

Introduction to Writing Arts Spring 2008

Instructors

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Course Locations

Rowan Hall Auditorium: First two class meetings and last two class meetings
Science Hall 128: History and Materiality of Writing
Education Hall 2101: Technologies and the Future of Writing
Savitz Hall 321: Issues in Writing

Required Materials

- Access to WebCT (<http://webct.rowan.edu>)
- Diana Hacker's *Research and Documentation in the Electronic Age*
- Regular access to your Rowan University email account
- Additional supplemental material will occasionally be provided.

Course Overview

Introduction to Writing Arts introduces you to important concepts in writing and to the Writing Arts major. The course provides a framework for understanding and connecting material throughout your coursework. It is divided into three modules: History and Materiality of Writing; Issues in Writing; and Technologies and the Future of Writing. The class will meet as an entire group at the beginning and end of the semester. During the middle, the class will be divided into three groups with each one attending one of the four-week modules so that by the end of the semester, each group will have attended all three modules. You can expect the course to do the following:

- Provide an introduction to the Writing Arts major's Core Values, goals and objectives
- Outline the curriculum in the major
- Introduce writing as a discipline by establishing the sociocultural, technological and theoretical concerns common to all writing
- Acquaint you with potential careers based on the major
- Outline the requirements for the major's final portfolio

Each of the three modules stands on its own, yet also speaks to the topics and concepts found in the other two. The group you are in will determine in which order you experience the modules. Brief descriptions of each module follow:

History and Materiality of Writing

Because the written word is inseparable from the technologies used to produce it, the history of writing and the technologies of writing are discussed together in this module. We will not only look at how aspects of writing changed over time due to sociocultural shifts, but the role technology played in those changes.

Issues in Writing

During this module, we will look at prominent ideas and concepts that shape contemporary understandings of writing. The module is divided into four units: the writing process; social construction and the rhetorical situation; genre; and academic integrity. In addition to reading the work of experts, we will discuss our own writing processes and how motivation, circumstances, and external expectations shape the writing process.

Technologies and the Future of Writing

This module is divided into four units: origins; writing spaces; ownership and identities; and the future of writing. Readings and discussions in each of these units will introduce students to seminal theories that have contributed to the evolution of the technologies of writing. Students will also gain important hands-on experience with instructional technology tools that they will use throughout the major.

Course Policies

Attendance

Since much of the work in this class is based on class discussions and group work, your regular attendance and participation are vital to its success. The following applies:

<u>Absences</u>	<u>Effect on final grade for course</u>
0-3	none
4	-1/3 (for example, a B becomes a B-)
5	-2/3
6	-1
7 or more	F in the course

The Department of Writing Arts has determined that a student who misses more than three weeks of a class has not been able to interact significantly with the materials, instructor, students and in-class activities. Thus, missing more than 6 courses constitutes failure for that course.

In addition, anyone who misses more than three class periods in any one module will receive an incomplete for the course and be required to repeat that module in the spring semester.

The absence allotment is for you to use at your discretion; **there is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences**. If you become gravely ill and are unable to attend class for an extended period, you must make arrangements with the Office of the Dean of Students at (856) 256-4257. Written excuses from doctors or parents will not exempt you from the policy.

Late work

You will receive information about procedures for turning in work for each module from your module instructor.

Intellectual Property and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic honesty. When you use material from other sources, you must acknowledge the work, whether it is verbatim material from a text, general outlines, or rewritten forms. This applies to published work, online sources, or texts produced by other students. Please familiarize yourself with the Rowan University policy on plagiarism.

The following statement is from the *Rowan University Student Information Guide*:

Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. Students who commit an act of academic dishonesty may be subject to failure in the course, suspension from the University or both. Students are responsible for upholding University academic honesty standards and encouraging other students to do likewise, understanding what constitutes acts of academic dishonesty, understanding academic honesty procedures and the rights and obligations of parties involved in the process, and understanding the penalties imposed for acts of academic dishonesty and the consequences of imposed penalties.

Specific definitions of academic dishonesty and explanations of penalties can be found in this document, available at http://www.rowan.edu/studentaffairs/main_office/Publications/Infoguide.pdf.

The Department of Writing Arts also has stipulated that students are not allowed to “double dip,” that is, use similar works for different courses:

The Department of Writing Arts does not allow students to turn in the same writing assignment for more than one class. Students must receive express permission of their instructor to submit writing or a substantial part of a written text previously submitted to another class. Not doing so is considered academic dishonesty and, following the policies laid out by Rowan, may result in an F for that assignment and possibly an F for the semester.

We expect that the work you turn in for this class will represent your own work, done solely for Introduction to Writing Arts, Spring 2008, and the appropriately attributed work of others. If you have any questions about citation, please ask since the consequences for plagiarism are severe. If you plagiarize in this class, you will fail the course. Additionally, the Office of the Provost will be informed of the reason for the failing grade.

Etiquette and Professionalism

Professionalism is required. Listen respectfully when others are speaking. Do not check cell phones or text messages, and, in the event we work on computers, do not instant message or use email. Lack of professionalism may result in being marked absent or in a lower final grade.

Writing and Projects

You will receive detailed instructions about assignments in each of the three modules.

Evaluation and Grades

Each module counts 1/3 of your course grade. Your final grade will be determined by the grades earned in each module, with adjustments for attendance if necessary. You will receive detailed information about evaluation in each module. Overall grades will be determined on the following scale:

A 93 and above	B- 80-82	D+ 67-69
A- 90-92	C+ 77-79	D 63-66
B+ 87-89	C 73-76	D- 60-62
B 83-86	C- 70-72	F 59 and below

Resources and Support

Writing Lab

The Writing Lab is a tremendous resource for all writers at Rowan. There are two locations: 26 Bozorth Hall and the Campbell Library Resource Room. The tutors there are able to help with planning, organizing, drafting, and polishing your writing projects. Call Tom Kloskey (x4331) to make an appointment.

Accommodation of Special Needs

Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact one of us. You must provide documentation of your disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The Academic Success Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall and can be reached at 856-256-4234. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. We look forward to working with you to meet your learning goals.

Schedule and policies may be modified by instructors.