English 10  
Course Syllabus

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Fall 2012  
3 Credits

Required Texts and Software
- Graff and Birkenstein, *They Say, I Say*.
- Multiple copies of your essays and research documents when requested.
- Microsoft Word compatible software.

Recommended Text

Course Description
Your writing will emerge from the concepts, processes, and issues that we will read and discuss in class. All of your writing projects will encourage you to choose topics that are important to you, that connect with issues, ideas and experiences that you are familiar with. There will be four major writing projects that you will do in this course, and there will be numerous shorter writing assignments that support the work you do on your projects. As we move through the course, each writing project will challenge you to add more knowledge, skills, and practices to the work and learning you have gained from previous assignments. Learning in this class is cumulative.

Primary Learning Outcomes
At the completion of the course, students will be able to engage in rhetorical analysis and the writing process. Students will learn how to assess the effectiveness of the decisions they make as they read, write, and respond to other texts. In addition, students should have a college-level facility with and understanding of the conventions of academic discourse. The specific outcomes in each area are listed below, and the numbers in parenthesis correspond to University General Education Course Content Learning Outcomes (see appendix A).

Rhetorical Analysis
1. Analyze and interpret a variety of texts by performing active and critical reading (2.5.2, 3.2.4)
2. Understand how to manage information in texts and assess the value of sources (2.5.2; 3.2.4)
3. Understand writing as a process and the way processes vary in relation to the writing situation and genre constraints. (2.2.1)
4. Understand the situated quality of the writing process (2.2.1)
5. Articulate the rhetorical framework of any literacy event (2.3.1; 3.2.4)
6. Recognize, understand, and employ situation appropriate genre conventions (2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.3.2)
7. Understand how rhetorical choices and decision-making are fundamental to successful communication (2.3.1; 3.2.4)

Writing Process
8. Prepare for the rigor of university level written coursework by employing writing as a means of reflective, critical, and analytical thinking (2.3.1)
9. Understand elements of writing process, drafting, revision etc (2.2.2; 2.2.3)
10. Organize an essay with a clear, complex thesis, and a coherent structure (2.2.2; 2.2.3)

Conventions of Academic Discourse
11. Understand conventions of academic research: i.e. analysis, interpretation, integration of sources, style, citation, research methods (2.3.3; 2.5.1; 2.5.2; 2.5.3)
12. Develop complex arguments that are able to participate in pre-existing academic conversations (2.3.1; 3.2.4)
13. Write paragraphs that reflect unity, coherence, and adequate development of ideas (2.2.2; 2.3.1; 2.2.3)
14. Demonstrate sentence competence and variety (2.2.1)

Reading practices
1. Understand and engage active reading strategies (2.5; 3.3.3)
2. Understand how to identify the rhetorical structure of texts (2.5; 3.2.4; 3.3.3)
3. Understand how to summarize texts as a means of identifying writer’s argument, purpose or message (2.5; 3.3.3)
4. Understand various methods of responding to texts (2.5; 3.3.3)
5. Understand various forms of marginalia (2.5; 3.3.3)
6. Be able to distinguish between the generalizations or claims and the use of evidence (2.5; 3.3.3)
7. Be able to identify passages where the writer develops the significance of the argument (2.5; 3.3.3)

Course Requirements
1.) Attendance and Participation. Because discussions will be an integral part of this class, your attendance, participation and timely reading of the assigned texts are required. For absences in excess of three, your semester grade will be lowered one letter grade. There are no excused absences in this course. Absences in excess of six will result in your failing the course. Three tardies will equal one absence. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements or assignments made while you were away. Your absence on a day when a paper is due is not an excuse to turn-in a late assignment. You are expected to upload your paper to BB as specified. Failure to bring required copies of an essay to a workshop session will be counted as an absence.

2.) Formal Papers. You will be required to submit three semester papers and corresponding rough drafts. Each assignment will be given a specific due date when assigned. These assignments will encourage you to bridge the course readings with outside sources of research. Your papers will be given revision notes and suggestions. There is room for revision before final placement in the Portfolio. Failure to turn in any essay or rough draft will result in failure in the class.

Portfolio. A portfolio is a collection of your written work over time. As an evaluative tool, the portfolio will be a representation of your best work and your growth as a writer over the semester. At the midterm and at the end of the semester, you will turn in a portfolio. The portfolio grade will be based on criteria found in the rubric that we will discuss as a class. I will pass this rubric out to you later in the semester.
The midterm portfolio will include only the work we have done in the first half of the semester, and is an opportunity for you to get a sense of how your writing will be graded. The midterm and final portfolio grades are not cumulative. The final portfolio will include all of the writing you have done over the semester. You are free to revise any piece of writing from the midterm portfolio for the final portfolio. The grade you are given for your final portfolio is the grade that will count as 10% of your total grade in English 10.

3.) **Format.** All papers are expected to use MLA format, 12pt. font, and one-inch margins, double spaced. Title or cover pages are not necessary. All assignments turned in during class must be printed. No handwritten papers or assignments will be accepted.

**Final grades will be based on the following:**

- Participation: activities, quizzes, shorter writings, workshopping 20%
- Formal Writing Projects 70%
- Final Portfolio 10%

**Grading Scale**

- 90-100% A
- 80-89% B
- 73-79% C
- 64-72% D
- 0-63% F

**Students with Disabilities:** Upon identifying themselves to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation. For more information, contact Services to Students with Disabilities in the University Center Room 5 (278-2811).

**Honor Code:** “Members of the CSU Fresno academic community adhere to principles of academic integrity and mutual respect while engaged in university work and related activities.” You should:

a) understand or seek clarification about expectations for academic integrity in this course (including no cheating, plagiarism and inappropriate collaboration)

b) neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on examinations or other course work that is used by the instructor as the basis of grading.

c) take responsibility to monitor academic dishonesty in any form and to report it to the instructor or other appropriate official for action.

Instructors may require students to sign a statement at the end of all exams and assignments that “I have done my own work and have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work.” If you are going to use this statement, include it here.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** "Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term 'cheating' not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an
unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material (i.e., their intellectual property) so used as one's own work."

Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from a 0 or F on a particular assignment, through an F for the course, to expulsion from the university. For more information on the University's policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the Class Schedule (Legal Notices on Cheating and Plagiarism) or the University Catalog (Policies and Regulations).

**Computers:** "At California State University, Fresno, computers and communications links to remote resources are recognized as being integral to the education and research experience. Every student is required to have his/her own computer or have other personal access to a workstation (including a modem and a printer) with all the recommended software. The minimum and recommended standards for the workstations and software, which may vary by academic major, are updated periodically and are available from Information Technology Services (http://www.csufresno.edu/ITS/) or the University Bookstore. In the curriculum and class assignments, students are presumed to have 24-hour access to a computer workstation and the necessary communication links to the University's information resources."

**Disruptive Classroom Behavior:** "The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for the rights of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. ... Differences of viewpoint or concerns should be expressed in terms which are supportive of the learning process, creating an environment in which students and faculty may learn to reason with clarity and compassion, to share of themselves without losing their identities, and to develop and understanding of the community in which they live . . . Student conduct which disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class."

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Assignment Sequence

Please see Assignment Sequence document posted under the Course Syllabus tab of BB.

MLA helpful website
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html