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

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Fredricksmeyer
Email/Office Hours/Phone: see opposite side
This sheet may be revised during the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students will create texts that range in nature from personal and expressionistic to argumentative. These texts will take the form of ungraded, in-class “freewriting” on a variety of topics, short essays of various types, and three 5-7 page critical essays. While texts produced by the students will provide the focus of this course, outside material on which we draw as starting points for discussion and writing includes photographs, film, short essays, literature, and such non-fiction works as Lt. Col. Dave Grossman’s *On Killing*. Much of this material is disturbing, and will invite us to revise our understanding of the nature and costs of female and male heroism across cultures. The overall, rhetorical goal of the course is to help students to develop a firmer control (than they might already have) over different types of writing, and consequently to enjoy writing more than ever before.

REQUIRED BOOKS
Available at the CU Book Store in the Student Union.
—*Odyssey*, trans. Lombardo
—*Oedipus Rex in Sophocles. The Three Theban Plays*, trans. Fagles
—*Vergil’s Aeneid*, trans. West

RECOMMENDED BOOK
*Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* (or a comparable, unabridged, college-level dictionary). In addition, you might want to bookmark on your computer the URL http://www.m-w.com/home.htm.

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.

COURSE WEB SITE: http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice
Click link for Topics in Writing, and then for Handouts.

GRADING
(1) **Class participation**, i.e., your contribution in class to the work of other students, including your critiques (as explained in class), count for 15% of the semester grade.

(2) **Freewriting exercises** receive no grade. Other short writing assignments (see OEA, PA, PE, and PEA, on the syllabus) count for a total of 15%.

(3) **Each of the three 5-7 page papers** (see FME, SME, TME on the syllabus) counts for 20%.
(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 are **no exams**.

(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**
We will discuss in detail what constitutes plagiarism. But it is safe to say that since you write several drafts of each essay, and we discuss your writing at every stage, plagiarism is difficult in this course. If plagiarism were to occur, however, severe sanctions provided by University rules will be imposed.

**EMAIL/OFFICE HOURS/PHONE**
Normally, it is more productive for us to speak in person, before or after class, or during my office hours. If you do email me ([fredrice@colorado.edu](mailto:fredrice@colorado.edu)), please think of it as professional communication.

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](http://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.
ACRONYMS used in this sheet, in alphabetical order: FME = First Major Essay. FW = Freewrite. GR = Group(s). HW = Homework. IWS = Instructor Web Site (see Course Requirements Sheet for URL). OEA = Occasions Essay Assignment. PA = Photo Assignment. PE = Prose Exercise. PEA = Popper Essay Assignment. SME = Second Major Essay. TME = Third Major Essay. Please note that this syllabus may be revised at any point during the semester.

Mon Aug 27  Class: Introduction.
Handouts: Course Description and Requirements, Syllabus.
HW: If you have not already done so, please get the books for this course at the CU Book Store.
PA = go to http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice/vlphotos.ppt, identify a photo from this gallery to which you feel an emotional response, print out, and bring to class.

Wed Aug 29  Class: FW on photo of your choice. Read in class (if you wish to).
HW: Go to IWS, print out PE handout, and bring to class.

Fri Aug 31  Class: Discuss Prose Exercise handout, and revise some practice sentences.
HW: PE, as explained in class. Bring 20 hard copies to class on Wed, or preferably one electronic copy.

Mon Sep 3  Labor Day

Wed Sep 5  Class: Read and discuss PE paragraphs.
Discuss “What is an Academic Paper?”
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 Sep 7  Class: Discuss OEA.
PEA in class.
HW: Go to IWS, print out Instructions for Electronic Bulletin Board, and bring to class.
Finish reading Oedipus Rex, and bring text with you to class.

Mon Sep 10 Class: Discuss Instructions for Electronic Bulletin Board.
Discuss Oedipus Rex.
Wed Sep 12  Class:  Discuss “Coming Up With Your Topic”
FW possible topics in *Oedipus Rex*, read, and discuss
HW:  Go to IWS, print out *Watching Memento* handout, and bring to class.

Fri Sep 14-
Wed Sep 19  Class: Determine 3 GR for FME first drafts.
Film: *Memento*. Runtime: 113 minutes.
HW:  (Before Fri Feb 9)
Read “**Researching Your Topic**” at the Dartmouth site:
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/research.shtml
Read “**Developing Your Thesis**” at the Dartmouth site:
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/develop.shtml
Finish the *Watching Memento* handout, to hand in. Keep a copy for yourself.

Fri Sep 21  Class:  Hand in *Watching Memento* handout.
Discuss film.
Discuss “Researching Your Topic,” and “Developing Your Thesis”
HW:  Read “**Introductions and Conclusions**” at the Princeton site:
http://web.princeton.edu/sites/writing/Writing_Center/Handouts/intro&concl.pdf
Read “**Organizing an Essay**” at the University of Toronto site:
http://www.utoronto.ca/ucwriting/organizing.html
Print out, and read “**Critiquing Papers**” at http://spot.colorado.edu/~fredrice/critiquingpapers.3020

Mon Sep 24  Class:  Discuss “Introductions and Conclusions,” “Organizing an Essay,” and “Critiquing Papers”
FW opening paragraph of FME, read, and discuss.
HW:  GR 1 post FME 1 by 12 noon tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Wed Sep 26  Class: Workshop GR 1 FME 1.
HW:  GR 2 post FME 1 by 12 noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Fri Sep 28  Class:  Workshop GR 2 FME 1.
HW:  GR 3 post FME 1 by 2 p.m., Sunday.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.
Mon Oct 1  Class:  Workshop GR 3 FME 1.
HW:  GR 1 post FME 2 by 12 noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Wed Oct 3  Class:  Workshop GR 1 FME 2.
HW:  GR 2 post FME 2 by 12 noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Fri Oct 5  Class:  Workshop GR 2 FME 2.
HW:  Review “Introductions and Conclusions” at the Princeton site:
http://web.princeton.edu/sites/writing/Writing_Center/Handouts/intro&concl.pdf

Mon Oct 8  Class:  FW conclusion to FME, read, and discuss.
HW:  GR 3 post FME 2 by 12 noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Wed Oct 10 Class:  Workshop GR 3 FME 2.
HW:  Final draft of FME due in class on Wed Oct 17.
Finish reading the Aeneid, and finish the Aeneid Passage Questions (available at IWS) to hand in Fri. Keep a copy for yourself. Bring text to class.

Fri Oct 12 Class:  Hand in the Aeneid Passage Questions. Aeneid discussion.
HW:  TBA

Mon Oct 15 Class:  FW possible topics in Aeneid, read, and discuss.
HW:  Go to IWS, print out and read Watching Blade Runner.
Finish final drafts of FME to hand in on Wed.

Wed Oct 17-
Film-Blade Runner. Runtime: 125 minutes.
Wed Oct 24, start discussing film.

  Finish discussing film.
  FW possible topics in film.

  HW: Finish reading *On Killing*, and finish the *On Killing* Passage Questions (available at IWS) to hand in Mon Oct 29. Keep a copy for yourself.


  Discuss *On Killing*.
  FW possible topics in *On Killing*.

  HW: Read “Attending to Style” at Dartmouth site:

  http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/ac_paper/style.shtml

Wed Oct 31 Class: Discuss “Attending to Style.”

  FW opening paragraph of SME, read, and discuss.

  HW: GR 1 post SME 1 by noon tomorrow.

  Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Fri Nov 2  Class: Workshop GR 1 SME 1.

  HW: Read “MLA Documentation” at UW-Madison site:


  Read “Avoiding Plagiarism” at UNC-Chapel Hill site:

  http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html

Mon Nov 5  Class: Discuss “MLA Documentation” and “Avoiding Plagiarism.”

  Continue FW opening paragraph of SME, read, and discuss.

  HW: GR 1 post SME 1 by 12 noon tomorrow.

  Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Wed Nov 7 Class: Workshop GR 1 SME 1.

  HW: GR 2 post SME 1 by 12 noon tomorrow.

  Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Fri Nov 9  Class: Workshop GR 2 SME 1.

  HW: GR 3 post SME 1 by 2 p.m., Sunday.

  Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Mon Nov 12 Class: Workshop GR 3 SME 1.
HW: GR 1 post SME 2 by 12 noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Wed Nov 14  Class: Workshop GR 1 SME 2.
HW: GR 2 post SME 2 by 12 noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Fri Nov 16  Class: Workshop GR 2 SME 2.
HW: GR 3 post SME 2 by 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov 25.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.
Watch film *Once Were Warriors*, and complete the *Watching Once Were Warriors* sheet before Wed Nov 28.

Mon Nov 19-
Fri Nov 23  **Fall Break and Thanksgiving**

Mon Nov 26  Class: Workshop GR 3 SME 2.
HW: Final draft of SME due at the beginning of class on Fri Nov 30.
Finish reading *Iphigenia in Aulis*.
Finish watching *Once Were Warriors*, and answer the *Watching Once Were Warriors* sheet to hand in at the beginning of class.

Wed Nov 28  Class: Hand in *Once Were Warriors* sheet.
Discuss *Iphigenia* and *Once Were Warriors*, especially their treatment of women in warrior cultures.
FW opening paragraph of TME.
HW: Final draft of SME due at the beginning of class, Fri.
GR 1 post FME 1 by noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Fri Nov 30  Class: Hand in final drafts of SME.
Workshop GR 1 FME 1.
HW: GR 2 post FME 1 by 2 p.m., Sunday.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Mon Dec 3  Class: Workshop GR 2 FME 1.
HW: GR 3 post FME 1 by noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.
Wed Dec 5  Class:  Workshop GR 3 FME 1.
HW:  GR 1 post FME 2 by noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Fri Dec 7  Class:  Workshop GR 1 FME 2.
HW:  GR 1 post FME 2 by 2 p.m., Sunday.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Mon Dec 10  Class:  Workshop GR 2 FME 2.
HW:  GR 3 post FME 2 by noon, tomorrow.
Everyone print out drafts, critique them, and upload critiques before class. Bring copy of drafts and critiques with you to class.

Wed Dec 12  Class:  Workshop GR 3 FME 2.
HW:  None.

Fri Dec 14  Class:  FCQs (a.k.a. Stickin’ it to ‘the Man’)
Final observations about writing.
HW:  **Final drafts of FME due on Tue Dec 18.** Please put one hard copy of your paper in my box on the first floor of the Temporary Building 1 before 5 p.m.