

Maxine Hairston

Proposal for English 309L, (Writing Process) Spring term, 1990

In this course students will work on improving their writing abilities through working intensively in the writing process and getting continual feedback during the process from the instructor and other students in the course. Each person will write a total of four papers in the course, each paper to be done in two drafts and a final edited version. For each paper we will work on pre-draft discovery, drafting, collaborating with others on responses to drafts, revising, and editing. Each student will work out his or her own topics in cooperation with the instructor early in the term.

The class will be a computer-assisted class, taught in the English department computer lab classroom. Students will write on computers, using an easily-learned word processing program; each student will receive a free copy of that program. We will read each other's papers and comment on those papers by using computers. We will work on networked computers, allowing an ongoing, on-screen dialog between students and between students and the instructor. Students can print out papers on lab machines.

The course will stress collaborative group learning and interaction with other writers in the class, including the instructor. A major goal for the course is to create a community of writers who are involved in and profit from each other's writing. Evaluation in the course will be based on each student's active participation and contribution to that community as well as on the quality of his or her individual papers.