ENGL 5369.W01 Topics and Genres in Rhetoric and Composition
Exploring the Borders of Literacy
Summer Session 2 2014 – Fully Online Course
Tentative Schedule

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Office Hours: Monday 2-4, Wednesday 3-4, Sunday Evening. Please note: All office hours are held online. I am available to speak with you via Skype or phone if you would like to meet that way. Please let me know at least 24 hours in advance so I can make preparations.

Course Description: This interdisciplinary course focuses on studying and researching literacy as it relates to both doing writing and teaching writing. Students will explore the differing definitions and applications of literary, analyze and critique ways in which literacy is practiced in terms of doing and teaching writing, and engage in ethnographic study to study the concept of literacy from one specific context. Counts as a Borderlands course.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students will advance their proficiency in critical reading, writing, and thinking on the topic of literacy; develop an understanding of core concepts in the area of literacy studies; and learn and apply ethnographic methods

Graded Activity:

• 20% Reading Circles – For the assignments that you read each week, you will post reading responses.
• 20% Exploring Literacy Assignments – You will complete three assignments.
• 20% Annotated Bibliography – You will develop an annotated bibliography that builds on texts from the Reading Circles.
• 40% Ethnography Project – Focusing on some aspect of literacy that you would like to explore further, you will conduct ethnographic research, write a report, and present your work.

Students will practice respect and responsibility as a part of this learning community. Here are some things you can do to exhibit an attitude of respect and responsibility:
• Post assignments on time. Early is even better.
• Work extra hard to get to know other classmates.
• Reach out through email or Blackboard posts to support each other. If you have good info/tips on what is working for you/resource ideas, please share with the group so we can help each other out.
• Respect other classmates by watching what you say.
• Add your opinions to/participate in the discussions.
• Check the assignments every week. Don’t wait until the last minute.
• Be helpful to other students
• Don’t get behind. If you get behind in an online course it is harder to get back on track than it is in a traditional course.
• Stay focused and stay connected.
• Keep up with your assignments and your grades. It is not the teacher’s responsibility to tell you what you have or haven't turned in. Your grades will be available in Blackboard so all you have to do is regularly check to make sure you have grades posted for all work.
• Plagiarism should not be a part of your writing practices. You will be encouraged to rewrite any documents that you need help with. Most often the issue is not that a student is trying to steal another’s work, but rather a lack of experience in how best to incorporate the discussions of others in their own writing. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor if you feel you need extra assistance in this area. In general terms, students are expected to "demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction and ability to manage their own affairs" and to "conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty." Instances of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi General Academic Policies and Regulations as listed in the current catalog.

**Late work** will not be accepted without prior approval. Prior approval means that you have contacted me within an appropriate amount of time (minimum 24 hours before the start of the class in which the work is due). Prior approval does not mean that you call or email at the last minute to tell me something else has come up. Also, for major projects, work will not be accepted for projects that the student has not turned in drafts of over the course of the semester. In other words, if you turn in a major project at the end of the semester on the day it is due and have never submitted drafts of the work prior to that time, the work will not be accepted. Homework assignments will not be accepted late. If you do not get the work turned in when it is due at the beginning of class you will not receive credit for that work. As long as you turn your work in on time, you will be given opportunities to rewrite any work that needs extra attention, so turning your work in on time works very much to your advantage.

**Required Statements:**

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**
The University will not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of intellectual or academic dishonesty. Violations of academic honesty will be processed under the Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases 13.02.99.C3.01 (see [http://ses.tamucc.edu/grievances.html](http://ses.tamucc.edu/grievances.html) and the Student Code of Conduct [http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/assets/2013-2014StudentHandbook.pdf](http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/assets/2013-2014StudentHandbook.pdf)). All cases of academic misconduct are recorded in the student’s file. Consequences are determined by the faculty member and or the
Academic Integrity Hearing Panel. It is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Students sometimes commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example) because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes

- using the work of another as your own,
- downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- using resource materials without correct documentation,
- using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation, or
- turning in a project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

Be aware that there are many ways to plagiarize. The Writing Center at CASA will review rules of academic citation. Information on academic citation is available at the Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/ and/or from our local Writing Center at CASA.

Notice to Students with Disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please be aware that you are allowed 6 drops in your entire undergraduate career, so these decisions must be made carefully.

Grade Appeal Process
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the
College of Liberal Arts website, clatamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Graduate Studies Standards**
The instructor assumes that seminar members are good-faith graduate students. Bona fide graduate-school behavior is distinguished in at least four ways.

- Students read weekly assignments on time and come to the seminar with serious response and a willingness to discuss.
- Students do not assume that an assignment is legitimate only if it will be "tested." The work is done for its own learning value.
- Students expect that they will attend 100% of the time and not assume there are a certain number of allowable absences. (I come to class because I want to share a learning experience with students. If you are not there and I am not aware of your situation, then I will not feel that sharing is occurring. This will make it more difficult for me to discern your experience in this course when it comes time to write down a "final grade.")
- Students assume that open and equitable discussion and critique is the soul of a graduate seminar. Everyone participates. Everyone is respectful of others' thoughts. Students don't put the burden on the teacher or on other students to originate or maintain discussion. They take on the responsibility to keep some seminar members from dominating others, and they do it by offering their share of talk.
- Students give their attention to the discussion and whoever is speaking. This means looking at whoever is speaking with your hands nowhere near the computer keyboard.

**Texts**
- *The Elements of Literacy* by Julie Lindquist and David Seitz, Pearson 2009. Required
- Students will also be required to choose one text from the following to read for the Reading Circles assignment:
Online Statements

Description of lessons/modules
Lessons/modules will include work in peer review of drafts, group discussions and presentations.

Technical support information/link
The Island Online (IOL) https://iol.tamucc.edu

Technical requirements for course
Computer Requirements
IOL runs on a web based application called Blackboard through a web browser. If your computer can successfully run Microsoft Internet Explorer or any of its alternatives, then you will be able to use IOL. Please note that your web browser must be configured properly to work with IOL by installing Sun Java Runtime Environment, ensuring Javascript, pop-up blockers, and cookies settings are properly configured. To check if your web browser is compatible with IOL you can do a browser check-up by visiting the IOL site at https://iol.tamucc.edu/. You may also check a list of IOL compatible browsers.

Delivery of instructor feedback
Instructor response to online requests usually occurs within a 24 hour period, but you can expect a response within 3 days.

Student login expectations
Students will be required to login a minimum of once per day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is recommended that students check daily for updates.

Specific login instructions
Blackboard Login https://bb9.tamucc.edu/webapps/login/

Faculty availability to support students
Instructor maintains a consistent web presence and is available to meet online in the Blackboard synchronous environment or via phone meetings for students who need more help.

Types of required interactions

Email

- Always include a subject line
- Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your posts.
- Use standard fonts.
- Do not send large attachments without permission.
- Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to the message
- Respect the privacy of other class members

Discussion Groups

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion
- Try to maintain threads by using the “Reply” button rather than starting a new topic
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group
- Be patient and read the comments of other members thoroughly before adding your remarks
- Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks
- Be positive and constructive in group discussions
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner

Blog

- Introduce yourself to the other learners in the blog session
- Be polite and do not use derogatory statements
- Be concise in responding to others in the blog session
- Be prepared to participate in the blog session at the scheduled time
- Be constructive in your comments and suggestions

Tentative Course Schedule

Week One

- Participate in Reading Circles
- Exploring Literacy Assignment
- Ethnography Project Proposal

Week Two

- Participate in Reading Circles
- Exploring Literacy Assignment
- Ethnography Project methodology is due.

Week Three

- Exploring Literacy Assignment
- Ethnography field notes are due.
Week Four
  • First draft of report for Ethnography project
  • Peer-review.

Week Five
  • Ethnography Project presentations
  • Peer-review
  • Final Ethnography Project report is due.

*All due dates are tentative