

RHE 325M Advanced Expository Writing Spring 2009

Unique Number: 44310

Place and Time: Monday & Wednesday, 2-3:30; PAR 104

Instructor: John Ruskiewicz

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Office Hours: MW 3:30-5 and by appointment

Goals: Rhetoric 325M is an advanced-level workshop in writing and editing. Its goal is to make already skilled writers more polished and publishable. The standards are high, and the class will focus intensely on editing individual projects with everyone in the course having access to the drafts of their colleagues' work.

Coursework: You will write three short papers and three major ones. The shorter papers will be posted as entries on the Discussion Board. The major projects will also be submitted on Discussion Board, but via attached Word files, accompanied by a brief statement describing your problems/opportunities in composing the paper. For each major project, you'll turn in a draft (as a course requirement), and most of you will have the opportunity to have a project showcased during the term—that is, edited line-by-line by the entire group.

You will also get feedback from me on two of your major projects: I will edit these materials with you, one-on-one, in my office.

Grades: To pass the course, you must turn in **on time** proposals and first drafts for each of the three major papers. Submission of these drafts is a course requirement. Drafts will not be letter graded. But if you do not turn in a draft of an essay on time, you will not receive a grade higher than "C" on the final version.

Your final grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

Literacy Narrative / 5%

Review of John Trimble's Writing With Style / 10%

Grammar and Mechanics project / 5%

Major Project 1 / 25%
Major Project 2 / 25%
Major Project 3 / 25%
Editing / 5%

For more details, check the grading grid on Blackboard. Note that this formula presumes satisfactory attendance and the completion of all assignments (including reading and editing assignments) on time.

Because this is a course in advanced composition for serious writers, I am willing to entertain well-articulated proposals for alternative major writing projects comparable in scope to the basic assignments. Such alternatives need to be negotiated at the beginning of the term or prior to the specified assignments. In other words, you cannot decide at the last moment to submit an alternative project.

Final versions of papers will receive a letter grade assigned the following values basic values, with some modification to indicate plus and minus marks: A / 95 B / 85 C / 75 D / 65 F / 1-59 Paper or assignment not turned in: 0. Your final course grade will be awarded on the following averages: A / 100-90 B / 89-80 C / 79-70 D / 69-60 F / 59-0 Please note that a 69 is a "D," 79 is a "C," an 89 a "B." Do not discard any drafts, notes, papers or research materials you produce during the course until after you have received a final grade. You may want to keep course materials in a folder or on Webspaces. You will need to know how to load files to our course Website. **Materials and Textbooks:** For this class, you will need to purchase:

John Trimble, *Writing With Style*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000.

Andrea Lunsford and John Ruskiewicz, *The Presence of Others*, 5th ed. Boston: Bedford, 2008

John Ruskiewicz, et al., *The Scott Foresman Handbook for Writers*. 8th ed. New York: Prentice, 2007 or some comparable handbook

Attendance/Late Assignments: You are expected to attend class regularly and to participate in in-class editing, revising, and discussion. If you miss six classes or more, you will fail automatically. Please take attendance seriously.

Papers, drafts, and other out-of-class assignments are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned. Late

drafts or papers will result in a reduction of one letter grade for each class day they are late. Short out-of-class assignments or Web forum postings are not accepted late. There is no makeup of in-class work and no extra credit.

Scholastic Responsibility/Complaints: Turning in work that is not your own or any other form of scholastic dishonesty will result in a major course penalty (including possible failure in the course). A report of the incident will also be made to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Bring any questions you have about grades or policies to me first. Complaints we cannot resolve can be taken to the Associate Director of the Division of Rhetoric and Composition (Parlin 3).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities : The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TDD.

Web-based Class Sites Since fall 2001, web-based, password-protected class sites have been available for all accredited courses taught at The University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, class e-mail rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For information on restricting directory information see:
<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi00-01/app/appc09.html>

Cell Phones: Turn off your cell phone before class begins. I don't permit students to take calls during class and I don't want phones interrupting our work or discussions. If you can't bear to be without a phone for our class period, sign up for a different section.

(005P) ADVANCED WRITING-W (44310)

 Announcements

 Syllabus

 Faculty Information

 Course Documents

 Assignments

 Communication

 My Grades

 Discussion Board

 External Links

 Tools

 UT Policies

 UT Honor Code

 Search

 OCA

 Research Tools

COURSE MANAGEMENT

- Control Panel
- Course Tools
- Course Links
- Evaluation
- Users and Groups
- Customization
- Packages and Utilities
- Help

Syllabus

Create Item
Build
Evaluate
Collaborate
More

Syllabus

Spring 2009 -- RHE 325M -- Section 44310

Class Schedule

January
February
March
April
May

January

January 21
 Course introduction/policies
 Writing Assignment: Literacy Narrative. See Discussion Board. First draft is due January 26
 Reading Assignment: Begin reading *Writing with Style*

January 26
 Literacy Narratives reviewed and discussed
 Reading Assignment: Continue reading *Writing with Style*
 Reading Assignment: Examine the material on Evaluation from a chapter from *How to Write Anything* posted under External Links on our Blackboard site

January 28
 Discussion of Evaluation.
 Writing Assignment: Review of *Writing With Style*. See Discussion Board. First draft is due February 2

February

February 2
Writing With Style reviews due
 Discussion of *Writing With Style* reviews
 Reading Assignment: *The Scott Foresman Handbook / 8*, Part V, pp. 387-485 *Grammar* or similar material in a comparable handbook

February 4
 Revised Versions (optional) of Literacy Narratives due in designated Discussion Board forum
 Discussion of *Writing With Style* reviews continues
 Reading Assignment: *The Scott Foresman Handbook / 8*, Part VI, pp. 531-608 *Punctuation and Mechanics* or similar material in a comparable handbook
 Writing Assignment: Grammar and Me, due February 9 (See Discussion Board for the details.)

February 9
 Grammar and Me essays due

https://courses.utexas.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_tab_gro...oard%2Fexecute%2Flauncher%3Ftype%3DCourse%26id%3D_89547_1%26url%3D

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Discussion of "Grammar and Me" essays.

February 11

Discussion of "Grammar and Me" essays (cont.)

Lanham's *Revising Prose* video (for those of you who haven't seen it in a previous class)

Reading Assignment: Read selectively in Chapter 6 "Identities" in *The Presence of Others / 5*, focusing on the essays you find most compelling or personally significant.

Writing Assignment: A short passage from an essay in Chapter 6 "Identities" of *The Presence of Others*, due February 16. (See Discussion Board "Significant Passage from *Presence*" for the details.)

February 16

Significant passages from *Presence of Others*, Chapter 6, due on Discussion Board

Final versions of *Writing With Style* reviews due

Reading Assignment: *How To Write Anything*, Chapter 1, Personal Narrative. You can download the chapter from a link under Major Project #1 on the Assignments page.

February 18

Significant Passages from Ch. 6 (cont.)

Writing Assignment: Project #1, *Identities* assigned, first draft due March 2

Writing Assignment: Topic Proposal for Project #1, due February 23

Reading Assignment: *The Scott Foresman Handbook / 8*, Section 2d, How do you write a topic proposal? pp. 25-26

February 23

Topic proposals for Project #1 due

Discussion of topic proposals

Reading Assignment: *The Scott Foresman Handbook / 8*, Chapter 4, How Do You Write a Draft? pp. 46-52

February 25

Topic Proposals (cont.)

Submitting a Paper (see Course Documents)

Editing a Paper (see Course Documents)

Reading Assignment: *The Scott Foresman Handbook / 8*, Chapter 5, How Do You Revise, Edit, and Proofread? pp. 56-75 and Revision Guide on inside back cover

March

March 2

First draft of Project #1 due

Project #1 Editing Workshop

March 4

Project #1 Showcases

March 9

Project #1 Showcases

Reading Assignment: Read selectively in Chapter 3 "Education" in *The Presence of Others / 5*, focusing on the essays you find most compelling or personally significant.

Writing Assignment: A short passage from an essay in Chapter 3 "Education" of *The Presence of Others*, due March 11. (See Discussion Board "Significant Passage from *Presence*" for the details.)

March 11

Significant Passages from Ch. 3

Project #2: *Education* assigned, first draft due March 30

Writing Assignment: Topic Proposal for Project #2, due March 23

March 16
Spring Break

March 18
Spring Break

March 23
Topic Proposal for Project #2 due
Review of topic proposals

March 25
Final version of Project #1 due
Review of topic proposals for Project #2 (cont.)

March 30
First draft of Project #2 due
Project #2 Editing Workshop

April

April 1
Project #2 Showcases

April 6
Project #2 Showcases
Reading Assignment: Read selectively in Chapter 4 "Ethics" in *The Presence of Others* / 5, focusing on the essays you find most compelling or personally significant.
Writing Assignment: A short passage from an essay in Chapter 4 "Ethics" of *The Presence of Others*, due April 8. (See Discussion Board "Significant Passage from *Presence*" for the details.)

April 8
Significant Passages from Ch. 4
Project #3: *Ethics* assigned, first draft due April 20
Writing Assignment: Project #3 topic proposal, due April 15

April 13
Significant Passages from Ch. 4 (cont.)

April 15
Topic proposals for Project #3 due
Review of topic proposals

April 20
Final version of Project #2 due
Review of topic proposals (cont.)

April 22
First draft of Project #3 due
Project #3 Editing Workshop

April 27
Project #3 Showcases

April 29
Project #3 Showcases

May

May 4
Project #3 Showcases

May 6

Final versions of Project #3
In-class reading of favorite passages from works written this term
Course evaluation
No final examination

Page last updated December 16, 2008, by John Ruszkiewicz.