ENG 3001-008: Advanced Composition

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English 3001-008: Advanced Composition  
Fall 2000

Instructor: Jerie Weasmer  
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Hours: M & W 8:30-11:00
Phone: 6927  

Texts: Style manual most preferred in your major area (i.e. MLA, APA, Turabian, Chicago)

Requirements: You must complete all parts of all assignments to receive credit for the class. Due to the amount of in-class exchange attendance is included in your evaluation.

Attendance: One absence will be excused. Each subsequent absence without proof of medical or legal emergency will result in a 10-point grade drop.

I. Course Description

Advanced Composition 3001 centers on an advanced application of the principles of expository writing. You 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 topic 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 that 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 four interviews on your chosen topic are required. Ideally this journal will be maintained on a 3.5 disc but an additional notebook or pocket folder may also be needed. In-class writing will also be housed in the 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. Listserv: 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.

B. Final portfolio

1. Contains final drafts of all formal writing assignments typed and in accordance with a specific associated format (i.e. MLA, APA, 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. Listserv

1. A minimum of two entries per week is required. Late submissions result in 0 credit.

2. Entries can (1) present new information from your research, (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 50 points
2. Review of the Literature 100 points
3. Persuasive Essay 75 points
4. Final Article 100 points
5. Response Journal 100 points
6. Peer Response 50 points
7. Listserve entries 75 points
6. Oral presentation 50 points
7. Attitude, preparedness, participation 50 points

Total 650 points

Schedule of Expectations

**8/22** (302) Introduction to course. Establish hotmail account or other broad-based account (NOT pen)
Subscribe to the listserve.
Assignment: 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).
Write about your name. Deposit in class folder. Respond to others’ writing.

**8/24** (302) Discuss discourse communities—Examine samples
In groups examine 3-5 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. Choose a 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 read 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.

**8/29** (303) Deadline for analysis of discourse communities and plan for article.
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. Using specific examples will aid the audience in clarifying. (Due 9/7)

**8/31-9/5** Individual conferences on your interviews, topic, and definition papers. Journals due.

**9/7** (302) Bring definition essays on disk saved to “rich text format.” Share essays.
Read a minimum of 10 articles and a minimum of one book on the issue you have chosen for your article. Interview experts on your topic in person or on line. Respond as you read in your response
journal and on the listserve, citing pages you are referencing.

9/12 Class will not meet. Work on gathering data and revising definition essay.

9/14 Discuss progress/concerns. Revision of definition essay due in hard copy. Silent sharing. 
Assignment: Construct a review of the articles/books you are reading on your topic. Organize similar information in "chunks" and provide smooth transitions from one idea/issue to the next. Include a bibliography following your field's style manual. Respond on listserve, citing pages.

9/19 Continue to research your topic at the library or on the web. Remember to respond as you read.

9/21 Share lit. reviews on disk in small groups. Initial your responses. 
Assignment: Revision of lit review due 9/28.

9/26 Class will not meet. Respond to assigned readings and interviews. Revise lit. review.

9/28 Literature review due in hard copy. Silent sharing.

10/3 (302) 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 your topic in your own 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 and interviews. You will need to meet the opposition early in the essay. Due 10/12.

10/5 Review your efforts on the listserve, 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 you have extended. All responses to articles, books, internet sources, and interviews to date are due. (MIDTERM)

10/12 Bring persuasive essays in hard copy to share. Revision due 10/19. Sign up for presentation date. 
Assignment: Prepare an 8-10 minute formal oral presentation on your research such as might be presented at a professional conference. Portions may be read if necessary to ensure correctness in citing. You will be expected to dress and act as a professional addressing the audience for whom your article is intended. Define this audience for the class at the outset of your presentation. You may want to consider Power Point or other visual aids. Presentations will begin 10/24.

10/17 Class will not meet. Continue interviewing. Work on revision and formal presentation.

Assignment: Using the information you have gathered and written about in a variety of mediums and for a variety of audiences, prepare an article suitable for publication. Attach the publishing specifications for that particular journal. Due 11/9.

11/9 Share hard copy of article in groups of three. Revision due 11/16.


12/7 All work for the semester due, including response journal, listserve responses (minimum 2 per week), working portfolio, and final project.