

ENG 30066-001
Writing in the Public Sphere

Instructor: Professor Jessica Corey

Required Texts & Materials:

Sondra Perl & Mimi Schwartz. *Writing True: The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction*. 2nd edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2014

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th edition. Modern Language Association, 2009

Access to a printer and stapler

Course Description:

Writing is a social, rhetorical, and often political practice. In other words, writing must always account for the relationships among the writer, audience, and purpose of communication within a particular context. This class asks you to work with peer and community partners to produce textual and multimodal materials that meet the needs of a local non-profit organization. This class places you in the role of a professional, leading to work that can be showcased in portfolios, included on resumes, and talked about in job interviews. The service-learning project for this semester involves collaborating with The Campus Kitchens Project and continues the efforts made possible by a grant awarded by the AARP. More specifically, you will be writing a book chapter about the challenges senior citizens face in regard to nutrition, as well as creating marketing materials for the Campus Kitchens Project. This endeavor will include primary and secondary research, as well as the creative writing of biographies of senior citizens.

Course Objectives:

- * To engage in researching and composing written/visual/audio texts appropriate for specific audiences
- * To find and use appropriate materials without plagiarizing or infringing on copyright and fair use guidelines
- * To interact meaningfully in online and face-to-face communities
- * To improve critical reading, thinking, and writing
- * To engage in reflection about civic engagement, community action, and writing as a social and political practice
- * To incorporate elements of creativity into work. By creativity, I mean “making unusual connections, looking at something in a fresh way, noticing unusual relationships or aspects of the topic, pushing beyond surface observations, challenging what others take for granted, taking a risk with a rhetorical technique, an unpopular idea, or a difficult topic” (Barbara Walvoord).

Assignments & Evaluation

Memoir (100 points)

Visual Essay (100 points)

Project Proposal (100 points)
 Blogs (100 points)
 Final Project (250 points)
 Reflective Essay (100 points)
 Reading Responses, In-Class Writings, & Homework Assignments (150 points)
 Participation (100 points)

A	930-1000 pts.	B+	870-899	C+	770-799	D+	670-699
A-	900-929	B	830-869	C	730-769	D	600-669
		B-	800-829	C-	700-729	F	0-599

You will receive detailed assignment sheets, which we will review in class.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1

T 8/26 Course Introduction
 R 8/28 WT: "Finding Voice" (pp. 56-70)

Week 2

T 9/2 WT: "Why Creative Nonfiction" (pp. 3-18) & "Taking Shape" (pp. 43-55)
 R 9/4 WT: "The Ethics of Creative Nonfiction" (pp. 149-163)

Week 3

T 9/9 Workshop
 R 9/11 WT: "The Power of the Notebook" (pp. 19-31)

Week 4

T 9/16 **Memoir due**; WT: Walker, "Beauty: When the other Dancer is the Self" (pp. 169-175)
 R 9/18 WT: "Exploring New Media" (pp. 114-131)

Week 5

T 9/23 Workshop
 R 9/25 Handouts: Larson, "Unique Nature and Struggles of Traditional Small Nonprofits" & Rehling, "Doing Good While Doing Well: Service Learning Internships"

Week 6

T 9/30 Handout: Reither, "Bridging the Gap: Scenic Motives for Collaborative Writing in Workplace and School" & WT: "The Role of Research" (pp. 132)
 R 10/2 Workshop

Week 7

T 10/7 **Visual Essay due**; WT: Apple, "Roommates" (pp. 262-264)
 R 10/9 Workshop; MLA: "Plagiarism and Academic Integrity" (pp. 51-60)

Week 8

T 10/14 **Preliminary Proposal due**; Handout: Denby, "Queen Leer"
 R 10/16 WT: "Workshopping a Draft" (pp. 75-92)

Week 9

T 10/21 WT: "The Craft of Revision" (pp. 93-113)
R 10/23 **Final Proposal due**; WT: "Meet the Shaggs" (pp. 303-313)

Week 10

T 10/28 Conferences
R 10/30 Conferences

Week 11

T 11/4 Workshop
R 11/6 No class/Professor Corey attending conference

Week 12

T 11/11 No class/Veterans Day Observance
R 11/13 WT: Selection of "Short Shorts" (pp. 359-370)

Week 13

T 11/18 Workshop
R 11/20 Handouts: Eiseley, "The Gold Wheel" and "Our Own True Notebook"

Week 14

T 11/25 Workshop
R 11/27 No class/Thanksgiving Break

Week 15

T 12/2 Workshop
R 12/4 **Service Learning Project due**; Assessment, SSIs

Final Exams

December 8-14
Reflective Essay due at midnight on December 14

*The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus, course schedule, and course documents.