WRTG 3020: Writing About Gender and Sexuality
Spring 2007

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Consultation Hours:
TR 12:45-2 and by appt. or email

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any enrolled student who misses two or more classes during the first two weeks of the semester will be dropped from the roll in order to make room for a student on the waiting list.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Through sustained inquiry into a selected topic or issue, analysis, criticism, and argument. Taught as a writing workshop, the course places emphasis on substantive, thoughtful revision. May be repeated up to 6 total credit hours. NRRN/UWRP 3020. Approved for arts and sciences juniors and seniors. Same as Enrollment strictly limited to 18 students per section.

SECTION DESCRIPTION: In this section of WRTG 3020, we will investigate a variety of claims made about gender and sexuality, including competing claims made by scientists and social constructivists. We will examine the assumptions and values on which these claims are based, and we will evaluate the validity of the reasoning, evidence and rhetorical devices used to support them.

Some of the specific issues we will look into include:

- Do men and women communicate differently?
- Do sex differences in careers in mathematics and sciences have a biological basis?
- Is gender identity innate?
- Is reparative therapy effective at changing one's sexual orientation?
- Should same-sex couples be allowed to marry?

as well as other issues that you express interest in, if time allows. We will also watch and analyze two documentaries, one on gender roles and one on the complicated nature of "gender outlaws" across several different cultures.

The primary purpose of the course is not, however, for you to simply learn more about these issues. Rather, the topic serves as a means for you to further develop the thinking and writing skills that are the goal of all WRTG 3020 courses. Topics for these courses read, to help you shape your prose to meet the needs of real-world readers, to further develop your skill at analyzing issues and supporting assertions, and to promote you will demonstrate them in a series of short papers and one long critique.

INTERNET AND EMAIL: You will be required to check and use your email account on a regular basis and to regularly access CU Learn and other web sites. When I send a message to the whole class, I will use an automated feature that distributes email to the account that the university has on file for you, so please check that account regularly.
may also post messages to the "Announcements" forum on CULearn.

COURSE WEB SITE: To access the Course Calendar and other course materials, please follow the CULearn link for this course in your CUConnect account. The Calendar is subject to change, so please consult the online version rather than printing it out.

COURSE COMPONENTS:
Below are short descriptions of and grade distributions for each component of the course. More details about each component will be provided in class and in course reading material.

Short Papers Portfolio (30%)
Over the first two thirds of the course, you will write a number of paragraphs and short papers in response to daily activities. You will have the chance to continue working on these papers as we go over new ways of revising and editing your own work, and then you will turn in a collection of these revised papers in a portfolio.

Analytical Essay (30%)
You will develop a sustained analysis of one of the arguments in our text, paying particularly attention to the author’s reasoning, evidence, assumptions, values, and rhetorical strategies.

Daily Assignments (Reading, Writing, Participation) (20%)
You will compose reading and writing assignments for nearly every class and you will be asked to discuss readings and issues in class as well as to do in-class writing both as an individual and in groups. Your final “Daily Assignments” grade will be determined by the extent to which you turn in out-of-class assignments on time, bring the required documents to class and participate in in-class activities. Missing more than a few daily assignments will impact your grade (see “Course Policies” below for more information).

Although most of your homework assignments will be drafts of work you will later revise and submit in your Short Papers Portfolio, the quality of your drafts as well as the effort you put in them, and the quality of your overall participation in discussions and workshops, will count towards your Daily Assignments grade.

Editing and Reading Quizzes (20%)
Throughout the semester, you will take quizzes on readings and on editing issues (such as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph structure and so on), in order to evaluate your progress towards mastering the editing skills your future employer will expect you to have.

MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS
What you can expect from me:
• to act in the role of coach, mentor or guide, rather than provider of knowledge, by creating an environment that encourages active participation in learning rather than passive reception of information
• to use my training and expertise in critical thinking, rhetoric and writing to guide you towards making your prose more thoughtful, coherent, organized, and free of distracting errors, as well as suited to the needs of your readers
• to challenge you to test your assumptions, probe your ideas more fully, defend your assertions, question your evidence and consider the implications of your line of reasoning, often in the role of “devil’s advocate”
• to give all ideas a fair hearing without privileging certain perspectives over others
• to evaluate your work according to standards that are politically neutral, but that reflect a strong commitment to high quality thinking and writing

WRTG 3020 - p.2
What I expect from you:
• to be an active participant in your own learning and to take the initiative to find out what you need to know in order to complete assignments (which includes brushing up on your research and editing skills)
• to abide by the principles of academic inquiry and to approach new ideas with an open mind and an honest desire to find the best answer, rather than simply lining up behind a particular way of thinking
• to use evidence, language and rhetorical strategies in an effective and ethical manner
• to accept criticism of your thinking and writing as being motivated by a sincere desire to help you improve your skills, regardless of your perspective, and to not personally assume that criticism reflects disagreement with your beliefs or dislike of you
• to discuss your questions and concerns about the course with me in person or by email, in the spirit of open communication

REQUIRED TEXTS: The following texts are REQUIRED for this course. You will be assigned readings from each text, and you will be quizzed on the material both in class and outside of class.


You will also be asked to read articles on the web, use the companion web site for A Writer's Reference, and do library research.

Please note: you will use the Chicago Manual of Style format for all citations in this class, both in-text and in a bibliography.

COURSE POLICIES:
Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. This course requires that you arrive to class on time, turn in assignments on time, and are prepared to participate in the day’s activities. Missing more than six classes may impact your final course grade, and six classes due to documented medical or family emergencies, please let me know course failure, regardless of the reasons for the absences (see “Minimum Requirements” below). Note: it is your responsibility to keep track of the number of your absences. Also, missing a class is not the same thing as missing a homework assignment; even if you are absent from class you should still do the assignment for that day.

If you miss class, please contact a classmate to find out if you missed any important details. Please do not ask me for a review of the class session, as it is extraordinarily advance that you will be absent at certain dates, you may let me know by email, in order to make workshop scheduling for those days easier. However, your absences will still...
Participation: A workshop setting depends on the full participation of every class member in order to be useful and effective. You are expected to participate in class activities by providing written and oral feedback on peer writing and by asking questions and contributing ideas during class discussion. You are also expected to remain in the classroom for the full hour and fifteen minutes that the class meets, unless an emergency arises. Please do not schedule appointments or meetings during class time.

While in class, please show respect to your classmates and to me by using language that would be appropriate in a professional setting and by refraining from using insults or a hostile tone. Students whose language or behavior is disruptive to the class may be asked to leave the room and may be reported to the Dean. See "Classroom Behavior" below.

Revisions: You may revise work in progress as often as you'd like up until the final version is due, and you may come to my office hours to discuss your revisions. You may also submit a revision to me by email or to CUlearn for my written feedback, but you are limited to doing this only once per paragraph or paper, so that I have time to respond to everyone who asks for feedback. You are also welcome to solicit feedback from your classmates.

Because you will revise all of your work well before the final due date, the material you turn in as a final version should represent your best work. Grades on this work are final.

Late Papers: Final papers that are turned in up to three days after the due date will still be accepted for grading, but the grade will be reduced. Final papers turned in four or more days after the due date will not receive a passing grade but must still be turned in as evidence that the work was completed.

Daily assignments that are turned in up to 24 hours after the due date will receive partial credit, but chronic lateness will reduce your final "Daily Assignments" grade.

Minimum Requirements: The minimum requirements for passing this course are: (1) you must turn in all papers, at least once in draft form for the workshop and in final form when due; and (2) you must not miss more than six classes for any reason. Failure to meet these criteria will result in a final grade of F. If the reasons for absence are due to family or medical emergencies, you should consult an advisor in your home department to determine your options. Incompletes are available only if you've completed a substantial portion of the course work and are unable to continue due to family or medical emergency.

Writing Lab: The PWR (Program for Writing and Rhetoric) offers a Writing Lab for students who would like one-on-one assistance in developing and organizing their ideas. The lab is open to students of all levels of education and ability and you can choose a tutor who specializes in the specific area you want help in. Please see the Writing Lab website for more information: http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/writingcenter.html

Plagiarism: Plagiarism, which is defined as passing off the work of someone else as your own, will not be tolerated in this course. We will discuss ways to avoid plagiarism in class as well as how to properly cite sources. If I suspect plagiarism, I will discuss the case with you in person, but cases of blatant and willful plagiarism will be submitted to the Honor Council. The consequences of plagiarism range from an F on the paper to an F in the course, as well as a letter from the Honor Council attached to your transcript.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Disability Statement: 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 http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

Religious Observances: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you are allowed to miss three classes without penalty and should plan in advance for days you may need off for religious observation. See policy details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Academic Honesty: All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-7252273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html OR http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

Sexual Harassment: The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment 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, 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/

For information on a wide range of other University of Colorado policies, please see: http://www.colorado.edu/policies