3020/094 Nonfiction from The New Yorker Spring 2007

SYLLABUS

Week 1 1/16 Introductions, syllabus/policies, copy obligations
Covers, postscript
Hand out film reviews.
1/18 Discuss film criticism.
Tasks of a critic, intent, point of view, concerns
Hand out art, dance, theater, and book reviews.
Hand out summary information.

Week 2 1/23 Discuss intent of the critics in groups first, then with whole class.
Hand out Shouts and Murmurs articles.
1/25* Turn in two-page summary of a book review. SA #1
Discuss humor articles.
(Copy reminder)* Start lecture on rhetorical analysis.

Week 3 1/30 Read for discussion all the Profiles.
Small groups present major info. for each person profiled.
2/01 Read for discussion the Mark Singer essays.

Week 4 2/06 Read for discussion Gopnik’s “Last of the Metrozoids,” Talbot’s
“The Agitator,” and Boo’s “Expectations.”
2/08* All summaries of chosen paper article due (2 pages) SA #2
More on rhetorical analysis—focus, strategies, intent of the
writer.

Week 5 2/13* All thesis paragraphs for Paper I due (Email copies to everyone
the night before by 8:00 pm.)
Hand out checklist for first draft.

Week 6 2/20 Group A Draft 1 of Paper I Email copies ahead to all.
2/22 Group B Draft 1 of Paper I Email copies ahead to all.

Week 7 2/27 Group C Draft 1 of Paper I Email copies ahead to all.
Choose partners for written critiques.
Distribute proof-reading sheets.
3/01* Group A Draft 2 of Paper I Email copies ahead to all.
Partners’ critiques due SA #3

Week 8 3/06* Group B Draft 2 Email copies ahead to all. Critiques due.
3/08* Group C Draft 2 Email copies ahead to all. Critiques due.
Hand out final checklist and essay for i-c essay on 3/13.
Week 9  3/13*  **PAPER I DUE  TWO COPIES**
In-class writing (analysis)  **SA #4 and #5**
Start discussion on argument
3/15  Read for discussion Gladwell’s “Million-Dollar Murray” and
Baum’s “The Lottery.”
Lecture on argument, counter-argument, audience

Week 10  3/20  Read for discussion Gawande’s “The Learning Curve” and
Groopman’s “Being There.”
3/22  Read for discussion Baum’s “The Price of Valor” and “Iraq 2004.”

Week 11  3/27+  **VACATION WEEK  HAPPY SPRING BREAK**

Week 12  4/03  Read for discussion “A Deadly Interrogation” and “The Hidden
Power.”
More about the nature of argument, audience
4/05*  All thesis paragraphs for Paper II due  Copies ahead to all

Week 13  4/10  Finish discussion of thesis paragraphs
4/12*  Group B  Draft 1 of Paper II  Copies ahead to all
Summaries on articles chosen for P II due for everyone else  **SA #6**

Week 14  4/17*  Group C  Draft 1 of Paper II  Copies ahead to all
4/19  Group A  Draft 1 of Paper II  Copies ahead to all

Week 15  4/24*  Group B  Draft 2  Critiques due **SA#7**  Copies ahead to all
4/26*  Group C  Draft 2  Critiques due  Copies ahead to all

Week 16  5/01*  Group A  Draft 2  Critiques due  Copies ahead to all
5/03*  **PAPER II DUE  TWO COPIES**
In-class wrap-up of articles and writing strategies for the future

Grade tabulation as follows:
Paper I  33%
Paper II  33%
Short Assignments (SA) 1 through 7 and Class Participation (CP) 8 through 10  34%
Excessive absence or tardiness can lower your grade. Beware!
The class operates as a workshop where we all critique together the student papers. For this reason, I have established certain guidelines to facilitate the process.

1. We’ll try to look at six papers per class. Because the class meets twice a week, your paper will be seen every third time.

2. You will need to e-mail copies to class members and me the evening before your day; I need a copy by 9:00 that day at the very latest.

3. You must be in class on your discussion day unless you make prior arrangements with me.

4. I expect you to offer constructive criticism on other student papers. In other words, your responsibility extends beyond revising your own paper. This is the reason for our common base of readings.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

5. You may have three unexcused absences for the semester. If you take more, your grade will suffer.

6. Late papers receive a lower grade—e.g., a B becomes a C. I will not accept any paper that has not been through the workshop.

7. Please be on time. After announcements, class starts promptly. Furthermore, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed by being absent or late.

8. My office is in Rm. 4a in TB 1 next to Sewall Hall. The phone there is 735-0283. Office hours are 2:00-5:00 on W. or by app’t. My e-mail address is susandaney@qwest.net

9. I will calculate your grade from two formal papers and a selection of shorter writings and class participation. You need to be active in discussions of the articles we read.

10. You are graded on the product, not the effort expended. More work generally improves the paper.

11. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. You will fail the paper for the crime.

12. 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).

Shorter Writings/participation 33%  Paper 1 33%  Paper 2 33%