

English Composition 101-31**MWF 1:00-1:50 GRAHAM 308**

Instructor: Stephanie Whetstone

Office Hours: 212 McIver, MW: 9:30-10:00, 11:00-12:00

E-mail: swwhetst@uncg.edu Phone: 256-8553**Course Description**

This is an introductory composition course designed to help build reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Through careful reading of fiction and non-fiction, vibrant class discussion, frequent writing assignments, and thoughtful revision, you will learn to identify the elements of clear, concise prose and to create your own effective communication.

Learning Goals

- Locate, synthesize, and evaluate relevant information in a piece of writing
- Demonstrate an understanding of the aims and methods of intellectual discourse
- Understand the structural elements of an essay
- Interpret and evaluate argumentative discourse
- Weigh evidence and evaluate different viewpoints
- Write effective prose

Texts*The Art of Truth*, edited by Bill Roorbach*The Art of the Short Story: An International Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction*, edited by Daniel Halpern**Attendance**

- Please contact me via email **PRIOR** to class if you know you will be absent. Students are allowed three absences with no penalty. Students with **four** absences will be dropped from the class and will receive a WF. Extended absences due to extraordinary circumstances should be discussed with me and documentation should be provided.
- No credit will be given for any missed class assignment or any late work unless prior arrangements are made with me.

Academic Integrity

- Students are expected to comply with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The policy is defined in the student handbook and online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu>.

Paper Format

- All out of class assignments must be **typed, double-spaced**. Papers **must** use a font such as **Times New Roman or Times (12 point)** and **one inch margins**.
- It is not acceptable to e-mail papers.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

- Participation 30%
- Drafts, Exercises 30%
- Portfolio 40%

Participation: Come to class prepared and be involved. In-class writing assignments and general in-class assignments are included in your participation grade. Informal group work also falls into this category.

Drafts and Exercises: I will assign various exercises, assignments, readings and essay drafts to be done outside of class throughout the semester.

Essays: Three essays (3-5 pages each) will be due throughout the semester. These will be revised for your portfolio. You will receive more information about each essay.

Portfolio: At the end of the semester, a portfolio of your revised writing is due. More information regarding both your portfolio choices and the portfolio requirements will be provided as the semester continues. **Do not discard any writing assignments.**

- The Writing Center is located on the third floor of MHRA and is open Mon. – Thurs., 9:00 am - 8:00 pm, Fri., 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, and Sun., 6:00 pm -9:00 pm.
- If you have any disability that could affect your performance in class or for which you need an accommodation, please contact me and/or the Office of Disability Services at 334-5440.

Laptop Policy

Laptops may be used in class only by students having a special need for purposes of note-taking or other classroom activities. Students with such a need should make specific arrangements with the instructor. No student may use a laptop in class without a prior arrangement with the instructor.

Required Readings and Assignments

Please keep up to date on any changes in the syllabus.

M 8/25- Introduction. In-class writing exercise.

W 8/27-Meghan Daum, "Music is My Bag: Confessions of a Lapsed Oboist"

F 8/29-Mary Karr, "The Liar's Club"

M 9/1- Labor Day Holiday- NO CLASS

W 9/3- James Baldwin, "Equal in Paris"

F 9/5- Amy Tan, "The Language of Discretion" (handout)

M 9/8- Draft of Essay #1 due. Peer exchange.

W 9/10-Revising Workshop

F 9/12- Maxine Hong Kingston, "No Name Woman"

M 9/15- Editing workshop

W 9/17- **Essay #1 due**

F 9/19- Andre Dubus III, "Tracks and Ties"

M 9/22- Barbara Ehrenreich, "Nickel-and-Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America"

W 9/24- Truman Capote, "In Cold Blood"

F 9/26- Jon Krakauer, "Summit, 1:25 PM, May 10, 1996, 29,028 Feet"

M 9/29- Revising Workshop

W 10/1- Conferences

F 10/3- Conferences

M 10/6-Vikram Chandra, "Dharma"

W 10/8-**Draft of Essay #2 due.** Peer exchange.

F 10/10- Ama Ata Aidoo, "A Gift from Somewhere"

M 10/13-Julia Alvarez, "Amor Divino"

W 10/15-Editing Workshop

F 10/17-**Essay #2 due**

M 10/20- **Fall Break-NO CLASS**

W 10/22- John Durham Peters, "Witnessing" (handout)

F 10/24- Media Literacy Workshop

M 10/27- Group work-political speeches

W 10/29- Portfolio Planning Session

F 10/31- Conferences

M 11/3- Conferences

W 11/5- Russell Banks. "My Mother's Memoirs, My Father's Lies, and Other True Stories,"

F 11/7- Creative Writing Workshop

M 11/10- Lydia Davis "The House Behind"

W 11/12- **Draft of Essay #3 due. Peer exchange.**

F 11/14- Jim Crace, "The Prospect From the Silver Hills"

M 11/17-Editing Workshop

W 11/19- **Essay #3 due**

F 11/21- Junot Diaz, "Yzrael"

M 11/23- Conferences

W 11/26-Thanksgiving Break-NO CLASS

F 11/28- Thanksgiving Break-NO CLASS

M 12/1- **Portfolios due.**

W 12/3- Raymond Carver, "Are These Actual Miles?"

F 12/5- Jamaica Kincaid, "A Small Place"

M 12/8- Reinaldo Arenas, "The Glass Tower"

W 12/10 (3:30-6:30PM) Final Exam Period. Portfolios returned.