
Clare 110-05 | Composition & Critical Thinking I

Plassmann Office _F1_

Mr. O'Neil

Office Hours: MWF 9:25-10:25

Spring 2011

MWF 8:30-9:20 | Plassmann 301

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***** I reserve the right to change this syllabus with due notice to you *****

Course Description and Objectives:

In this course, we will learn how to become more effective writers. In order to accomplish this lofty goal, we will focus on all aspects of the writing process, with a particular focus on methods of revision. Be prepared to step out of your comfort zone. We will be looking at writing and the world around us, in ways that may be entirely new to you.

Texts:

Pocket Keys to Writing

They Say / I Say with Readings *

The World is a Text. 2nd edition. Ed. Silverman & Rader

Assorted Readings on Moodle

Grading:

To receive a grade in this class, you must complete five major writing assignments as well as any assigned homework, in-class work, or online course work, which may include such things as quizzes, written responses to reading, and/or grammar and usage worksheets.

Each essay assignment will go through a rigorous process of drafts and revision that will include peer workshops prior to formal grading. **If workshop drafts are late, incomplete, or partial, one letter grade will be deducted from the assignment.** For certain essay assignments, you will be required to attend individual conferences with me to discuss your first draft and offer editorial suggestions for revision. It is your responsibility to keep your graded assignments until the end of the course. Please also keep electronic backups of all your assignments.

Participation will be based on attendance, preparedness, and how you interact with your peers and your instructor—which must always be with a spirit of respect and helpfulness. You will receive an update of your participation grade twice during the semester.

Revision Portfolio is a collection of all the work you do leading up to your final drafts. You should keep hard copies of this work as well as electronic copies (so you should save outlines, notes, and various drafts under different names). You are responsible for keeping these materials so they can be presented at the end of the semester.

Papers will go through a process of note-taking, research and reading, organizing, and various drafting stages, including some earlier stages that are to generate ideas and other later stages that are to refine and polish your papers.

Internet Certain websites, most notably Moodle and Voxopop.com will be crucial to our work this semester. You should familiarize yourself with these Web 2.0 tools now, because technological failure is not a valid excuse for late work.

Grade Breakdown:

Assignment 1-Summary	= 10%
Assignment 2-Comparison of texts on semiotics	= 15%
Assignment 3- Semiotics of Campus	= 15%
Assignment 4-Semiotics of film	= 15%
Assignment 5-Semiotics of Race or Gender	= 15%
Revision Portfolio	= 15%
<u>Participation</u>	<u>= 15%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Plassmann Writing Center:

You will receive a **one third letter grade bonus on the grade of each course essay** that you workshop at the Writing Center in the basement of Plassmann Hall. There is a sign-up sheet on the door of the Center and, while occasional walk-in appointments may be available, you will likely want to sign up for an appointment ahead of time. You must drop off a copy of your essay in advance or bring it with you when you come to your appointment. You are welcome to attend the Writing Center more than once for any essay, but additional visits will not further increase your grade.

Attendance:

Every absence after 3 will equate to a 1% deduction from the final grade. Do not be late to class. It is a common courtesy to all, and tardiness will not be tolerated. Note that if you are more than 15 minutes late to class, you will be marked as absent. If attendance is influenced by hospitalization, family emergencies, or religious holidays, please contact me as soon as possible. Please note that you are responsible for making up any work that was missed during your absence from class. Please shut off all cell phones, mp3 players, beepers, and other electronic gizmos and place them safely out of sight. Perceived use of these devices in class will result in an absence. If you miss your scheduled conference, this will be equivalent to 3 absences.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty is inconsistent with the moral character expected of students in a University committed to the spiritual and intellectual growth of the whole person. It also subverts the academic process by distorting all measurements. It is a serious matter and will be dealt with accordingly. A list of unacceptable practices, penalties to be assigned, and procedures to be followed in prosecuting cases of alleged academic dishonesty may be found in the Student Handbook.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services Office, Doyle Room 26, at 375-2066 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Documentation from this office is required before accommodations can be made.

Format and Assignment Policies:

If your paper is late, you will lose one letter grade per day until it is turned in. Papers are due during the first half-hour of class of the due date. (If class begins at 8:30am, you have until 9:00am to hand the paper in before it is considered late. If you hand your work in a half hour late, you will be marked as absent.) Again, rough drafts also have specific due dates and must be turned in on time. **A late rough draft will cost you a letter grade on your final paper grade. If you are absent when a rough draft or final paper is due, the paper must still meet the deadline or suffer the penalty of being late.**

All papers should be typed and printed in clean copy. **Unless otherwise noted by the instructor, electronic submission of papers will not be accepted.** Follow all MLA guidelines for paper formats, i.e. use a standard font (Garamond, Times New Roman, etc), type in 12 point, and double-space the paper. Papers should have a heading in the upper left hand corner that includes your name, my name, course and section number, and assignment description (e.g. Paper 1 first draft etc.)

Some Cardinal Sins of Composition:

The “Amorphous One”—How to avoid saying anything substantive

“You”—Why 2nd person PoV is your mortal enemy

The downfall of the MEGA paragraph

Assuming that Bill Gates is smarter than you are

Homonym/Homophone Errors

Subject/Verb Agreement

Pronoun/Antecedent Errors

Agreement (Copy and e-mail the following):

Dear Mr. O’Neil,

I have read and understand the above syllabus. I agree to follow and abide by its assignments and due dates. I understand that any misunderstandings of the syllabus on my part must be addressed immediately and are my responsibility.

Regards,

Signature

Date

Calendar and assignment schedule:

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Week 1:

M January 17: Introductions and Course overview—No HW

W January 19: Thesis Statements and JLo Diagnostic—No HW

F January 21: Definitions, Discussion and Demonstrations—HW: Read the Introduction to *The World is a Text* (TWIAT), pages 3-11 and 21-22.

Week 2:

M January 24: HW: Rich and Plotz- TWIAT, pages 242 and 245. LAST DAY FOR
ADD/DROP

W January 26: HW: Barthes-MOODLE

F January 28: Pickett and Pickett—Cracked.com-MOODLE. Bring Paper 1 rough draft to conf.

Week 3:

M January 31: Conferences

W February 2: Conferences

F February 4: Conferences

Week 4:

M February 7: **Paper 1 Revised Draft due.** Hyperbole and a Half. HW: Eco--MOODLE

W February 9: HW: Mack and Pratt—TWIAT pages 214-15 and 221-24

F February 11: HW: Morris—TWIAT page 249

Week 5:

M February 14: Paper 2 Rough Draft due Wednesday

W February 16: In-Class Workshop—Intro/Conclusion HW: Halsband—TWIAT page 484

F February 18: Semiotics of Architecture. HW: Rader/Campus—TWIAT 76-82
Video Clip Presentations begin.

Week 6:

M February 21: **Paper 2 Revised Draft due** HW: OMG Facebook-MOODLE

W February 23: HW: DeLuca—"Social Networking" TWIAT- 100-102

F February 25: HW: ETB Screenwriting and Subtext in dialogue--MOODLE

Mid-Term Break: February 26-March 6

Week 7:

M March 7: Break

W March 9: HW—Subtext and Getting into Character--MOODLE

F March 11: Paper 3 Rough Draft due by 12 noon on Voxopop.

Week 8:

M March 14: Conferences

W March 16: Conferences

F March 18: Conferences

Saturday, March 19th—Potential extra credit opportunity.

Week 9:

M March 21: **Paper 3 Revised Draft due.** All video clip presentations must be done by this date

W March 23: HW: Roger Ebert “Great Movies...” TWIAT page 346

F March 25: Metz/Trucage, and In-Class Workshop--Transitions

Week 10:

M March 28: Rough draft of Paper 4 due on Voxopop by 5pm

T March 29: LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A GRADE OF W.

W March 30: Voxopop Conferences

F April 1: Voxopop Conferences

Week 11:

M April 4: Voxopop Conferences

W April 6: In-Class Workshop—Adding Subtext. HW: Wilson and Gutierrez- TWIAT page 552

F April 8: HW: Sherman Alexie- “My Heroes Have Never Been Cowboys.” TWIAT page 373

Week 12:

M April 11: **Paper 4 Revised Draft Due.** HW: Omi- “Race/Amer. Culture.” TWIAT page 273

W April 13: HW: Theroux- “Being a Man.” TWIAT page 438

F April 15: HW: Patricia Pender- “Kicking Ass/Buffy the Vampire Slayer.” TWIAT page 449

Week 13:

M April 18: HW: bell hooks- “Mock Feminism: *Waiting to Exhale*.” TWIAT page 366

W April 20: HW: Katherine Gantz- “Reading the Queer in Seinfeld.” TWIAT pages 134-149

Easter/Spring Break: April 21-25

Week 14:

W April 27: Paper 5 due (don't worry so much about length yet)

F April 29: in-class workshop- Editing

Week 15:

M May 2: Paper 5 Voxopop Delivery due

W May 4: **Paper 5 Revised Draft Due**

Thursday, May 5th: Reading day

Monday, May 9th: Final Exam for 8:30-9:20 class (Exam is in the classroom from 10:35 to 1:05)

Tuesday, May 10th: Final Exam for 10:30-11:20 class (Exam is in the classroom from 8:00 to 10:30)