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ENG 3001-004: Advanced Composition

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I. Course Description

Advanced Composition 3001 centers on an advanced application of the principles of expository writing. Students will explore a variety of data bases and research sources.

II. Course Objectives

In this class you will

A. Become more familiar with issues in your major field. Interview experts in your area to develop a theoretical grounding and an awareness of application.

B. Explore and consider a variety of perspectives on a specific issue in your field. Establish and defend a position.

C. Develop an awareness of discourse communities. Write for a predetermined audience in your major area.

D. Compose papers that reflect a writing process which includes formulating a thesis, planning and drafting, revising for clarity and organization, documenting sources, and polishing.

E. Share writing and give/receive feedback with classmates. Develop critical reading skills to apply to your own writing.

F. Expand awareness of computer data bases for research.

III. Course Format

A. Response journal: Responses to a minimum of ten articles, one book, and three interviews on your chosen topic are required. Responses will be maintained on a 3.5 disc but an additional notebook or pocket folder may be needed. In-class writing will also be housed in the response journal.

B. Discussion: In-class discussions will focus on writing processes, computer data bases, response to peer essays, and questions as they arise.

C. Peer response: Sharing of writing at various stages of the writing process is required.

D. Listproc: Discuss a key idea/issue emerging from your reading, respond to a comment/question of a classmate.

E. Drafting: Compose writing assignments in progression toward a publishable professional article.
IV. Course Requirements

A. Working portfolio
   1. Includes all drafts of all required papers, whether the piece was started and aborted or revised and redrafted.
   2. Entries should be dated and situated in the portfolio in the order they were written. If computer disks are submitted, file names and program used should be identified.

B. Final portfolio
   1. Contains final drafts of all formal writing assignments. These must be in hard copy and in accordance with a specific associated format (i.e. APA, MLA, ASA, Chicago).
   2. Includes a reflective letter describing your application of class information and a self analysis defining yourself as a writer, identifying goals and strengths, and using critical evaluation to assign yourself a grade.

C. Response journal
   1. Includes responses to all assigned readings, observations, and interviews.
   2. Houses all in-class writing.

D. Listproc
   1. A minimum of three entries per week is required.
   2. Entries may (1) present new information from your research (minimum one per week), (2) pose questions on writing, forming an argument, citing a source, etc., or (3) respond to someone else's entry.

V. Evaluation

Course grade will be determined by the following:

1. Definition Essay 25 points
2. Review of the Literature 25 points
3. Persuasive Essay 25 points
4. Final project 50 points
5. Response journal 50 points
6. Peer response 50 points
7. Listproc entries 50 points
8. Oral presentation 25 points
9. Attitude, preparedness, participation 25 points

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350 points
Schedule of Expectations

1/14 Introduction to course
Assignment: Establish e-mail account TODAY. Student Services: Rm. B12
As group or individual briefly interview 1-3 professors in your major area to find out (a) key issues in the field, (b) the ways in which they most use writing, and (c) the professional journals they recommend you consult. Take notes and reflect on the interview(s) in your journal(s).

1/16 Introduction to computer databases
Assignment: e-mail me your name, SS #, major(s) and minor school address and phone number, permanent address and phone number, professional goal(s), reason(s) why this course has value for you.
print first page of First Search data base
print ERIC entry
print 2 entries from web on topics you may research.

1/21 Discuss interview experience and computer searches
Discuss discourse communities------Examine samples
Hand in printed data pages (in pocket folder)
Assignment: Examine 3-5 professional journals to determine discourse communities. Select at least three journals to analyze. Consider the title of the journal, subjects of articles, kinds of writing, vocabulary, and advertisements. Use the listproc to discuss this. Choose a professional journal that you think would be appropriate for the type of article you would like to write. Record/photo copy the criteria for publication in that journal. E-mail me a message discussing the discourse community who reads this journal, the type of article you believe has a good chance of being accepted for publication to this journal, and your plan for composing an article.

1/23 Deadline for analysis of discourse communities and plan for article.
Respond on listproc.
Discussion on research progress. Brainstorm frequently used terms.
Assignment: 2-3 page essay defining a specialized term or concept using the discourse community of the journal you have selected as your audience. It will be necessary to first give a literal definition/description and then go on to contextualize the term/idea within the field. Use specific examples to aid the audience in clarifying. Due 2/4

1/28 Work on essay or entries on listproc. You are encouraged to rely on one another for feedback during this work time.

1/30 Read a minimum of 10 articles and a minimum of one book on the issue you have chosen for your article. Interview "experts." Respond as you read in your response journal, citing pages you are referencing.

2/4 Share essays in small groups. Respond and give suggestions.
Assignment: Revision of definition essays due 2/11.

2/6 Continue to research your topic at the library or on the web. Remember to respond as you read in your journal to all material, citing pages.

2/11 Revision of definition essay due. Silent sharing.

2/13 Continue work on response to readings and listproc.
2/18 Discuss characteristics of a literature review. Sample.
Assignment: Construct a review of the articles/books you are reading on your topic. Be careful to organize similar information in "chunks" and to provide smooth transitions from one idea/issue to the next. Include bibliography following your field's style manual. Due 2/25.
Respond on listproc, citing pages.

2/20 Continue responses on journal or listproc. Begin lite. review.

2/25 Share lite. reviews in small groups. Initial your responses.
Assignment: Revision of lite. review due 3-4.

2/27 Response to readings and listproc. Revise lite. review.

Review your efforts on the listproc, response journal, composing essays and peer response. Compose a reflective letter and a course evaluation. Assign yourself a midterm grade based on the quality of your work and the effort extended.
All responses to assigned readings due.
Working and Final Portfolios due.
Literature review due.
Three listproc entries per week due.
Sign up for individual conference times.

3/6 Midterm requirements due.

3/11-13 Individual Conferences

3/18-20 Spring Break

3/25 Take a position on your topic and freewrite. You may refer to notes, texts, articles if you like but it is not required. The goal is to write about the topic in your voice. Share.
Assignment: Write a persuasive essay on the issue you have been researching. Be sure that your position is clearly presented and defended, using examples from your reading, expert interviews, or your personal experience. Due 4/1.

3/27 Run a new data search on your topic to discover new information released in the last 8 weeks. Work on persuasive essay. Interview experts.

4/1 Share persuasive essays in small groups. Initial your responses.
Revision due 4/1.
Sign up for oral presentations.
Assignment: Prepare a 8-10 minute formal oral presentation on your research such as might be presented at a professional conference. Portions may be read to insure correctness in citing. You will be expected to dress and act as a professional addressing the audience for whom your journal article is intended. Define this audience for the class before beginning your presentation. Oral presentations begin 4/8.
Sign up for presentation times. Article due 4/22.


4/1 Revision of Persuasive Essay due. Share/Respond.
Work on articles and oral presentation, including visual aids if they will enhance your presentation. Listproc. Interviews.

4/8-17 Oral presentation.
Share article in groups of three. Initial responses.
Assignment: Review your efforts for the semester. Consider Newsroom entries, essays, revisions, peer response, oral presentation, and final article. Compose a reflective letter and a course evaluation. Assign yourself a final grade based on the quality of your work and the efforts you have put forth. Hand in your working and final portfolios with the reflective letter and the course evaluation. Be sure you have completed three listproc responses per week for 16 weeks.

4/24 Revised article due
Working and final portfolios due
Reflective letter due
Course evaluation due