

Writers' Studio

WRA 101: Writing as Inquiry

Spring 2020, 4 credits

Sections 73, 82, 90

“For me (and most of the other writers I know) writing is not rapturous. In fact, the only way I can get anything written at all is to write really, really shitty first drafts”

--Anne Lamont, *Bird by Bird*

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Course Description

The study and practice of invention, arrangement, revision, style, and delivery to help students make successful transitions to writing, reading, and researching in higher education.

Tier One Writing

As part of the general education requirement, Tier One Writing contributes to the University's mission by focusing on inquiry-based teaching and learning that encourages students to become contributing members of the university's community of scholars committed to asking important questions and seeking rich responses to those questions. Tier One Writing helps students develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to improve the quality of life for themselves and others through their scholarly, social and professional activities.

Required Texts and Materials :

- Pack of 100 4x6 Index Cards (lined on Front, blank on back)
- MEAD Composition Notebook (9.75"x7.5" College Ruled)
- Papermate FLAIR pen (Medium, available at SBS)
- There are **no required texts** for this course. Any required reading will be made available by the instructor.

GOOGLE Classroom

We will be using Google Classroom to share and archive our work. Please bring an appropriate work device (laptop/tablet/phone) to every class. If you are unable to bring an appropriate device please make arrangements with the instructor at the start of the term.

Major Course Assignments and Grade Distribution

This course includes 5 major units, each with a major project: Narrative Paper, Cultural Artifact Paper, Disciplinary/Professional Literacy Project, Remix Project, Final Reflection Project. Each of these projects will include essential elements that students must complete to pass, including: prelections (goal setting and proposals), drafts, peer reviews, revision plans, and project reflections. Grades will be determined using the course Grade Contract. Students will indicate the grade level they will work be working toward at the start of the term. Each level has clearly stated minimum standards that must be achieved to receive each grade. Students are advised to consider carefully the level of engagement they are prepared to bring to this course. Although students will choose their grade at the start of the course, there will be opportunities to revise any student's contract during the term. Students who fail to meet the obligations they committed to on their contract will be granted the highest possible grade they can qualify for according to the terms set out in the contract.

Attendance Policy

Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

Attendance is mandatory. Your course grade will suffer if you miss this class. Accordingly, some class periods will be worth a greater portion of your grade than others. Please see the course schedule and talk to me if you have any questions.

Moreover, attendance requires more than simply showing up. It includes being prepared and actively engaging the material, your classmates, and the instructor. You are expected to come to class prepared and to actively participate in every class session. This means, in part, that you will have drafts completed and read and thought about any assigned readings.

Resources

Instructor

I want you to grow in this class. Please talk to me if you have any concerns. We will have scheduled conference times, but my office hours are wide open to you, and if you are unable to attend scheduled times, we can arrange an appointment time. You can also contact me by email.

Fellow classmates

We are a community of learners, and no one understands what you are going through better than your fellow classmates. Ask questions, meet, email, and write together.

The Writing Center

Visit these people. They are trained to help you and are familiar with the projects you are working on. Locations are all over the campus with a crazy amount of open hours.

Visit <http://writing.msu.edu> to schedule an appointment.

Resource Center for People with Disabilities: <https://www.rcpd.msu.edu>

The Counseling Center: <http://www.counseling.msu.edu>

Libraries: <http://www.lib.msu.edu>

Computer Labs: <http://tech.msu.edu/computerlabs/>

Academic Honesty: The Spartan Code of Honor states, "As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do." In addition, Article 2.III.B.2 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Culture adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any coursework in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact me if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your coursework. (See also the Academic Integrity webpage.)

Limits to confidentiality. *All writing in this course is public.* We will be working as writing groups, drafting together, reading each other's work, and advising each other on ways to improve. You should only write about topics you feel comfortable sharing with the instructor and every member of the class.

Furthermore, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the MSU Police Department) if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and

- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center.

Finally, if you do choose to share sensitive information with me that might trigger a reporting situation, **I WILL SUPPORT YOU AND HELP YOU FIND RESOURCES.**

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (from the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

Drops and Adds: The last day to add this course is 9/4. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is 9/23. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is 10/16. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

Commercialized Lecture Notes: As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor. Accordingly, Students may not record lectures or any other classroom activities and use the recordings for their own course-related purposes, share the recordings with other students enrolled in the class, or post the recordings or other course materials online or distribute them to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor and, if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings.

Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions, including receiving a penalty grade in the course.

Internet: Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site.

Disruptive Behavior: Article 2.III.B.4 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the SRR states that "The

student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." General Student Regulation 5.02 states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action.

Course Schedule:

I reserve the right to adjust this schedule as necessary to support individual and collective success in the course.

T 1/7	Syllabus / StoryTelling Presentations / Intro Narrative Project
R 1/9	Narrative Project 1st Draft Due / Scene Writing Workshops / Lesson: PLOt Structures and The Narrative "I"
	1/10 Last Day to Add Course
T 1/14	Peer Review Workshop / Draft Workshop: Revision Plan
R 1/16	Introducing Pomodoro's: A Reflection Draft Workshop
T 1/21	Published Narrative Project / Lesson: Reading Objects and Practices
R 1/23	Intro Cultural Artifact Project / Preflection & Proposal
T 1/28	1st Draft Due / Freewriting, Divergent Thinking Workshop
R 1/30	2nd Draft Due / Convergent Thinking Workshop
	1/31 Last Day to Drop with Refund
T 2/4	3rd Draft Due / Storyboarding Workshop
R 2/6	4th Draft Due / Group Peer Review and Revision Plan
T 2/11	Reflection Workshop
R 2/13	Intro the Disciplinary / Professional Literacies Project
	Friday 2/14 Published Cultural Artifact w/ reflection
T 2/18	Bibliography Workshop: Finding Sources
R 2/20	Lesson: Critical Thinking Wheel
T 2/25	Annotated Bibliography Workshop / Lesson: Quotations & Transitions
	2/26 Last day to drop with no grade report

R 2/28	Revising Project #2: A Research Revision Workshop
T 3/3	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
R 3/5	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
T 3/10	Pacing: High and Plain Style Workshop
R 3/12	Project #3 Peer Review Workshop / Revision Plan
T 3/17	Disciplinary Literacies Project Due / Reflection Workshop
R 3/19	Workshop: Visual Analysis
T 3/24	Intro Remix / Draft Workshop Proposals
R 3/26	Group Conferences as Scheduled
T 3/31	Group Conferences as Scheduled
R 4/2	Peer Review Workshop / Revision Plan
	FRIDAY: DATE TBD FYW Symposium--You are expected to present or attend
T 4/7	Reflection Workshop
R 4/9	Introducing the Final Reflection / Draft Workshop Proposals
T 4/14	No Class: Work on Remix
R 4/16	Published Remix Due / Lesson: Poetics / Survey
T 4/21	No class: Individual Conferences
R 4/23	No class: Individual Conferences
FINAL	Sec. 073: Friday, May 1 2020 7:45am - 9:45am in 175 Brody Hall Sec. 082: Wednesday, Apr 29 2020 10:00am - 12:00pm in 175 Brody Hall Sec. 090: Thursday, Apr 30 2020 5:45pm - 7:45pm in 175 Brody Hall