WAC 107: Intro to Academic Writing   Summer 2013

Section:	Meeting Days:	Class Time:	Location:
44386	T W Th	6:10 PM - 8:15 PM	CPCOM 207

Instructor: Ryan Shepherd
Office: LL317
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:10-5:10 PM
Email: Ryan.Shepherd@asu.edu
Phone: (480) 965-3853 (messages only)
Cell: (602) 369-6496 (text messages, please)
Course Site: http://www.schoology.com/course/39491835/materials
Writing Program: http://english.clas.asu.edu/writingprograms

Required Textbooks:
Ramage, J. D., Bean, J. C., & Johnson, J. (2012). The Allyn & Bacon guide to writing (6th ed.). New York: Pearson Longman.

Additional Requirements:
- A Schoology account
- An ASURITE ID and password to access MyASU
- Access to Google Docs in MyASU
- An email account linked to MyASU and Schoology that is checked regularly
- Daily access to a computer and the internet

Course Description:
WAC 107 is a 3-credit hour, graded writing course designed to help students discover, organize, and express their ideas on current topics for specific audiences, occasions, and purposes. Heavy emphasis is placed upon the writing process: invention, researching, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading. Through different perspectives from the assigned readings, library research, class discussion, out-of-class work, and fieldwork, students will learn to critically evaluate, synthesize, and analyze different perspectives, connect these perspectives to their personal experiences and ideas, and use these perspectives to demonstrate various writing strategies. The course assignments will prepare students for English 107 and 108 and introduce students to some of the types of writing required in other university courses.

Course Goals:
Through this course, students will:
- synthesize and analyze multiple points of view
- articulate and support one's own position regarding various issues

- adjust writing to multiple audiences, purposes, and conventions
- become conscientious and responsible writers, both for college and beyond
- learn to access and become involved with the discourses of the university community
- develop questioning abilities that move them beyond the passive acceptance of new materials to thinkers who can hold those materials up to genuinely informed scrutiny

Course and Writing Requirements

Attendance and Lateness:

I expect you to attend all classes and to arrive on time; consistent attendance is the only way to make the most of the class. If you miss more than two classes, you will fail the course—this is Writing Programs policy.

Being more than 15 minutes late to class, being 5-15 minutes late to class two times, or leaving class early without permission will each count as an absence. We will occasionally hold conferences or workshops; if you miss one of these sessions (whether in-person or online), you will be counted absent.

Classroom Environment:

Please silence all cell phones during class time. We should all give the class and each other our full attention for the duration of the session. If you answer a phone, text message, or use other media during class, you will receive no participation credit for that day, and I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class.

Our classroom has the benefit of computer workstations for students to use for classroom activities. Please note that these are to be used only for classroom activities during class time. If you are browsing material not related to the class during class time, you will receive no participation credit for that day, and I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class.

Please note that some course content may be sensitive. As we conduct scholarly investigation and engage in critical thinking about class topics, we will often entertain many different opinions about a topic or text or perspective; please be considerate of others' contributions and viewpoints. An environment of respect will allow all of us the opportunity to participate and learn.

Homework:

Homework includes all work done outside of face-to-face class time aside from the final drafts of the major writing projects. This includes first and revised drafts of the major writing projects, peer reviews, discussion board posts and responses, and other activities outside of class.

I do not accept make-up work for any homework. All homework is due at the time designated on the schedule. Late homework will not be accepted and will receive no points. Absence, computer problems, or other issues are not an excuse for late or incomplete homework.

In-Class Participation:

In-class participation essentially means coming to class sessions fully prepared and actively engaging in the class. This will include group work, written responses, and various other activities. If you are late or absent, there is no way to make up for participation points.

Please note: absence is not an excuse for being unprepared for class. If you are absent, you should still be prepared for the next class that you attend and are still responsible for all homework and work done in class.

Writing Projects:

There are three writing projects in WAC 107. **You must submit all three writing projects to pass the course**. All drafts will be submitted electronically through the My Docs feature in MyASU. All projects must be submitted to the site by the due date listed on the syllabus. Late writing projects will lose full letter grade one minute after it is due and another letter grade every 24 hours thereafter. Writing projects more than 5 days late will receive no credit but must still be submitted. Computer problems are not valid excuses for late work.

Writing Project 1: Reflection on a Piece of Writing allows students to reflect upon past writing experiences and make a claim about who they are as a writer. Students will be asked to use evidence from a single piece of writing that they did in the past, detailing their writing process for the piece.

Writing Project 2: Evaluation of a Pop Culture Text allows students to choose a pop culture text (such as a movie, TV episode, book, or piece of art) and evaluate the text on criteria determined by the writer. Students will be required to choose a new

text at the beginning of the project (one which they have not experienced before) and develop criteria for a model version of that kind of text.

<u>Writing Project 3: Analysis of a Visual Text</u> allows students to choose a visual text and analyze how the text makes its points. Students will be encouraged to choose visual text with some meaning to them and back up their analysis with evidence from the textbook and one additional secondary source.

Grading:
The course grade will be determined by the following:

Writing Project 1	20%
Writing Project 2	25%
Writing Project 3	25%
Homework (including drafts and peer review)	20%
In-Class Participation	10%

Grading Scale:
All grades in the class (including final grades) will be calculated on the following scale:

A:	95-100
A-:	90-94.99
B+:	87-89.99
B:	83-86.99
B-:	80-82.99
C+:	76-79.99
C:	70-75.99
D:	60-69.99
E:	0-59.99

Please note that a C (70%) is the lowest passing grade in Writing Programs classes.

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. In the event that a portion of the syllabus is changed, students will be notified during class time, and a new version of the syllabus will be made available through Blackboard.

Standard Writing Programs Policies

1. Policy on class attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Because Writing Programs courses incorporate frequent small- and large-group activities into lessons, students who are absent affect not only their own learning, but that of their fellow students. Therefore, only *two weeks'* worth of absences (see below) will be allowed for the semester, *regardless of reason, including documented illness or emergency*. Students who exceed two weeks' worth of classes will fail the course, unless they withdraw (see http://students.asu.edu/withdrawal).

- For a 5-week **Summer session**, for classes that meet daily, the maximum number of allowed absences is two (2).
- **Note:** Students who participate in **university-sanctioned activities** and/or who will be unable to meet the attendance requirements for a particular section should move to another section where their activity schedules will not interfere with their classroom obligations (students can freely switch sections during the first week of the semester). To accommodate students who participate in university-sanctioned activities, ASU Writing Programs offers sections of many courses online and at various times of the day and week. We have asked advisors across campus to help students enroll in appropriate sections. If you think that this course may conflict with a university-sanctioned activity in which you are involved—athletics or the debate team or another—please see me immediately.
- **Note:** Writing Programs is sensitive to the religious practices of the various religious faiths represented in the student body of the university community. Writing Programs' standard attendance policy listed here provides reasonable accommodation for individual religious practices. Students who anticipate absences due to religious reasons should plan their absences in the course accordingly. To accommodate students' religious practices, ASU Writing Programs offers sections of many courses online and at various times of the day and week. We have asked advisors across campus to help students enroll in appropriate sections. If you think this course may conflict with your religious practices, please see me immediately.

2. Attendance: first week of classes
According to university policy, students who are registered but do not attend any of the first week of classes may be dropped.

3. If I am absent

If I need to cancel class for any reason, I will contact you via e-mail. If possible, I will also try to get someone to post a sign. However, if you come to class and I have not arrived by the time 15 minutes have elapsed (from when class is to start), please assume that class is cancelled, and check e-mail frequently afterwards for further instructions.

4. Grading

Grading is based on specific assignment criteria, and will follow English Department standards for content, organization, expression, and mechanics. To compute final course grades, the following values are assigned to the standard letter grades of A through E:

- A   = 4.0
- A- = 3.7

- o B+ = 3.3
- o B = 3.0
- o B- = 2.7
- o C+ = 2.3
- o C = 2.0
- o D = 1.0
- o E = 0.3
- o No paper = 0.0

5. The public nature of writing and discussions

Please consider <u>every</u> piece of writing you do for this class to be "public property." Remember that you will often be expected to share your writing with others, so avoid writing about things that you may not be prepared to subject to public scrutiny, or things you feel so strongly about that you are unwilling to listen to perspectives other than your own. This does not mean that you are not entitled to an opinion but that you adopt positions responsibly, contemplating the possible effect on others. This course may contain content (assigned readings, in-class discussions, etc.) deemed offensive by some students. If you have concerns about any course content, please bring these concerns to the attention of your instructor.

6. Technological Distractions

"Please refrain from any unauthorized usages of technology during our class sessions. In this usage, 'unauthorized' means unrelated to the tangible learning activity or activities taking place during the class period. Please put all hand-held electronic devices away. I will expect computers and laptops to be used for classroom activities only. Failure to abide by these guidelines may have a negative impact on a student's participation grade. Repeat offenders may be seen as disruptive and asked to leave class."

7. Late Writing Projects

Late writing projects will lose full letter grade one minute after it is due and another letter grade every 24 hours thereafter. Writing projects more than 5 days late will receive no credit but must still be submitted. <u>Computer problems are not valid excuses for late work</u>.

8. All writing for this class must be written <u>for</u> this class

To pass this class all <u>major writing assignments must be submitted</u>, and note that all writing for this class must be written <u>for</u> this class. Resubmitting a paper from another class or elsewhere constitutes academic dishonesty. If you wish to further pursue a project begun in another class or develop ideas you have written about in another class, please discuss your plans with me first.

9. Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to write and submit original work in Writing Programs classes, and to incorporate others' words, images, or ideas into their writing using standard attribution practices. Academic dishonesty in any form (see http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/policy/StudentObligations) will not be tolerated, and students are expected to be familiar with all relevant university policies. The Academic Integrity Policy is located at http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity.

10. Disruptive, Threatening, or Violent Behavior

Students, faculty, staff, and other individuals do not have an unqualified right of access to university grounds, property, or services. Interfering with the peaceful conduct of university-related business or activities or remaining on campus grounds after a request to leave may be considered a crime. A disruptive student may be withdrawn from a course with a mark of "W" or "E" when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process. Disruptive classroom behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor. Disruptive behavior in any form (see http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/safety/definitions.html) will not be tolerated, and students are expected to be familiar with all relevant university policies. ASU Student Rights and Responsibilities are located at http://students.asu.edu/srr/code.

11. **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible to receive academic support services and accommodations. Eligibility is based on qualifying disability documentation and assessment of individual need. If students wish to request accommodation for a disability, they must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit appropriate documentation from the DRC in advance of the request. Additional information can be found at the DRC website: http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/.