

## **WRITING 101: Section 041: Fall 2008**

“Writing is easy. You only need to stare at a piece of blank paper until your forehead bleeds.”

–Douglas Adams

Instructor Jimmy Butts

Classroom: Kinard 211

Class time: TR 5:00-6:15

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Class Blog: <http://winthroploveswriting41.blogspot.com/>

### **TEXTS**

Axelrod, Rise B. and Charles R. Cooper. *Reading Critically, Writing Well: A Reader and Guide*. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008.

Harris, Muriel. *Prentice Hall Reference Guide*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Custom Edition for Winthrop University. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2008.

### **MATERIALS**

In addition to the texts, you will need a dictionary because you should just have one, a loose-leaf notebook for note taking, about 25 3x5 inch note cards for quick in-class writing exercises, and a two-pocket folder to turn in your out-of-class papers.

### **GOALS**

1. “To use writing, reading, and research as means of general cognitive development which foster intellectual growth in an academic environment.”
2. “To encourage students to see writing as a learning tool which is important in all contexts and is not confined to the writing classroom.”
3. “To teach students to plan, organize, and develop essays based on introspection, general observation, deliberation, research, and the critical reading of mature prose texts.”
4. “To make students aware of their individual voices and how those voices can be adapted to fit different audiences and rhetorical situations.”
5. “To encourage students to view writing as a process by using several prewriting, organizing, drafting, revising, and editing strategies.”
6. “To stress the importance of clear communication by teaching students to revise effectively through the complete rethinking, restructuring, and rewriting of essays.”
7. “To encourage independent thinking.”
8. “To teach students to document correctly and to incorporate borrowed material smoothly and appropriately.”

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Essays**

You will write 5 major essays in total, with much in and out of class practice in between. They will be: 1 Observational (2-3 pages), 1 Explanatory (3-4 pages), 1 In-class Evaluative (3-4 pages), 1 Out-of-class Persuasive (7 pages), and 1 In-class Persuasive as the Final Exam

Use Times New Roman, 12 point font. Double space, and use one inch margins. Type them out. Follow MLA style.

I will ask you to turn in your prewriting and rough drafts with your final copy, so keep everything. When you turn in final out-of-class essays, I usually ask that you turn the information in using a two-pocket folder: on one side, place the prewriting, notes, drafts, and on the other, place the final copy by itself. For the in-class essays, I will also ask that you turn in prewriting and notes, but I do not require a folder.

### **Participation**

We will have regular participation grades in class which will include quick quizzes, reading checks, peer evaluations (see below), or other general assignments. While we will not have one of these grades every class period, I will try to have some kind of regular small assessment that can help your grade. Every participation grade will be out of 5 points: a 1 out of 5 being an F, a 3 out of 5 being a C, and so on. The grades will be averaged at the end of the semester. This should be a good way for you to buffer your grade, but also a way for me to keep you on top of things.

### **Peer Evaluations**

To continue improving your writing and to encourage revision, we will have peer evaluations for several essays. You will need to turn in these critiqued rough drafts with the final paper. These rough drafts are not optional, and while they are certainly subject to change, the more complete your rough draft is, the more feedback your classmates can give you. If you are not prepared for these peer evaluations, are absent, or do not turn in the critiqued drafts with your final paper, you will receive a zero in your participation grade for that class period.

### **Blog Entries**

We have a class blog, and since technology has become a major aspect of writing today, we will write online. These are for a grade, should be well thought out, and be around 200 words a piece. This should be fun.

### **GRADES**

Essays will be evaluated by the standards listed in the “Rubric for Freshman Composition,” which can be found at the following web address: <http://www.winthrop.edu/english/rubric.htm>.

Grading Scale	
A+	99-100
A	93-98
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	82-87
B-	80-81
C+	78-79
C	72-77
C-	70-71
D+	68-69
D	52-67
D-	50-51
F	49 and below.

Assignment	% of Grade
Participation Grade	15%
Essay 1	10%
Essay 2	15%
Essay 3	15%
Essay 4	20%
Blog Entries	15%
Final Exam	10%

**Final Examinations:** Winthrop University policy requires that all classes meet during their scheduled final examination period. Winthrop University policy specifies that personal conflicts such as travel plans and work schedules do not warrant a change in examination time. You are responsible for checking the time of your final examination and for arranging to be there.

“Students must earn at least a C- in Writing 101 in order to enroll in HMXP 102 and must repeat Writing 101 if they earn less than a C-.”

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in “Works Cited”)—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not. It is also a violation of the Student Conduct Code (<http://www.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/Judicial/judcode.htm>). The English Department has prepared *The Correct Use of Borrowed Information* to explain plagiarism (see [www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm](http://www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm).) You will be required to print out this statement, sign the last page, and bring it to class when required by your instructor. Ignorance or failure to consult this material is no excuse.

Also, be advised that we will be using the Turnitin.com system.

In this course, infractions of the Code to Student Conduct will result in penalties from a 0 on the particular assignment in question to failing the course, depending upon the nature and severity of the offense.

## **ATTENDANCE**

In this class, we will follow the standard Winthrop policy, which states: “If a student’s absences in a course total 25 percent or more of the class meetings for the course, the student will receive a grade of N, F, or U, whichever is appropriate,” which means that on the 7<sup>th</sup> absence, you will not receive credit. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, and you are responsible for finding out what you missed during your absence.

Despite these generous numbers, it is important to remember that attendance is crucial to one’s success in class. Given the amount of in-class work and the policies regarding late work, frequent absences will certainly lower your overall grade. Consequently, I expect that you will attend every class meeting.

3 tardies of more than 5 minutes will result in one absence.

Sleeping in class will result in an absence, although we will probably try to have fun waking you up first.

## **LATE PAPER/ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

Informal assignments such as in-class activities obviously cannot be made up.

Blog entries also will not be accepted late.

For formal essays, the work is due in-class according to the dates on the schedule.

For formal essays, any work not handed in during the class will be penalized a half-letter grade for being late, and then one letter grade for each day late thereafter.

Also, you may revise any essay (except for the last one, because of time, and the final exam, of course) and resubmit it within a week of the original due date for an averaged grade.

## **OTHER POLICIES**

Please note that departmental policy requires me to keep the graded version of your essays. We can have you make copies of any graded essays that you would like to keep by the end of the semester.

Turn off cell phones, pagers, beepers, etc. before coming to class.

Don't bring your laptops unless I ask you to bring them.

### **Safe Zone Statement**

The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification letter, please notify me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first assignment.

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center provides support for all students in all Winthrop classes free of charge. It is located in 242 Bancroft (x-2138). Check its web page ([www.winthrop.edu/wcenter](http://www.winthrop.edu/wcenter)) for current hours.

### **Contacting Me**

I check my email each weekday, and this is the best way to contact me. (I do not check it usually on the weekend.) You can also leave messages for me with Mrs. Hingle in the department mailroom, 248 Bancroft, which is open from 8:30-5:00 each day.