Course Description

This course is focused on analytical writing based on non-fiction readings. Students are expected to develop a critical understanding of argument, both in the recognition of the strategies of other writers and in the effective management of their own. Students must demonstrate the ability to write accurately, coherently and thoughtfully about representative academic readings. The course also emphasizes strategies of revision and editing.

A full listing of course goals can be found on The Writing Program Web Site here:
http://writingprogram.newark.rutgers.edu/Courses/UnifiedWritingCurriculum.htm#101

Required Texts


Course Goals

The goals of this course are detailed in the Writing Program Handbook at the following website:
http://english-newark.rutgers.edu/01_undergrad_09_writing_program_handbook.htm

Teaching Philosophy

All students come to learning challenges with a given aptitude and skill set – a starting point or foundation. Your instructor’s aim is to work with you to develop your reading, critical thinking and writing skills to reach new levels of understanding and success in your ability to grasp, develop and communicate ideas. My goal as an instructor working with writers is to understand your process and enhance that in ways that help you reach higher levels of discourse, be they academic or professional.

Course Requirements

Readings

Students are expected to have read and thought about assigned readings. Students are expected to be able to discuss any questions found after readings. Readings will be posted and/or broadcast through Blackboard. Students must assure access through their Rutgers Net ID and Rutgers assigned e-mail. Students without access to a personal computer are provided access to Rutgers computers through student computer labs, as covered by student fees.

Essays

Formal essays constitute a major portion of your grade and are based on the assigned readings. Topics for these essays will be discussed in class. In-class writing, editing and revision workshops and active participation therein
are critical to successful essays. Print two copies of all essays. Keep back up disks - triplicate is failsafe.

Presentations
Students will be expected to make timed presentations combining both oral and written work. Some presentations will be based on textual analysis; others may focus on research presentation. These presentations are a part of your grade and will help develop your research skills and your public speaking abilities, while contributing to class perceptions of texts under discussion.

Conferences
Students are encouraged to schedule conferences with the instructor during office hours, or by special appointment, any time additional instruction is required.

Quizzes
Periodic quizzes may be given to check understanding of the required readings. Quiz questions may cover a variety of reading issues, from comprehension and thinking critically about readings to vocabulary knowledge, and correspond with class discussions.

Participation
Active participation in class discussions, group projects have influence on your final course grade.

Portfolio
Students must keep all written assignments and drafts of their work, assembling them in a portfolio, which may be reviewed periodically and at semester's end.

Attendance Policy
As a courtesy to yourself and to your fellow students, please be punctual and stay for the entire class. Being late to class does a disservice to you, your fellow students who may benefit from your contributions and your instructor who is committed to helping you develop new knowledge and skills.

Students are expected to attend each class, arrive on time, remain for the duration, and actively participate. You have two absences, no questions asked; there are no excused absences. After three absences, your final grade will be lowered 1/2 grade for each absence. After six absences you will be advised to drop the course, or you will receive a failing grade (if the drop deadline has passed). Late arrival and early departure will be counted as 1/2 an absence. An arrival is considered late after the class has begun. A departure is considered early if the student leaves before the instructor dismisses the class. If you are asked to leave the classroom because of a behavioral problem, a record will be sent to the dean of students and an absence will be added to your attendance record. Absences are counted from the first day of class or the first day of class from the moment of registration (if you late registered within the allowable period). Sleeping in class is considered being absent.

Students who will be absent due to an official school-related activity (such as athletic) or students who will be absent due to the observance of religious holidays must alert the instructor prior to class(es) missed. In such cases, students will be responsible for making up all work, including in-class assignments.

Academic Integrity Writing Program Academic Integrity Policy
The Rutgers University Integrated Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as "the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work." In Writing Program courses instruction is given and emphasis is placed on attribution and citation skills. Intentionally committing plagiarism is a serious offense with severe consequences. Writing Program instructors are required to report students who intentionally violate this policy to the Director of the Writing Program and to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

The most common academic integrity violations by writing students are:

- Quoting directly or paraphrasing, to a moderate extent, without acknowledging the source
• Presenting the work of another as one's own
• Plagiarizing major portions of a written assignment
• Submitting purchased materials such as term papers

The Rutgers University Interim Academic Integrity Policy establishes levels of violations and recommends sanctions. Depending upon the severity of the case and the level of the violation, the sanctions for these violations include: failure in the course, mandatory participation in a series of noncredit academic integrity workshops, and/or suspension.

If you are in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism or are concerned that you are misappropriating someone's words or ideas, speak immediately with your instructor. For more information, you can also consult the University Code of Student Conduct or the Student Judicial Affairs website (http://judicialaffairs.rutgers.edu).

Exams
Mid-term and final exams are included in this course. Exams cannot be made up if missed. Exams will use nonfiction readings and ask for application of analysis, critical thinking, and writing techniques introduced, practiced, and applied during the semester. During exams you may use a grammar handbook, dictionary, and the original text provided. All electronic devices (computers, cell phones, blue-tooth ear piece, etc) must be turned off and put away for the duration of the class.

Grading
All aspects of this syllabus will be factored into grades. Formal essays and presentations will carry the most weight, but each item can make the difference between a higher or lower grade. Work is weighted approximately as follows:
Exams – 25%
Other graded writing assignments – 15%
Portfolio must be submitted to successfully complete course.

Class Participation is expected from all students. Failure to prepare for participation, speaking over other students, and interjecting inappropriate commentary result in - (minus) grade for participation. Also includes attendance component - missed class meetings mean no participation.

Assignment grades will be reduced if all of the guidelines for written assignments are not followed precisely. All formal essay assignments, both take home and in-class, must be completed to pass this course.

Disabilities
Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity to students with disabilities. Any student who requires reasonable accommodations based on a qualified disability should contact Dean Genevieve Sumski at famoso@andromeda.rutgers.edu or dsnwark@rutgers.edu. You can also go to Robeson Campus Center, room 352.

Tentative Class Schedule

T 01/18 - Reading "A Little Learning Is an Expnsive Thing". In-Class Writing.
Th 01/20 - Course Introduction - Discussion of in-class writing from 9/01

T 01/25 - Bring a personal hygiene product advertisement (ex. deodorant, tooth paste, shaver, etc) to class. Be prepared to analyze and write about the advertisement. In-class writing/discussion.
Th – 02/07 Discussion of "A Stand Against Wikipedia; "Judging Quality on the Web" SOL pp. 33-68 & In-class writing; discussion of readings.

T 02/01 - Signs of Life (SOL) "Popular Signs" pp. 1-33, + Discussion of "What's in a Package" pp. 109 – 118.
Th 02/03 - Discussion of "The Science of Shopping" & "The Signs of Shopping” pp 93-107. Writing
Assignment Due. Organizing your thoughts for short essays. Discussion of thesis and topic formulation.

Th 02/10 - Developing your argument. In class writing workshop. Essay 1 - Rough draft 1 due, Writing techniques workshop

T 02/15 - Essay 1 Final due. In class reading analysis - "If You Have a 'Buy Button' in Your Brain, what rushes it?
Th 02/17 - Discussion of "Gender Codes in American Culture, Gender Roles Behaviors and Attitudes" SOL pp. 559-566.

Th 02/24 - Discussion of "Our Barbies, Ourselves" SOL pp. 486-494. Writing Assignment – Thesis statements.

T 03/01 - Discussion of "Warrior Dreams: SOL pp. 625-634. Writing Assignment – Thesis Statements
Th 03/03 - Structuring your essay. In class writing workshop. Writing Assignment Reading AssignmentIn-class writing. Essay 2, Rough Draft Due.

T 03/08 - Midterm Essay Exam
Th 03/10- Analysis of common essay writing strengths and weaknesses. Essay 2 revision 2 due, Peer editing workshop.

T 03/15 - Spring Break
Th 03/17 - Spring Break


T 03/29 - Thesis proposals due. Paragraph development – in-class writing.
Th 03/31 - Essay 3 rough draft due. Peer Editing. Fine tuning your writing; writing techniques.


Th 04/14 - Discussion of "So You Wanna Be a Gangsta?" SOL pp 375-387; "The Postmortem Condition" SOL pp 414-419.

T 04/19 - Essay 4 Outline and thesis paragraph due - Topic development continued - discussion and writing workshop.
Th 04/21 - Essay 4 rough draft 1 due. Writing techniques workshop. Writing Assignment.

T 04/26 - Final readings – your best paragraph. Portfolio review.
Th 04/28 - Final Essays due. Final exam. Portfolios due.