fri Feb 16   Class: Workshop GR 2 FME1.

            HW: GR 3 post FME1 by 2 p.m., Sunday.

            Everyone else print out, prepare to discuss, and bring to class.

Mon Feb 19   Class: Workshop GR 3 FME1.

            HW: GR 1 post FME2 by 12 noon, tomorrow.

            Everyone else print out, prepare to discuss, and bring to class.

Wed Feb 21   Class: Workshop GR 1 FME2.

            HW: GR 2 post FME2 by 12 noon, tomorrow.

            Everyone else print out, prepare to discuss, and bring to class.

Fri Feb 23   Class: Workshop GR 2 FME2.

            HW: TBA

Mon Feb 26   Class: TBA

            HW: GR 3 post FME2 by 12 noon, tomorrow.

            Everyone else print out, prepare to discuss, and bring to class.
Wed Feb 28  Class: Workshop GR 3 FME2.
   HW: Final **draft of FME due in class on Wed Mar 7.**
   Finish reading the *Aeneid,* and finish the *Aeneid Passage Questions* (available at IWS) to hand in Fri. **Keep a copy for yourself.**

Fri Mar 2
Mon Mar 5  Class: **Hand in the Aeneid Passage Questions.**
   *Aeneid* lecture.
   HW: Go to IWS, print out and read *Watching Minority Report.*
   **Finish final drafts of FME to hand in on Wed Mar 7.**

Wed Mar 7-
   Wed Mar 14  Class: **Hand in final drafts (stapled) of FME (Wed Mar 7).**
   Identify GP for SME.
   *Film-Minority Report.* Runtime: 145 minutes.
   Wed Mar 14, start discussing film.
   HW: Finish the Watching *Minority Report* handout, to hand in Fri Mar 16.
   **Keep a copy for yourself.**

Fri Mar 16  Class: **Hand in Watching Minority Report handout.** Keep a copy for yourself.
   Discuss film.

Mon Mar 19  Class: **Hand in the On Killing Passage Questions. Keep a copy for yourself.**
   Discuss *On Killing.*
   HW: Develop thesis for SME.

Wed Mar 21 Class: Finish discussing *On Killing.*
   Critiques explained.
   Discuss theses.
   HW: GR 1 post SME1 by noon tomorrow.
   Everyone download GR1 SME1, and prepare and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of critiques with you to class.

Fri Mar 23  Class: Workshop GR 1 FME1.
   HW: TBA