

Weber State University English 1010: Section 32918
Online Spring 2007
Syllabus

Instructor: Holly Hirst
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Office Hours:

Office hours are by appointment only. If you need to meet with me, send me an email (preferred) or call my office phone. I will make a valiant effort to respond to all email and phone messages within one business day. If you have a question and the answer might be of interest to your classmates, please post the question in the Administrative Issues Discussion Forum.

Course Overview:

This course is designed to introduce students to the principles of university level writing and to provide the practice necessary to develop specific writing skills required for success in the academic community and beyond. These skills include invention, drafting and revision, critical thinking, argumentation, interpretation and analysis, organization and development, and research and citation.

Textbook and Technology Requirements:

Required Text: Belasco, Susan. Constructing Literacies. (2001).
Heinle & Heinle. ISBN: 0-15-507474-1

Hacker, Diana. A Writer's Reference. (2003).
Bedford/St. Martin's. 6th Edition

Required Technology: Internet Access and word processing software (i.e. Microsoft Word). Perform the browser tune-up at <http://www.webct.com/tuneup>

Goals:

Success in this class will be defined by your ability to plan and produce an organized and logically developed document working both individually and collaboratively and by your ability to establish and maintain a presence in the online class community. Within the framework of that community you will develop a working knowledge and measurable degree of comfort with the writing process. Additionally, you will learn to view a document critically from a variety of perspectives and gain a basic understanding of research principles.

Assignments:

Overview: Because this is a writing class, you will spend the majority of time engaged in writing practice. Writing submissions should be relatively free of spelling and grammatical error. When in doubt, utilize the dictionary, the spell/grammar checker tool available in your wordprocessing software, your writing handbook, or the services of the WSU Writing Center http://departments.weber.edu/writingcenter

Essays: Six essays will be assigned—one short, reflective essay in which you describe your previous writing experience, your academic and professional goals, what you hope to gain from the course, and how you plan to use what you learn from the course in the future (1-2 pages); five essays on a variety of topics related to the reading assignments (4-5 pages each). Essays must be double-spaced with one-inch margins in standard 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial).

Peer Editing Exercises: There will be five peer-editing exercises. An evaluation sheet will be provided.

Group Collaboration: One of the essays will be a group project. In assigned groups you will develop an argument and support it with documented research.

Reading Assignments: There will be 2-3 reading assignments each week throughout the semester. By Monday of each week, you must complete the reading in preparation for the reading response exercise and participation in the discussion forums.

Reading Response Exercises: A reading response exercise will be posted each week. You must complete the exercise by Tuesday of each week

Discussion Forums: By Wednesday of each week, you must respond to the Instructor's prompt/s in the weekly discussion forum. The prompt/s will relate to the week's reading assignments.

By Saturday of each week, you must read all peer responses to the Instructor prompt in the forum and reply to at least two of them. Replies to responses must be substantive. In other words, you must write more than "I agree" or "Good point."

Free-writing Exercises/Chat: There will be 3 free-writing exercises in a synchronous environment--chat. Participate in at least 2 of the 3 exercises and log a minimum of 90 minutes total for these exercises. Your contributions to the storyline must either support or redirect the development of the story. The content of these exercises will not be graded, but your participation in the activity will count toward your total participation grade.

Portfolio and Final Assessment: For your final writing assignment, you will select two of your best writing assignments from this class and write a cover letter to me in which you will assess your work and growth throughout the semester. The portfolio will include two revised essays with drafts attached and a 1-3 page letter.

Class Policies

Conduct: We will build our classroom community by treating each other with respect, courtesy, and dignity. Inappropriate and offensive language and discriminatory behavior directed toward a person's race, creed, national origin, age, sex, or disability will not be tolerated.

Attendance and Participation: To be present in an online class, you have to participate. You have to post and interact with your peers and instructor in order to be recognized. Participation is worth nearly 25% of your grade and will be assessed based on your presence in the discussion forums, chat rooms, and group work.

Deadlines: All assignments are due by midnight on the specified dates. Any exceptions to this policy must be arranged with me prior to the deadline.

Computer Use: Laws and Ethics: Weber State University computing facilities and data networks (including the university's Internet connection) are provided for university-related use by Weber State students, faculty, administration and staff in support of the teaching, research, public service and administrative activities of the university. Weber State expects its users to exercise responsible and ethical behavior when using the university's computing and data network facilities. Please familiarize yourself with the University's Acceptable Use Policy (PPM 2-19) <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/2-19.htm>

Academic Honesty: The WSU Student Code defines plagiarism as "the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person or group's ideas or work" (Section 6-22, part IV, subsection D). Any Attempt to claim credit for another's work, in whole or in part, is a violation of this policy and is regarded by the Composition Program as a serious offense. Penalties for plagiarism are at the discretion of each instructor, and may range from, but are not limited to the following: requiring the student to redo the plagiarized assignment, awarding the student a grade of zero on the assignment, or awarding the student a failing grade for the course.

WSU subscribes to TurnItIn.com, an electronic service that verifies the originality of student work. Enrollment in this course may require you to submit some or all of your assignments to it this semester, and documents submitted to TurnItIn.com

are retained, anonymously, in their databases. Continued enrollment in this course constitutes an understanding of and agreement with this policy.

Students with Disabilities: Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities <http://departments.weber.edu/ssd> (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Assessment:

Assignment	Points Possible
Writing	
Reflective Essay	0-ungraded
Essay #1	100 points
Essay #2	100 points
Essay #3	100 points
Essay #4	100 points
Collaborative Essay	100 points
Portfolio	120 points
Peer Editing	
Peer Edit #1	30 points
Peer Edit #2	30 points
Peer Edit #3	30 points
Peer Edit #4	30 points
Collaborative Edit	30 points
Reader Response	
Weekly Exercise (15)	12 pts ea = 180
Participation	
Free-writing Exercise 2 of 3	10 pts ea = 20 points
Weekly Discussion Responses (15)	15 pts ea = 225
Peer Group Evaluation	5 points
Total Points Possible	1200

Grading Table

1200-1100	A	93-100%
1109-1110	A-	90-92%
1073-990	B+	83-89%
989-949	B-	80-82%
948-870	C+	73-79%
869-834	C-	70-72%
833-750	D+	63-69%
749-750	D-	60-62%