ENC 2305:

Analytical Writing and Thinking

# Course Description

The Analytical Writing and Thinking Seminar is designed to advance students’ critical thinking and writing skills beyond first-year composition. To achieve those goals, students will learn advanced analytical techniques and communication strategies that professors in all disciplines expect them to know. The texts and assignments in the course will expose students to challenging ideas.

In this course, we’ll be writing on and participating in activism/outreach, with a focus on the role that social media plays in current initiatives. Our sequence of assignments will cover the following objectives: critically defining an activism/outreach movement or concept; analyzing a specific movement/outreach initiative according to its action, social media presence, and other published critical analyses; participating in a specific activist/outreach initiative and writing about it with the intent of both forwarding and improving its aims. Along the way, we’ll discuss and research socially-mediated activist movements as frames of reference for how we can participate with and analyze our selected initiatives.

In this course, students will hone their reasoning skills through engagement with our topic and sharpen their writing skills through multiple drafts of papers with substantial feedback from their peers and their instructor. The culmination of the course will be a portfolio that demonstrates the student’s growth as a thinker and as a writer.

# Outcomes

By the end of ENC 2305, students will be able to

* Analyze specific influential research, theories, or philosophies
* Recognize writing as an open process that permits writers to use reinvention and rethinking to revise their work
* Understand the collaborative nature of writing processes by critiquing their own and others' work
* Demonstrate critical thinking skills
* Incorporate the ideas of published scholars in their own work
* Produce a scholarly writing style, including clear, coherent, efficient, and well-organized prose as well as logical argumentation

# Required Texts

Juerecic, Ann and Richard E. Miller. (2012). *Habits of the Creative Mind*. New York: Pearson.

**Assignments and Grading**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Attendance | | Fewer than 3 excused absences | 25 |
| Participation/Discussion posts | | Daily or bi-daily contribution and full attentiveness | 25/50 |
| Essay 1: Critical Definition | | 1000 words | 150 |
| Essay 2: Critical Analysis | | 1500 words | 200 |
| Essay 3: Portfolio | Application of research techniques to activist/outreach group | 2500 words | 300 |
| Advocacy Media Project | 500 words | 150 |
| Presentation | | 500 words | 100 |
| **Total 1000 points** | | | |

Grading for this course will be rigorous. Successful assignments will illustrate a careful regard for spelling, grammar, and citation guidelines. Do not rely on your instructor for copy-editing, even on drafts.

The writing assignments for this course are designed to meet the minimum requirements of the University Writing Requirement credit. To satisfy this requirement, **every** assignment’s word count must be fulfilled. **Submitted assignments short of the minimum word count will receive zero credit**.

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | 4.0 | 93-100 | 930-1000 |  | C | 2.0 | 73-76 | 730-769 |
| A- | 3.67 | 90-92 | 900-929 |  | C- | 1.67 | 70-72 | 700-729 |
| B+ | 3.33 | 87-89 | 870-899 |  | D+ | 1.33 | 67-69 | 670-699 |
| B | 3.0 | 83-86 | 830-869 |  | D | 1.0 | 63-66 | 630-669 |
| B- | 2.67 | 80-82 | 800-829 |  | D- | 0.67 | 60-62 | 600-629 |
| C+ | 2.33 | 77-79 | 770-799 |  | E | 0.00 | 0-59 | 0-599 |

# Course Credit Policies

Course grades now have two components: **To receive writing credit, a student must receive a grade of “C” or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course to satisfy the CLAS requirement for Composition (C) and to receive the 6,000-word University Writing Requirement credit (E6).** You must turn in all papers totaling 6,000 words to receive credit for writing 6,000 words. The writing requirement ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning.

PLEASE NOTE: a grade of “C-” **will not** confer credit for the University Writing Requirement or the CLAS Composition (C) requirement.

The instructor will evaluate and provide feedback on the student's written assignments with respect to content, organization and coherence, argument and support, style, clarity, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics. Conferring credit for the University Writing Requirement, this course requires that papers conform to the following assessment rubric. More specific rubrics and guidelines applicable to individual assignments may be delivered during the course of the semester.

Writing Studio:

Visit the UWP Writing Studio at Tigert 302 for a 30-minute revision session on any UF-related written work.

## Course Schedule

*The course schedule is* ***tentative****. The syllabus on Sakai supersedes the print document. Readings should be completed by the day on which they are listed. This asterisk – \* – denotes readings as PDFs on Canvas.*

**Unit 1: Defining activism, activist agendas, and media/social-mediation**

**Week 1: Aug. 21, 23, 25**

M Introduction to Class—Syllabus review, Canvas, personal introductions

HW: *Permanent Culture Now,* “An Introduction to Activism”\*; *HCM*, 15-34, “Beginning”

W Intro to activism and recent socially mediated activist movements || Active reading strategies: “An Intro to Activism” || Writing workshop: argumentative theses; explicit vs. implied arguments; the thesis as “claim + roadmap”

HW: Annotate this article: *Elephant Journal,* “Inspired Voices: 5 Unconventional Forms of Activism”\*

F Intro to activism and recent socially mediated activist movements || Reading Critically, or Analyzing—defining activism: group work to compare “Intro to Activism” and “Inspired Voices” || **Choosing an activist/outreach movement and specific organization that you can *participate with at least* *twice* in this semester (DUE: no later than Monday Sept. 18th)**

HW: Sliwinksi, “The Evolution of Activism: From the Streets to Social Media”\* || Choose an activist movement and a specific, representative organization that you’d like to participate in and present rationale to the class

**Week 2: Aug. 28, 30, Sept. 1**

M Present rationale of chosen activist movement/organization || Intro: analyzing an activist movement: observe, participate, note-take, interview, analyze

HW: Find two texts composed by your activist movement that are designed for *different* audiences – be prepared to write on them in class; *HCM*, 34-54 “Paying Attention”

W Present rationale of chosen activist movement/organization || Writing Workshop— Rhetoric (Audience, Values, and Purpose): comparing two activist texts written for different audiences

HW: Begin investigating how your chosen movement/organization uses social media

F Present rationale on chosen activist movement/organization || **Essay 1: Critical Definition Essay**—What is a critical definition? || **In-class writing for Canvas Discussion: critically define “activism and socially mediated activism” using your chosen movement/org to exemplify**

HW: Holder, “Sex doesn’t sell anymore, activism does”; Garber “When empathy becomes a meme”; YouTube: Pepsi Commercial

**Week 3: Sept. 4, 6, 8**

M M.L.K. JR. – NO CLASS

HW: *HCM*, 54 and 59-61, “Asking Questions”

W Discussion—What is an argument? How does the author use evidence? Holder, Garber, YouTube

HW: Complete a draft of your critical definition of your activist movement/org and bring to class

F Peer review: Essay 1 || Writing Workshop—outlining the Critical Definition Essay

HW: Continue drafting Essay 1 to prepare for conferences; verify your activist/outreach group

**Week 4: Sept. 11, 13, 15**

M Conferences – Essay 1 and your chosen activist/outreach group

W Conferences – Essay 1 and your chosen activist/outreach group

F Conferences – Essay 1 and your chosen activist/outreach group

HW: Dutta, “Performing Social Change”\* (excerpt); *Engaging Communities*, “Examining culture as a text”\*

**Unit 2: Critical analysis of activist/outreach organizations and their missions**

**I. Analyzing activism and social media: the ethnographic approach and primary research**

**Week 5: Sept. 18, 20, 22**

M **DUE:** **Critical Definition Essay and Verification of chosen activist org** || Dutta, “Performing Social Change” and *Engaging Communities*, “Examining culture as a text” || Writing Workshop—analyzing meaningful action as “text”

HW: Identify an activist/outreach movement and organization you want to analyze and be prepared to discuss in class (can be the same as your former one); *HCM*, 72-7 and 87- 9, “Exploring”

W **Essay 2: Critical Analysis of *Socially Mediated* Activist/Outreach Movement/Org** || Writing Workshop—Primary Research: Observing/HYPOTHESIZING to write analytically—analyze the identity of an activist movement/org via social media (group’s mission statement; hash-tags; photos; events; members; partnerships)

HW: *Engaging Communities,* “Defining Ethnographic Writing”

F Writing Workshop—Parts of the Critical Analysis || *Engaging Communities,* “Defining Ethnographic Writing”

HW: *Engaging Communities,* “1A-1C: Identifying, Connecting, Rhetorical Strategies”; begin observing/documenting your movement’s social media presence

**II. Applying the ethnographic approach to examples**

**Week 6: Sept. 23, 25, 27**

M What is Netnography?

HW: locate latest SM activity from Occupy Wall Street and Dakota Access Pipeline; Kozinets, *Netnography*, “Data Collection”\*

W Movements: Occupy Wall Street; Dakota Access Pipeline

HW: locate latest SM activity on Arab Spring and Black Lives Matter; Kozinets, *Netnography*, “Data Analysis”\*

F Movements: Arab Spring; Black Lives Matter

HW: locate latest SM activity on Women’s March

**III. The ethnographic approach and secondary research**

**Week 7: Oct. 2, 4, 6**

M Movements: Women’s March

HW: find an opinioned article on one of these movements; be prepared to discuss your article with the class

W Article discussion || Writing Workshop—ways of using and responding to different types of sources – agreeing, disagreeing, qualifying

F HOLIDAY – HOMECOMING

**Week 8: Oct. 9, 11, 13**

M Writing Workshop—identifying academic/nonacademic sources (excerpts)

HW: Identify some keywords you’d use to search for articles on your movement

W Writing Workshop—finding sources via UF Libraries/Databases and online || “How do we know what sources to look for?”—mapping analytical domains

HW: Find one article on your activist/outreach group, read, and bring to class

F Writing workshop—citing sources: quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing

HW: Find at least two articles on your activist/outreach group, read, and bring to class

**Week 9: Oct. 16, 18, 20**

M Writing workshop—parenthetical citations and Works Cited page

HW: Draft Essay 2 and prepare one writing question about it for class

W Review for conferences: Essay 2—articulating your argument, organization, research

F Conferences

**Week 10: Oct. 23, 25, 27**

M Conferences

W Conferences

F Peer Review—Essay 2

**Unit 3: Application to activist or outreach group: research, participate, propagate**

**I. Being an activist: participation and participative research**

**Week 11: Oct. 30, Nov. 1, 3**

M **DUE:** **Essay 2—Critical Analysis of Socially Mediated Activist/Outreach Movement ||** Expanding the definition of activism: justice advocacy, volunteering/outreach, mentoring/tutoring

HW: Pason, “Reclaiming Activism for Students”\*

W **Essay 3: Ethnography/Netnography of Activist/Volunteer Group** || Pason, “Reclaiming Activism for Students” || Begin drafting rationale of your chosen activist/outreach movement/group

HW: Upload 200-word rationale of choosing an activist/volunteer group to **Canvas Discussion**; *HCM*, 64-7, “Interviewing”

F Writing Workshop—Parts of the Ethno/Netnography (Activist/outreach group intro, its place within an activist/outreach movement, your hypothesis, researched analysis)

HW: Read sample student ethnography || Prepare to discuss your plans for ethnographically analyzing your group

**Week 12: Nov. 6, 8, 10**

M Conferences

W Conferences

F HOLIDAY – No Class

**Week 13: Nov. 13, 15, 17**

M *Engaging Communities*: Writing field-notes/participating

W **Media Project: Activist/Outreach Call-to-Action** || Using interviews, surveys, polls

F *Engaging Communities:* Drafting your ethnography

**Week 14: Nov. 20, 22, 24**

M Conferences – (Portfolio) Ethnography and Media Project

W HOLIDAY

F HOLIDAY

**Week 15: Nov. 27, 29, Dec. 1**

M Conferences – (Portfolio) Ethnography and Media Project

W Conferences – (Portfolio) Ethnography and Media Project

F Media Project Presentations

**Week 16: Dec. 4, 6**

M Media Project Presentations

W Media Project Presentations

**Final Portfolio Due: Monday, Dec. 11, noon**

### Course Policies

**Attendance**

Attendance is required. The policy of the University Writing Program is that if a student misses more than **six** periods during a semester, he or she will fail the entire course. Missing class on a double period counts as **two** absences. The UWP exempts from this policy **only** those absences deemed excused according to UF policy, including university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, illness, and religious holidays. Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date that will be missed.

Please Note: If students are absent, it is their responsibility to make themselves aware of all due dates. If absent due to a scheduled event, students are still responsible for turning assignments in on time.

Tardiness: If students enter class after roll has been called, they are late, which disrupts the entire class. **Two instances of tardiness count as one absence.**

**Make-Up Work**

Homework and papers will be due by the next class period for a student with a valid excused absence.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the [Student Honor Code](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php). The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

a.) Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.  
  
b.) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student. (University of Florida, Student Honor Code, 15 Aug. 2007 <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>)

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire [Student Honor Code](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php).  
  
Important Tip: You should never copy and paste something from the internet without providing the exact location from which it came.

**Classroom Behavior**

Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class.

**Technology**

While it is acceptable to take notes on an electronic device, disable your Internet unless otherwise permitted. All other electronic devices are not permitted, except as specifically announced by the instructor beforehand. **Phones must be turned to “silent,” and texting is absolutely not permitted in class.**

**In-Class Work**

Papers and drafts are due at the beginning of class or on-line at the assigned deadline. Papers and drafts will be due before the next class period for students with a valid excused absence.

Participation is a crucial part of success in this class. Students will be expected to work in small groups and participate in group discussions, writing workshops, peer reviews, and other in-class activities. Be prepared for unannounced quizzes or activities on the readings or classroom discussion. Students must be present for all in-class activities to receive credit for them. In-class work cannot be made up. Writing workshops require that students provide constructive feedback about their peers’ writing.

In general, students are expected to contribute constructively to each class session.

**Paper Maintenance Responsibilities**

Students are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a resubmission of papers or a review of graded papers, it is the student’s responsibility to have and to make available this material.

**Mode of Submission**All papers will be submitted as MS Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) documents to E-learning/Canvas and as hard copies. Final drafts should be polished and presented in a professional manner. All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins and pages numbered. Be sure to staple papers before submitting hard copies.

**Students with Disabilities**

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodation should contact the Students with Disabilities Office, Peabody 202 or online at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/. That office will provide documentation to the student whom must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

**General Education Writing Assessment Rubric**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | SATISFACTORY (Y) | UNSATISFACTORY (N) |
| CONTENT | Papers exhibit evidence of ideas that respond to the topic with complexity, critically evaluating and synthesizing sources, and provide an adequate discussion with basic understanding of sources. | Papers either include a central idea(s) that is unclear or off- topic or provide only minimal or inadequate discussion of ideas. Papers may also lack sufficient or appropriate sources. |
| ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE | Documents and paragraphs exhibit identifiable structure for topics, including a clear thesis statement and topic sentences. | Documents and paragraphs lack clearly identifiable organization, may lack any coherent sense of logic in associating and organizing ideas, and may also lack transitions and coherence to guide the reader. |
| ARGUMENT AND SUPPORT | Documents use persuasive and confident presentation of ideas, strongly supported with evidence. At the weak end of the satisfactory range, documents may provide only generalized discussion of ideas or may provide adequate discussion but rely on weak support for arguments. | Documents make only weak generalizations, providing little or no support, as in summaries or narratives that fail to provide critical analysis. |
| STYLE | Documents use a writing style with word choice appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline. Sentences should display complexity and logical structure. | Documents rely on word usage that is inappropriate for the context, genre, or discipline. Sentences may be overly long or short with awkward construction. Documents may also use words incorrectly. |
| MECHANICS | Papers will feature correct or error-free presentation of ideas. At the weak end of the satisfactory range, papers may contain a few spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors that remain unobtrusive and do not obscure the paper’s argument or points. | Papers contain so many mechanical or grammatical errors that they impede the reader’s understanding or severely undermine the writer’s credibility. |