ESL Topics in Writing
CLASS POLICIES

WRTG 3020/3030/3040
Spring 2008
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Office Hours: T,R 8:30-9:30 AM and by appointment

Required Texts:

Online reading themes: http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/pwr/

Additional readings will be assigned in the form of handouts.

Recommended Texts:

Objectives:

ESL Topics is a section of WRTG 3020, 3030, and 3040 that is intended for non-native speakers of English who wish to enroll in an upper-division writing course. The course is taught as a rigorous writing workshop using advanced readings and materials, emphasizing critical thinking, analysis, and argumentative writing. Course readings focus on cross-cultural communication in the arts, business, and scientific fields. Assignments will be tailored to meet the needs and interests of individual students. The final project for this course is to create a document related to the student's field that can stand on its own in the real world.

The need for a cross-cultural writing course becomes more apparent as the United States becomes ever more interdependent with our worldwide neighbors. Students need to join this "global village" by thinking critically about the roles of writing and language in forging a multicultural society. Because language and writing are necessarily culturally bound, diverse aspects of culture are often neglected in traditional writing courses. This course offers a chance to examine and debate concerns which are all too often undervalued or ignored. Language--often a tool to disenfranchise--can thereby become a tool to meld.

Workshop Format
Your own writing will be the principal text; we will all work together as a team to improve each paper. We will adopt the attitude that any paper can be improved, and give constructive criticism to everyone. Your job will be to provide oral and written commentary on other students' papers when assigned to do so. The course will also include an oral presentation component. Each student will be assigned to lead a discussion and present one paper orally. Individual projects will allow you to apply writing and editing strategies to issues in your own field of study.

Method:
1. Attendance and promptness are mandatory. More than three absences will lower your final grade. More than six will result in an F for the course.
2. Papers must be typed, double-spaced. You are responsible for bringing in the specified number of copies when the paper is due. I will not read handwritten papers. Spelling and grammatical errors
are not acceptable; see the recommended texts above if you have this problem. Word-processing is helpful for revision.

3. Assignments: see attached syllabus for dates.

We will attempt to work on each paper once a week. Please note that your paper is due to be distributed in advance of the discussion on your paper. In addition, you will be required to give oral and written commentary on another student's paper once a week. Oral and written participation constitute 30% of your final grade (see below). It is a good idea to revise your paper nightly even though you will only hand it in on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted. I will not accept final papers that have not been reviewed at least five times in class. "First draft" final versions are unacceptable and will not receive a grade.

4. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a crime and will result in an F for the course, as well as possible disciplinary action by the university. Always be sure to give credit for words or ideas from another source and do not hand in work which is not your own.

5. I encourage students with disabilities, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury and attention deficit/hyperactive disorder, psychiatric disabilities, to discuss with me, after class or during my office hours, appropriate accommodations. 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).

6. Grading:
20% Short assignments (includes assigned written comments on papers)
10% Class participation (includes turning in drafts when due)
70% Papers

In addition to short assignments, you will write three formal papers in this class.

1st paper: analysis (2-3 pp.)
2nd paper: argument (4-5 pp.)
3rd paper: analysis or argument (2-3 pp. or 4-5 pp.)

The three formal papers will be weighted in the following manner.
The better of the required papers will be worth 30% of your final grade. The next best paper will be worth 25% and the remaining paper worth 15%. Make three copies of each full-length paper and submit two: one for yourself, one for me, and one for the additional instructor who may be grading your paper in addition to me.

The standards for the papers are as follows:

A Exceptional in form, content and style. No mechanical errors. Presents original and relevant ideas to a clearly identified audience. Demonstrates the student’s expertise.

B A good, interesting paper. The student demonstrates control of the form and uses an analytical or argumentative style as required by the assignment.

C An adequate paper which has a form, but which may contain weaknesses. A descriptive paper would fall into this category.

D Contains deficiencies in form, content, or mechanics.

F Incoherent, lacking in form, or not turned in when due.
Syllabus: This syllabus is tentative. Any changes will be announced in advance. If you are absent on the date your paper is due, be sure to have someone bring it to class. Attendance on the day your paper is discussed is crucial.

Note the following abbreviations:
- para=paragraph
- WS=workshop
- REV=revision. Distribute copies to classmates.
- COM=commentary. You are responsible for initiating the discussion on a given paper. You may be required to submit written commentary.
- SA=short assignment to be typed and handed in to me. (1 copy only)

T 1/15 Introduction
Readings:
- Martin Luther King, Jr. “Letter from the Birmingham Jail” (online reading—Multicultural Rhetorics reading thread).
SA #1 (due Tues. 1/22) What is scientific about your field? (based on the assigned reading).

R 1/17 Discussion: King and Orwell articles
Introduction to forming analysis


R 1/24 Topic 1: What is Multiculturalism? Discussion of assigned readings.
SA #2 (due T 1/29). Write a summary of one of the articles by Diamond, Tan, or Nathan.

T 1/29 All students turn in and distribute copies of first para of paper 1. WS
R 1/31 Conferencing—partner assignments

T 2/5 WS second para
Read: Handout on analysis
SA #3 (due T 2/12) Explain the difference between analysis and description (i.e., summary). **Give examples to illustrate the difference.**
R 2/7  WS/COM second para
Discussion of analysis

T 2/12  WS/REV/COM Third & Fourth paras
R 2/14  WS/REV/COM Third & Fourth paras

T 2/19  Turn in full drafts. Revising Prose. Read: Lanham, "Revising Prose," ch. 1
(handout)
Complete exercises from "Revising Prose" (handout)
R 2/21  WS/REV/COM Full Drafts

T 2/26  **Paper 1 due in class
Intro to argument
R 2/28  Topic 2: Visual Media. Cartoon description, analysis and argument
Readings:
bell hooks, “Teaching New Worlds” p. 172, Composing Knowledge
June Jordan, “Nobody Mean More to Me than You” (handout
“Environmental Statement,” Chief Seattle (online reading)
(Ebonics packet available online)
SA #4 (due R 3/6) summarize one of the assigned articles.

T 3/4  Discussion of Readings. All Students turn in first para of 2nd paper, and
distribute copies to all students.
R 3/6  WS

T 3/11  WS/REV/COM second paras
R 3/13  WS/REV/COM second paras

T 3/18  WS/REV/COM full drafts
R 3/20  WS/REV/COM full drafts

Spring Break March 24-28

T 4/1  **Paper 2 due in class. Discussion/Introduction to readings
R 4/3  Topic 3 Writing a Proposal. Readings: See Composing Knowledge:
Gladwell, "The Talent Myth: Are Smart People Overrated?" p. 409;
Calandra, "Angels on a Pin: The Barometer Story" p. 158.

T 4/8  All Students bring in cover letter for paper 3, and distribute copies to all
students.
R 4/10  WS cover letters

T 4/15  WS/COM enclosure
R 4/17       WS/COM enclosure

T 4/22       Oral presentations
R 4/24       Oral presentations

T 4/29       WS/REV/COM    Oral presentations
R 5/1        WS/REV/COM    Full drafts

FINAL PAPER DUE ON Fri. 5/2 BY 5:00 PM IN MY MAILBOX AT TB 1.