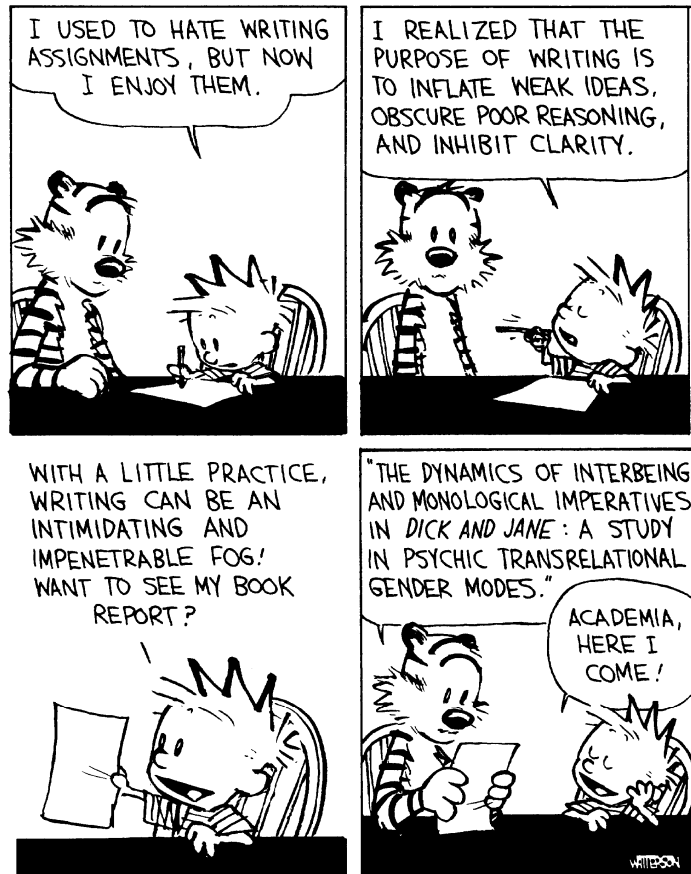


ENGL 3400 Pedagogy and Writing
CRN 13064, Section 01, MW 12:30pm-1:45pm; TLC 1112

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 by appointment
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Class Description: Establishing sound and purposeful writing environments and assessment practices that motivate students are a challenging task for the burgeoning teacher at any level. We all inherit a host of obstacles concerning student writing when we enter a classroom, but, as Kelly Gallagher points out, “well-trained teachers of writing produce students who write better” regardless of the hurdles they face. But, how can theoretical lenses be used meaningfully in different learning environments? How do you teach writing in context with authentic purpose? And, perhaps the more pressing question, how can you get student commitment to the task of becoming a discerning reader and writer of texts and the world around them? In response to these (and many other) concerns with the teaching of writing, this course will integrate the theoretical and the pragmatic as we strategize—first with our own critical reading and writing skills and then with those of the students we will face—instructional methods and pedagogical practices that lead to informed and intrinsically motivated communities of learners. As teaching is a multifaceted and unique art, students will observe faculty teaching writing in context in both classroom and tutorial environments. (Note: Engl 3400 is required for certification in Secondary English Education for those who entered the program in fall 2008 or later.)



Course Goals:

- Students will gain understanding of theoretical foundations in the field of Rhetoric and Composition and its intimate relationship to teaching writing.
- Students will apply said theories through writing, presentation, and discussion of ideas.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of both theory and practice of pedagogical models through reflective, informal, and formal writing situations.
- Students will attend classes and writing center consultations, observe teachers in action, and reflect in writing on the pedagogical practices they witness.
- Students will research, theorize, and articulate a current pedagogical position for themselves toward the end of the semester.

Required Texts & Materials:

- Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale* NY: Random House, 1998.
- Blasingame. *Teaching Writing In Middle & Secondary Schools*. Merrill, 2005.
- Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*. 2nd edition. Ed. Walker. NY; St. Martins, 2000.
- Rowson, Susanna. *Charlotte Temple*. Ed. Davidson. NY: Oxford, 1986.
- Additional required reading from Gallagher, Skiba, Gardner, Appleman, Dixon, etc, via library reserve.
- A bound journal.
- A two pocket folder for turning in essays.

Recommended Texts & Materials:

- A good literary terms dictionary.
- Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (6th Ed).
- Grammar handbook.
- USB drive.

Assignments & Grade Distribution: In-class writing, group work, and other activities will complement class discussions on a regular basis and cannot be made-up. As the semester progresses, I will discuss and/or distribute specific guidelines for each written assignment. Please Note: You must complete all assignment to pass this course. See <http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/fr/Ruby.doc> for 2000-level and above grading criteria.

- (40%) (2) Critical Response Essays/Projects (20% each).
- (15%) Observation Events & Formal Reflections.
- (30%) Final Project.
- (15%) Journals, Case Study Exercises, Homework, & Participation. (FYI—Given the focus of this class, active participation is an expectation.)

Grading Summary:

Papers will be graded according to the following scale:

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| A+ = 98 | B+ = 88 | C+ = 78 | D+ = 68 | F = 50 |
| A = 95 | B = 85 | C = 75 | D = 65 | |
| A- = 92 | B- = 82 | C- = 72 | D- = 62 | |

Attendance: Attendance and punctuality are mandatory and key to your success in this course. Arrive to class on time having completed any reading/writing assignments and be prepared to participate in class discussions and group work. Students will be administratively withdrawn from class based on the following attendance policy. For classes that meet twice a week, a student is allowed *three (3) absences*. Upon the fourth absence, the student will be withdrawn. Be aware that *no distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences*. In addition, students should be aware that if the withdrawal date falls before March 2nd, the student will receive a “W.” If the withdrawal date falls after March 2nd, the student will receive a “WF.” Please note that tardiness will negatively affect your class participation grade and may result in missed in-class work that cannot be made up. University policy regarding severe weather and emergency closings is posted at http://www.westga.edu/police/index_2277.php and official announcements about class and/or examination cancellations will be made only by the President and/or the Department of Public Relations.

Observation Events: Each student is required to participate in a minimum of three hours of on-campus observations of English department faculty. Two observations will be conducted in first or second year writing/literature classes with the third taking place in the University Writing Center. Students will complete a formal, written reflection piece for each observation (*three* total).

- During the fourth week of January, each student will sign-up with me for *two* classroom observation slots based on a predetermined list of time/day/instructor options; each student must observe two different faculty members. Students are expected to be on time and observe the entire class period for each observation.
- Students are responsible for scheduling a *one* hour University Writing Center observation directly with the UWC (TLC 1201). You must sign-up for and report your selected time to me by January 31st.
- Each student is expected to demonstrate absolute professionalism when scheduling, observing, and/or communicating with observation faculty and UWC staff.
- Remember that *each* observation (and subsequent reflection piece) is *graded* and may not be rescheduled.
- Reflection portfolios are due no later than April 18th, though you may submit them earlier once you have completed the full observation requirements.

Paper Format: All papers must be typed, double-spaced, use standard 1 inch margins, and conform to standard MLA guidelines. Please use Times New Roman 12 point font. Papers must be submitted in a clearly labeled two pocket folder.

Make-Up Work & Recycled Papers:

- In-class work *cannot* be made up and will count as zeros in the daily grade component.
- If you miss a class, it is up to you to check with me or a classmate in a timely fashion concerning any homework assignments due the next period.
- Recycled papers (i.e. turning in papers written for other professors) are not permissible in this class and will result in an automatic zero for the assignment.

Late Assignments: All assignments are due at the start of class on the date specified in the course schedule. If you must miss a class on a date when an assignment is due, you need to make prior arrangements with me to submit your work on time. Late assignments are subject to a *five point deduction* for *each day* submitted after the due date. You must inform me on the scheduled due date if you intend to turn in a late assignment; otherwise, it will not be graded.

Optional Revision Policy: You may revise either of the first two essays/projects for resubmission. If the revised assignment receives a higher grade, it will be used in your final grade calculation in place of the original. The revision must be substantial and submitted along with the original, graded assignment in order to be considered. Revised papers are due the last day of class—no exceptions.

Extra Credit: At my discretion, I may offer an opportunity for extra credit. Such opportunities, should they arise, would involve attending a campus event and successful completion of an accompanying written assignment. Each opportunity would be worth up to five (5) points—depending upon assignment assessment—which would be applied to a graded assignment of my choice.

Conferencing: My office door is always open to you. Please come by during the hours noted on this syllabus whenever you have questions concerning class discussions, need advice or help with reading/writing assignments, etc. If you cannot attend my scheduled office hours, email me for an appointment.

Class Decorum: Throughout the semester, we will examine controversial topics, materials, and our critical reactions to them. Everyone in this class has both the right and the responsibility to express his or her opinions in class discussions and to treat one another's ideas respectfully and seriously, even if – or especially if – you disagree. Consequently, ill-spirited discussions, unmerited comments, and intolerance are not permitted in the classroom. Also, please raise your hand when you would like to have the floor. This facilitates structured discussion and equal participation.

Disruptive Behavior: Students may be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes—but is not limited to—arriving late for class, allowing cell phones to ring, text-messaging, frequently leaving class, and speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and *will be applied* toward the attendance requirements policy above.

Technology: As a technology supplemented course, the computers are here to facilitate note taking, in-class writing, and scheduled research sessions. Checking email or surfing the web during class time is prohibited. After one warning, abuse of technology during class time will result in a loss of computer access for the duration of the term.

Email: In accordance with university policy, all email correspondence must take place through the UWG email system. I will email the class often; therefore, please be sure that your default address is set for your westga account in the Banner student system and that you check it regularly. Also, please keep in mind that email is *professional* correspondence; thus, remember to properly address your audience, use the same standards of writing that you would in any paper you write, and sign your email.

Writing Center: The Writing Center is a valuable student resource. Though the center will not proofread or evaluate papers, consultants will question, respond to, offer choices, and encourage revision in student essays. This is a free university service for you to take advantage of as often as you need. To schedule an appointment call the center at 678-839-6513. Be advised that the writing center has a “no show” policy. For more information concerning hours and appointment policies, check out <http://www.westga.edu/~writing/> or visit the center located in TLC 1201.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense with severe consequences. The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. The Department expects that students will accurately credit sources in all assignments. An equally dishonest practice is fabricating sources or facts; it is another form of misrepresenting the truth. The use of another individual's words, phrases, or ideas without proper citation *will result in failure of this course (no questions)* and possible suspension from the university. As members of the West Georgia community, I expect you to abide by the university honor code. The University policies for handling Academic Dishonesty are found in the following documents: *The Faculty Handbook*,

sections 207 and 208.0401 <http://www.westga.edu/~vpaa/handrev/> and *Student Uncatalog: "Rights and Responsibilities"*; Appendix J. <http://www.westga.edu/handbook/>.

Special Accommodations: Students in the UWG community have a right to equal access to classes and materials, regardless of special needs, whether temporary or permanent. Students with disabilities on file with Disability Services will be accommodated in this class per West Georgia regulations. Please see me immediately for arrangements. Disability services may be reached at (770) 839-6428.

Reading Schedule: The course reading schedule is available on my website. Please check it regularly as I will update it based on our progress.