

English 201

Gregory A. Thumm, ENGL 201, Fall 2005, Advanced Composition

MWF: 10:30—11:20

Instructor: Gregory A. Thumm

Mailbox: 231 Stansbury

Office: 337 Stansbury

Email: Greg.Thumm@mail.wvu.edu

Office Hours: MWF 9:30-10:20, or by appointment gthunnnmix.wvu.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Elbow, Peter and Patricia Belanoff. *Sharing and Responding*. 3 ed Boston; McGraw-Hill, 2000.
- Root, Jr. Robert L. and Michael Steinberg. *The Fourth Genre: Contemporary Writers of/on Creative Non- Fiction*. 2nd ed. New York: Pearson, 2002.

COURSE PROJECTS

Autobiographical Essay 10%

Personal Essay 10%

Travel Essay 10%

Issue Essay 15%

Magazine Article 20%

Revision 10%

Two In-Class essays in Writing Lab 10%

Participation 15%

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

- More than three (3) absences will compromise your final course grade as much as one full letter.
- More than five(S) absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

If you must be absent, you are responsible for the work due the next class period and for getting any handouts you may have missed. If you come to class without a draft or whatever is required that day, you will be asked to leave, and you will be marked absent.

You will not be allowed to make up in-class work you miss due to absence or tardiness. Absence from a conference counts as two class absences.

Participation

Participation not only includes doing the required written work, but coming to class or conferences prepared, taking part in class discussion, completing discussion questions, asking questions, fully completing peer evaluations, contributing your knowledge and insights in whatever form is suitable, and striving to make all contributions excellent.

Late Work

Late final drafts will receive as much as a full letter grade penalty for each day they are late. After one week, late work will receive an automatic F.

If you have a problem with an assignment, please talk to me ahead of time. Deadlines are not negotiable after you have missed them.

Special Needs - If you have a learning disability, hearing, or vision problems or any other special need that might affect your performance or participation in class, please be sure to talk to me. Also please be aware of the support services available to you through Disability Services, located in room G30 in the Mountainlair (293-6700).

Social Justice - West Virginia University is committed to social justice. The classroom community will work to create a positive learning environment based on open communication, mutual respect and non-discrimination.

Procedure

When you turn in your work for a final grade, please submit the final version in a manila folder labeled clearly with your name. In addition to your final draft, include pre-writing, earlier drafts,

as well as peer responses and any other written work produced while working on the assignment. FINAL GRADE FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT WILL INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF ALL WORK SUBMITTED, NOT JUST THE FINAL DRAFT.

Promptness.-- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates listed on the schedule unless otherwise indicated. If you cannot be in class, your work is due in my mailbox during class-time. Remember, assignments turned in late will be penalized.

Presentation - All work should be neatly typed, using standard margins and spacing in a word-processing program. All work should exhibit complete and appropriate format.

Grammar, Spelling, and Proofreading - A single error in spelling, grammar, or proofreading can jeopardize the effectiveness of your written work. Therefore, I expect you to proofread your work carefully and to pay attention to the mechanics of your writing. Please note if you have problems with grammar and / or mechanics you may use the tutoring service available through the WVU Center for Writing Excellence, or you may make appointments with me. Your writing must demonstrate control over grammar and mechanics for you to pass this course. If you have problems with grammar / mechanics, it will be your responsibility to improve them.

Miscellaneous

Cell phones must be muted off before class starts. You will be asked to leave the classroom and marked absent for the day should your cell phone create any classroom disturbance. You must complete all assignments to pass this course.

I will not give out or discuss grades over the phone or via email.

Grading Criteria

A (91 -100): Exemplary work. Your written work meets or exceeds all the objectives of the assignment. The content is mature, thorough, and well-suited for the audience; the style is clear, accurate, and forceful; your presentation is well-organized and formatted so that it is accessible and attractive; the mechanics and grammar are correct.

B (81 -90): Good work. The writing meets the objectives of the assignment, but needs improvement in content, presentation, or writing style / mechanics.

C (71 -80): Satisfactory work. Documents are adequate in all respects, but require some further substantive revisions of either content, presentation, or writing style I mechanics; they may require further work in more than one area.

D (61 - 70): Documents are unprofessional. They generally require extensive revisions of content, presentation, writing style, and / or mechanics.

F (60 and below): The written work does not have enough information, does something other than what the assignment required, or it contains major and pervasive problems in terms of content, presentation, or writing style mechanics.

An F is also given for plagiarized work or falsified documentation.

According to the West Virginia University Undergraduate Catalog:

Plagiarism: material that has been knowingly obtained or copied in whole or in part from the work of others . including (but not limited to) another's academic composition.

Cheating: doing academic work for another student, or providing one's own work for another student to copy and submit and his / her own.

Scholastic dishonesty involves misrepresenting as your own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without the written approval and consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of necessary course materials; interfering with another's work.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. Clear cases will result in an F for the course and appropriate academic discipline. Ignorance of documentation standards cannot be used as an excuse; if you have any questions about how to properly document sources, or any other questions which will help you avoid unintentional plagiarism, please see me. Plagiarized rough drafts will be considered as a serious offense as plagiarized final papers.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Week 1

M 08/22 Introduction to the Course

W 08/24 Sharing & Responding 1-21; Fourth Genre xv-xxxiii, 1-3; "Toward a Definition of Creative"; Non-Fiction" 309-315; rhetoric, collaboration, process writing, portfolios

F 08/26 Writer's Profile; Genre "On the Possibilities of the Essay: A Meditation" 246-252; "What We Didn't Know We Knew" 294-300

Week 2

M 08/29 Discussion Questions Due on 8/29

W 08/31 Genre "The Art of Memoir" 232-235; To Fashion a Text" 236—245

F 09/02 "Memory and Imagination" 259-268; "The Whole Truth" 269-276 "Everything But the Truth" 291-293; "Teacher Training" 403-408; Composing 'Teacher Training" 409-416; "Memoir? Fiction? Where's the Line?" 338-343

Week 3

M 09/05 Labor Day Recess

W 09/07 Autobiographical Assignment

F 09/09 First draft of Autobiography due (bring 4 copies)

Week 4

M 09/12 Bring revised drafts of Autobiography to class (bring 2 copies) ; Revising for style (handout)

W 09/14 Final Draft of Autobiography Due — Submit all writing for this assignment in manila folder or envelope

F 09/16 Discussion Questions Due on 9/16 Genre 'Living Like Weasels" 54-57; "Portrait of My Body" 105-112; "What Happened to the Personal Essay?" 301-308; "The Singular First Person" 329-337; "Zion" 417-424; "On Writing Zion" 425-430

Week 5

M 09/19 Personal Essay assignment

W 09/21 First Draft of Personal Essay due (bring 4 copies)

F 09/23 Personal Essay cont. Bring revised drafts (bring 2 copies)

Week 6

M 09/26 Final Personal Essay due (all work submitted in manila folder or envelope) Writing Lab
240 Stansbury

W 09/28 Writing Lab 240 Stansbury

F 09/30 Discussion Questions Due on 9130 Genre ‘In Search of Proust” 5-12; “oh, Say Can You See” 13-18; “Northeast Direct” 62-65 “From Birnam Wood to Dunsinane” 117-123

Week 7

M 10/03 Travel Essay assignment

W 10/05 First Draft of Travel Essay due (bring 4 copies)

F 10/07 Bring revised drafts of Travel Essay (bring 2 copies)

Week 8

M 10/10 Travel Essay due (submit all work in manila folder or envelope)

W 10/12 Conferences in 337 STA

F 10/14 Conferences in 337 STA

Week 9

M 10/17 Discussion Questions Due on 10/14

W 10/19 Genre “Why I Chose the Creative Nonfiction Way of Life” 253-258; “Courting the Approval of the Dead” 277-290; “The Other Creative Writing” 3 16-320 ‘Where Worlds Collide” 90-99; “Celebrating Creation” 148-151; handouts

F 10/21 Writing About Issues

Week 10

M 10/17 Bring to class three potential issues” with a brief outline of the approach you might take for each and your reasons for considering each one. Prepare a list of what you already know

about each topic, a list of what you need to find out, and a list of potential research sources.
Review documentation.

W 10/19 Optional Conferences in 337 Stansbury continue work on drafts and research

F 10/21 Issues Workshop 1--First draft due (bring 4 copies)

Week 11

M 10/24 Issues Workshop 2 bring revised drafts (bring 2 copies)

W 10/26 Issues Workshop 3 bring revised drafts (bring 2 copies)

F 10/28 Final Issues Essay due (submitted in manilla folder or envelope)

Week 12

M 10/31 Begin Magazine Article assignment by identifying a magazine you would like to write for

W 11/02 based on your interests, experience, and knowledge. Examine back issues to get a sense of the types of writing the magazine features (consider subject matter, stylistic elements, tone, etc) Compose a brief analysis of the magazine based on your observations.

F 11/04 Optional Conferences--work on Magazine Article analysis draft

Week 13

M 11/07 Bring a recent issue of the magazine and your analysis of it to class.

W 11/09 MA Article Workshop 1--Bring first draft of MA to class (bring 4 copies)

F 11/11 MA Article Workshop 2 —bring revised drafts (bring 2)

Week 13

M 11/14 MA Article Final Draft Due (submit in manila folder or envelope)

W 11/16 Conferences in 337 Stansbury

F 11/18 Conferences in 337 Stansbury

Week 14

M 11/28 Writing Lab 240 Stansbury

W 11/30 Writing Lab 240 Stansbury

F 12/02 Writing Lab 240 Stansbury

Week 15

M 12/05 Revision assignment (using your choice of either Autobiography, Personal ,or Travel essay)

W 12/07 Revision cont.

F 12/09 Final Draft of Revision due