

Course Syllabus and Information
ENG 589: Issues in Writing Studies, Sec. 001 + TQ1
Fall 2016
Prof. Bill Knox

Course and Conference Information

Class meetings: Th, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Sec. 200, SI 214 and via CODEC Sec. TQ1, QC Complex 2128

Contact: Simpkins 013, 298-2505 (office), 298.2974 (FAX), wl-knox@wiu.edu

Office hours: MWF 11:00-noon, Th 4:00-5:30 p.m. in 013 Simpkins, and other times by appointment.

Prerequisites

Graduate status.

Texts and Materials

Leitch, Vincent B., ed. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, 2nd ed. New York: Norton, 2010. Print.

Initial Comments

This syllabus serves as the basis for our work this semester; however, some details may change as the semester progresses. Assignments and general communication (including changes in calendar and assignments, if any) will be given in class, via your WIU email address, and Western Online. Class information sent to you electronically should be printed for your binder. Since class time will be devoted to various approaches to understanding what writing, writing learning, and writing teaching are from a number of perspectives, reading reports, thematic presentations, and final project can be addressed with me any time before due dates during mini-conferences in class, in my office hours, or via email and telephone. Use email for routine questions, telephone for immediate concerns, and face-to-face talks for matters that require in-depth discussion.

Course Content and Goals

Content: The 2016-2017 *Graduate Catalog* describes EN 589 as “[i]n depth examination of an issue or topic relevant to writing studies.”

The title of Peter Elbow’s collection of essays from the pre-Internet era boldly asks, “What Is English?” This semester—now well into the Information Age—we will study and write toward a tentative answer to another bold question: “What is writing?” Through a series of student-selected critical readings, class time will focus on accounting for the many activities and products we call “writing.” Touching on processes, the role of talk, theory of knowledge, social roles, the individual, and virtual texts, course content will explore definitions of this most human of activities while suggesting how we might apply these definitions to critical reading, our own writing, editing, and teaching.

In the process, you will consider the aspects of writing most useful to your own studies as you prepare to write, teach, and construct new knowledge about this very common but taken-for-granted term.

Our class is divided into activities by week, each requiring specific preparation and performance.

Goals: By the end of the semester, you will develop an appreciation for the complexity of the meanings of writing and produce a series of presentations on the significance of these meanings in your life as a scholar, writer, and teacher.

Course Calendar

Week	Unit	Date	Class Focus
1	Introductions and Directions	Th, 08/25/16	Intro to Course & Participants Initial Reading Review and Discussion
2		Th, 09/01	Identification of Critical Areas-- Individual Reading Report Plan
	Labor Day Recess		No Class
3		Th, 09/08	3 Individual Reading Reports
4		Th, 09/15	3 Individual Reading Reports
5		Th, 09/22	3 Individual Reading Reports
6		Th, 09/29	3 Individual Reading Reports
7		Th, 10/06	3 Individual Reading Reports
8		Th, 10/13	Midterm Conferences
	Fall Break	F, 10/14	No Class
9	Conferences	M-Th, 10/17-21	Preliminary Seminar Reports
10		Th, 10/27	4 Joint Thematic Presentations
11		Th, 11/03	4 Joint Thematic Presentations
12		Th, 11/10	4 Joint Thematic Presentations
13		Th, 11/17	3 Joint Thematic Presentations
	Thanksgiving Break	11/24	No Class
15		Th, 12/01	Project Conferences
15		Th, 12/08	Final Project Due Brief Project Presentations Portfolio
	Finals Week	Th, 12/15-18 6-8:00 p.m.	Final Conference Projects Returned

Teaching and Learning Activities

To better understand writing, in this seminar, you should

- read and respond to a set of readings
- discuss your ideas based on your reading and research
- develop your own reading list on the aspects of writing most engaging for you

- make two presentations sharing your new thoughts on writing
- keep a portfolio of class work
- complete a final project suggesting further directions for your writing study

Assignment Policies and Academic Honesty

Each class will count, so class participation is expected and the several assignments are due at the start of class on specified dates in the Course Calendar. Marked papers will be returned during class as they are finished. Again, I will happily discuss assignments before due dates, the best time to revise, and after they are assessed. In this course, especially in graduate studies, “it is the student's responsibility to be informed and to abide by all University regulations and policies on Academic Integrity.” In other words, make your work your own on papers and tests and, as necessary, give credit where it is due. Please also see <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php> for the complete “Student Rights and Responsibilities.”

Use of Learning Technologies and Writing Assistance

Learning Technologies: I encourage the use of information technologies in our classroom—for course-related activity. You are welcome to use your personal devices in class for note-taking and drafting. Please use Western Online to receive assignments, send draft excerpts for your classmates and me to review before due dates, and conduct research. From time to time during the semester, I will recommend other readings—paper and virtual—to visit and I invite you to share your discoveries as well.

Writing Assistance: Please come to me with your questions or enjoy the convenience of using the OWL, the Online Writing Lab-- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>.

Assignments and Assessment (100%+1000 points)

- **Initial Assignment—5%**
 - **Individual Reading Report--10%**
 - **Joint Thematic Presentation--10%**
 - **Final Project--50%**
 - **Participation—10%**
 - **Portfolio—10%**
 - **Conferences—5%**
- Total--100%--A=93-100; A-=90-92; B+=88-89; B=83-87; B-=80-82; C+=78-79; C=73-78.**

Summary of Dates for Your Attention

Last day to add course during open registration: 08/26/2016

Last day to add by permission or delete course: 09/02/2016

Last day to drop course with "W" grade: 10/30/2016

Disability Services

Students with disabilities: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of

achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

Sex Discrimination

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Comments

Scheduling changes may occur, but I will usually announce these in advance. You are welcome to visit my office in Simpkins 013. At any time, feel free to tell me how the class can serve you better.

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