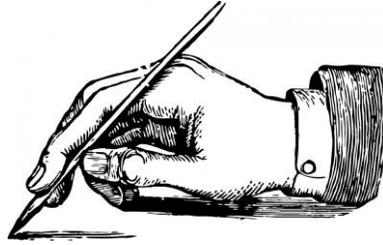


Writing Your Self



IDH3931: (Un)Common Writes

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Coenen

Email: jcoenen@ufl.edu, Canvas Inbox (preferred)

Office Hours: M 4 (10:40-11:30) or by appointment; Zoom appointments available

Class Meeting Time: M 3 (9:35-10:25)

Location: HVR1 114 (Honors Village Building 1 room 114)

Course Overview

Welcome to (Un)common Writes for Honors, a writing workshop designed to ignite your imagination, hone your writing skills, and foster a community of wordsmiths. Whether you're an aspiring novelist, a poet, or simply someone who loves to play with language, music, or digital endeavors, this course invites you to explore the art of storytelling, experiment with different genres, and find your unique voice.

This section focuses on writing about yourself for different purposes—for understanding yourself, for demonstrating what you know with confidence, for exploring your professional self, and for expressing yourself beyond textual media. The goal for this course is to become more comfortable and more confident about identifying and communicating who you are.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Create original letters, essays, personal statement, and multimedia.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the vocabulary and techniques to express who they are.

- Identify and develop their individual authorial voice.
- Understand how to provide and receive constructive feedback.
- Participate in a supportive writing community.

Required Materials

- Writing Journal—an easy-to-access area for jotting down ideas, drafts, and reflections (physical or digital)
- Selected readings provided by the instructor (available through Canvas)
- An open mind and curiosity--bring your passion for writing and a willingness to explore!

Assessment

Participation	Active engagement in discussions and workshops. Attendance at end-of-semester “salon”.	50
Journal Entries	Respond to any 10 of the Journal Prompts. Some will be required in your portfolio.	50
Weekly Writing Assignments	Respond to prompts and share work.	200
Peer Critiques	Provide constructive feedback to classmates.	100
Portfolio & Salon Showcase	Compile your revised work into a portfolio; prepare a display of excerpts to be showcased at the end-of-semester “salon”.	100
Total		500

Grades

This course adheres to [UF's Grades and Grading Policies](#).

Grading scale:

A	94 – 100%		C	74 – 76%
A-	90 – 93%		C-	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%		D	64 – 66%
B-	80 – 83%		D-	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

Course Schedule

8/26	<i>Drop/add</i>
Course Intro	Reading (in class): “Shitty First Drafts” by Anne Lamott
9/2	No classes – university holiday – Labor Day
9/9	Read for today: “The Sentence: The Writer’s Most Important Tool” from <i>It Was the Best of Sentences, It Was the Worst of Sentences</i> by June Casagrande Write for today: Letter to your future self (at the end of the semester) In-class activity: Workshop “Letter to your future self”
9/16	Read for today: “Why I Write” by Joan Didion Write for today: What do you know how to do? In-class activity: Workshop “What do you know how to do?”
9/23	Read for today: “How to Write With Style” by Kurt Vonnegut Write for today: Your how-to essay

	In-class activities: Workshop “how-to essay”; Create a plan for revision
9/30	<p>Read for today: “On Breaking the Rules” from <i>It Was the Best of Sentences, It Was the Worst of Sentences</i> by June Casagrande</p> <p>Write for today: Letter to your past self (the one who didn’t know how to do what you explained in your how-to essay)</p> <p>In-class activity: Discussion of Lamott, Casagrande, Didion, and Vonnegut readings</p>
10/7	<p>Read for today: “This is Water” by David Foster Wallace</p> <p>Write for today: Your professional self now</p> <p>In-class activity: Exploration of words</p>
10/14	<p>Read for today: “Autobiographical Notes” by James Baldwin</p> <p>Write for today: Your professional self in the future</p> <p>In-class activity: Approaching the Personal Statement</p>
10/21	<p>(no readings for today)</p> <p>Write for today: Personal Statement</p> <p>In-class activities: Workshop “Personal Statement”; Create a plan for revision</p>
10/28	<p>Watch for today: “The Power of Vulnerability” by Brene Brown</p> <p>Write for today: Letter to yourself working through a problem or conundrum</p> <p>In-class activity: Discussion of Foster Wallace, Baldwin, and Brown readings/viewings</p>
11/4	<p>(no readings for today)</p> <p>Write for today: collection of media that communicate who you are</p>

	In-class activity: Workshop ideas for “collection of media”
11/11	No classes – university holiday – Veterans Day
11/18	<i>(no readings for today)</i> Write for today: compiled collection of media that communicate who you are In-class activity: Putting your Portfolio together
11/25	No classes – university holiday – Thanksgiving Break
12/2	Salon

Policies

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Since this class only meets once a week, you are expected to attend every class.

The official UF attendance policy outlines reasons for absences that allow students to make up what they missed: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. *Absences listed in the official UF attendance policy can be made up for Participation and Peer Critique points. To do so, students must submit responses to a set of questions representative of the missed day’s discussion and complete a peer critique activity.*

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their

accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence software, like ChatGPT, for class work can be considered academic dishonesty.

You may not use ChatGPT or other AI programs to write for you or to develop images used for coursework, but if you would like to use ChatGPT or other AI programs to help you develop any part of your work, I require you to be **transparent** and **proactive**. That means meeting with me beforehand to discuss what you would like to do, how you will use the technology, and what the implications of doing so are. Transparency may involve sharing your chatbot discussions with me or conducting the work under my observation.

If you use AI programs to complete any work without being transparent or without discussing it ahead of time, your work may violate the UF Honor Code and be subject to the sanctions and procedures thereof.

If you are unsure whether you are committing academic dishonesty or not, talk to me before submitting work.

Resources

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/> , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The Writing Studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.