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ENG 5500-001: Practicum in Teaching and Tutoring Writing

Fern Kory
Eastern Illinois University

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English 5500: Practicum in Teaching and Tutoring Writing**Fall 2002***Meet in CH 3159 (unless another room is specified) on Wednesdays, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.*

Ray Watkins Composition Director CH3010 / 581-5214 jrwatkins@eiu.edu (or cfjrw2)	Daiva Markelis Writing Center Director CH3375 / 581-5614 dmmarkelis@eiu.edu (or cfdmm)	Fern Kory Assistant Director, Writing Center CH3365 / 581-6291 fkory@eiu.edu (or cffek)
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This practicum will serve as a seminar in the theory and practice of teaching and tutoring writing. Each week, in addition to discussing reading assignments (attached), we will devote substantial class time to discussing issues that arise from your experience of tutoring in the Writing Center, teaching English 1000, or observing and teaching English 1001G/1002G in the mentor program. This syllabus will give you an idea of what we'll be covering together this semester, so that you can anticipate and prepare. However, this schedule is tentative, and changes may be necessary.

Practicum participants are expected to . . .

- attend all practicum meetings
- complete all reading assignments
- contribute to class discussions
- prepare individual and collaborative (group) presentations
- observe a first-year writing class (*not* one taught by your mentor) and then write a critique of the practices you observe there—and the theory behind them—in light of our readings

Texts

- Connors and Glenn, *The New St. Martin's Guide to Teaching Writing* (1999)
- McAndrew and Reigstad, *Tutoring Writing: A Practical Guide for Conferences* (2001)
- Rafoth, ed. *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One* (2000)

Readings & Presentations

Our readings will introduce issues relevant to your work in the writing center and the composition classroom. In our discussions we will attempt to build bridges between the theories implicit in these readings and our own practices. During the first part of the semester readings emphasize one-to-one tutoring in the Writing Center and, later in the semester, more emphasis will be put on classroom instruction. (Spring semester readings will focus on the evolution of the theories behind the most influential pedagogies being used in writing centers and composition classrooms.)

In preparation for some class meetings, you will work with a group to consider how to best facilitate our discussion of the issues raised by the assigned reading. We encourage you to get creative in planning activities that will engage the class in these issues, and beg you not to waste class time with detailed summaries of these shared readings. Groups should plan to confer outside of class.

Each member of the class will also present one "Problem of the Week," a closer look at a common lower-priority offense against Standard Written English. Each presenter will define the "problem" they've chosen ("comma splice," for example), identify useful resources on this topic, and facilitate a discussion of jargon-free ways we can help student writers understand their own patterns of error and learn to revise and edit effectively at appropriate stages of the writing process.

Tentative Agenda of Reading and Writing Assignments

Key TW = *Tutoring Writing* (McAndrew & Reigstad)
TG = *A Tutor's Guide* (ed. Rafoth)
SM or SM Anthology = *The New St. Martin's Guide to Teaching Writing* (Connors & Glenn)

Week 1: August 28

- *Sign-ups: Problem of the Week*
- TW 3: "What Tutoring Writing Isn't"
- TW 6: "What Tutoring Writing Is: Models and Strategies"
- TG 2: "What Line? I Didn't See Any Line"
- TG 13: "Can You Proofread This?"
- TG Appendix D: "Error Priority Guidelines" (p. 126) + TG Topics 4 & 5 (p. 150+)

Week 2: September 4

- *Problem of the Week*
- TW 4: "The Writing and Tutoring Process"
- TW 5: "Tutoring When the Writer Does Not Have a Draft"
- TG 3: "Tutoring in Emotionally Charged Situations" [Group 1]
- TG 4: "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers" [Group 2]

Week 3: September 11

- *Problem of the Week*
- TW 1: "Theories Underpinning Tutoring Writing" + TW 2: "Research Supporting Tutoring Writing" [Group 3]
- SM 7: "Teaching Composing Processes"
- "How to Help Someone Use a Computer," Agre (handout)

Week 4: September 18

- *Discussion of topics for ENG 1000 midterm* (In-class Essays Oct. 1 & 3 + 8 & 10)
- TW 8: "Tutoring Different People"
- TG 12: "Recent Developments in Assisting ESL Writers" + SM Anthology: "The ESL Student in the Freshman Composition Class," Clark (p. 348) [Group 1]
- SM Anthology: "Rethinking Diversity: Axes of Difference in the Writing Classroom," Moss (p. 380) [Group 2]
- SM Anthology: "'When & Where I Enter': Race, Gender, and Composition Studies," Logan (p. 501) [Group 3]

Week 5: September 25 ****Meet in the Writing Center**

- *Discussion of Writing Competency Exam Workshop* (WCE Exams: Sat. Sept. 28 + Sat. Nov. 2)
- *Problem of the Week*
- SM 8: "Teaching Invention"
- SM Anthology: "Writer-Based Prose: A Cognitive Basis for Problems in Writing," Flower (p. 309) [Group 1]

Week 6: October 2

- *Problem of the Week*
- SM 9: "Teaching Arrangement and Form"
- TG 8: "Organizing Ideas: Focus in the Key" [Group 2]
- See Also TG Appendix A: "Global Techniques Writers & Tutors Can Use for Ideas & Organization" (p. 119)

Week 7: October 9 **Meet in the Writing Center

- *Problem of the Week*
- SM 11: "Teaching the Sentence and the Paragraph"

Week 8: October 16

- *Problem of the Week*
- *Discuss Observation Report Assignment*
- SM Anthology: "Grammar, Grammars, and the Teaching of Grammar," Hartwell (p. 404) [Group 3]
- SM Anthology: "Frequency of Formal Errors in Current College Writing, or Ma and Pa Kettle Do Research," Connors & Lunsford (p. 467) [Group 1]
- See also TG Appendix B: "Proofreading Techniques Writer and Tutors Can Use for Surface Errors" + Appendix C: "Proofreading Techniques" (123)

Week 9: October 23

- *Problem of the Week*
- SM Anthology: "Inventing the University," Bartholomae (p. 443) [Group 2]
- Response to Bartholomae, Harris (handout) [Group 3]
- "Arts of the Contact Zone," Pratt (handout) [Group 1]

Week 10: October 30 **Meet in Booth Library e-classroom (Room 4450, top floor)

- *Problem of the Week*
- SM 6: "Responding to & Evaluating Student Essays"
- SM Anthology: "Responding to Student Writing," Sommers (p. 339) [Group 2]

Week 11: November 6

- *Problem of the Week*
- SM 4: "Successful Writing Assignments"
- See also TG Topic 1: "Doing Something About Bad Assignments" (p. 147)
- SM Anthology: "Collaborative Learning & the 'Conversation of Mankind,'" Bruffe (p. 482) [Group 3]
- SM Anthology: "Writing as a Mode of Learning," Emig (p. 331) [Group 1]

Week 12: November 13

- *Problem of the Week*
- TW 7: "Tutoring in Different Places" [Group 2]
- TG 10: "Tutoring in Unfamiliar Subjects" [Group 3]
- TG 15: "Becoming a Resource" [Group 1]

Week 13: November 20

- *Problem of the Week*
- Class Observation Reports DUE

Week14: Thanksgiving Break**Week 15: December 4 **meet in Booth Library e-classroom (Room 4450, top floor)**

- *Problem of the Week*
- TG 14: "Using Others' Words: Quoting, Summarizing, and Documenting Sources" [Group 2]
- SM Anthology: "Technology and Literacy: A Story about the Perils of Not Paying Attention," Selfe (p. 511) [Group 3]

Week 16: December 11 **Bring your Spring Class Schedule!

- *End of Semester Celebration*
- *Receive Spring Semester G.A. Assignments*
- *Sign-ups: Spring Semester Writing Center Schedule*

Group 1

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Group 2

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Group 3

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.