

Rhetoric 105

Race and the University

Course Syllabus

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Section B3
MWF 9, HAB 152
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Course Texts and Websites

Writing @ the University of Illinois by Cathy Prendergast, Richard Nardi, and Cory Holding, 2nd edition. An access card for this e-book can be purchased at the Illini Union bookstore at the electronics counter, which is on the second floor. Once the activation code on the card has been used, you will NOT be able to return the card for a refund. After activating your code, you can access the book through this address <https://etext.illinois.edu/> with your username and AD password.

A Writer's Reference by Diane Hacker and Douglas P. Downs. 6th edition, 2010. E-text. Buy the access card at the bookstore (see above). You may also choose to purchase a hard copy of the book (make sure it's the 6th edition). It's available on Amazon.

E-reserve readings, found in the library's online e-reserve collection. Go to <library.illinois.edu> and click on reserves, then e-reserves and scroll down the course list until you come to Rhet 105 and my name.

Our course has a Moodle website. I will post assignment prompts, important resources, and news items, and you will post most of your short assignments and discussions on this site. Go to <<https://courses.las.illinois.edu>>, login using your NetID and AD password, and select this course. You may need the enrollment key 3e5tr4 the first time you access the site.

Course Description and Goals

Rhetoric 105 will help you develop your reading, writing, and research skills and lay a foundation for the reading, writing, and researching you will do at the University. The skills taught in this course can also help you learn to make informed judgments in a world of competing ideas and learn to communicate ideas persuasively. This course will give you practice in:

- Critically reading and analyzing texts
- Rhetorical analysis
- Forming arguments
- Gathering and evaluating research
- Synthesizing multiple sources
- Conducting qualitative research

- Composing: inventing, drafting, revising

This section of Rhet. 105 will be centered on the theme of “Race and the University.” Our course will be part of UIUC’s Ethnography of the University Initiative (EUI)—a University-wide program that supports undergraduate research about the university experience and encourages the archiving of this research. The assignments and discussions will ask you to explore your own experience as a student and consider issues of race in higher education. We will read, discuss, and analyze articles about race and how we interact with those who are different. You will form your own research questions and answer them by doing ethnographic research (observations, interviews, archive analysis, and surveys).

EUI sponsors a conference on campus at the end of the semester. You will have the opportunity to attend the conference and present your research. In addition, you can publish your writing through UIUC’s online archive site, Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship (IDEALS). If you choose to archive your work, it will be available for other students to learn from and build upon.

Course Requirements

Major papers: You will write three 3-5 page essays and a longer extended synthesis essay, which will be a group project. All of the major papers will require primary and/or secondary research. I make every effort to grade fairly. I use a rubric that assigns points according to how well you apply the principles of effective communication we have discussed in class. I do not impose a curve, but if a notable range exhibits itself within a group performance, it is my responsibility to communicate that range as accurately as possible.

Short, informal writing assignments: To encourage you to complete the course readings and prepare you for your major writing assignments, I will assign shorter writing assignments and forum responses. These assignments can help you understand the course readings, brainstorm ideas for your major essays, help me guide your research, and give you essential writing practice. These short assignments and responses will typically be a few paragraphs in length, and you will post them on moodle. Rather than grading the assignments, I will give you points for completing the assignment and (sometimes) comment on your work.

Participation: I expect you to come to class prepared to discuss readings and participate in writing activities. As part of your participation grade, I will evaluate your contribution to class discussions, group work, peer writing workshops, and teacher conferences. If you don’t bring a completed draft to peer writing workshops and instructor conferences, I will deduct points from your participation grade.

Class Presentation: At the end of the semester, you will present a poster of your research as a group to the class.

Grade Breakdown

Representation Essay: 10%
Secondary Sources Essay: 15%
Primary Sources Essay: 15%
Extended Synthesis: 20%

Short, informal writing assignments: 20%
Participation: 10%
Poster Presentation: 10%

Resources

The Writer's Workshop, located in room 251 of the Undergraduate Library as well as several satellite locations, provides free one-on-one tutoring by graduate and undergraduate students. If you'd like feedback and suggestions on your papers beyond what you get from me and your peers, I strongly recommend that you take advantage of this service. They also have specially-trained ESL tutors. To make an appointment, call 333-8796 or visit their webpage: <<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/>>

Please do not hesitate to ask me for help. Email me with a specific question, visit during office hours, or set up an appointment, and we can discuss your writing.

Course Policies

Attendance and Sickness Policy

Missing class will affect your participation grade and your ability to do well on the assignments. In addition, if you are absent for more than two weeks (6 meetings), your final grade will drop a half a letter grade for each additional meeting missed. If you miss more than 10 meetings, you will fail the course. You will be counted as absent if you are more than 10 minutes late. Excused absences include religious holidays, letter-supported athletic events, or serious illness (with letter from the Emergency Dean). Let me know by email (and in advance, if possible) if you are very sick or have a family emergency and will need to miss class for a few days. I will make accommodations, such as excusing absences and allowing papers to be turned in late, only if you have a doctor's note indicating that you have been very sick or a note from the emergency dean.

Paper Format Requirements and Submission

Unless otherwise indicated, all of your assignments should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins, Times New Roman 12 pt. font. I will collect hard copies of all major papers at the end of class on the day they are due. Short assignments and drafts will generally be submitted on Moodle by noon on the day they are due.

Late Work

You may turn in one of your first three essays within one week of the assignment's due date without being penalized. Please write LATE at the top of your paper. Any other late papers will receive a grade deduction. Each class period a paper is late, your paper grade will drop one half letter (from a 95 to a 90). I will also subtract points from your short assignment grade if your assignments are late. No assignments will be accepted two weeks after the due date.

Revision

You should have ample time to revise your papers before the final draft is due. However, if your paper still needs substantial revisions, and you are not happy with your final grade, you may revise one of the four major papers. I will average the two grades together for a final grade.

Plagiarism/Academic Integrity

UIUC policies for academic dishonesty are described in Part 4: Academic Integrity of the university's Student Code. All written coursework in this course is expected to be your own, with all words and/or ideas from other sources fairly attributed. To use phrases and/or ideas from any other source as if they were your own constitutes plagiarism. The University Student Code sets out possible consequences of plagiarism in coursework, ranging from failure on the assignment to suspension or dismissal from the University. The Code specifies that ignorance of these standards is not an excuse. Take time to familiarize yourself with the Code at www.admin.uiuc.edu/policy/code/ and with the chapter on plagiarism in *A Writer's Reference*. Documentation should follow current MLA or APA form. If you have questions about fair use or documentation, please do not hesitate to consult me.

Classroom Conduct

I want our classroom to be a safe place where we can candidly discuss our ideas and our writing. Language or behavior exhibiting prejudice—racism, sexism, religious intolerance—have no place in our classroom. Please do your part to make our class a comfortable place. Other classroom behaviors I find highly annoying are texting, checking email, listening to music, and sleeping during class. Please be respectful by coming to class ready to learn.

Disability Accommodations

The University will make every practical effort to ensure that no person is denied educational access because of a disability. Any student who has a disability and who can benefit from any adjustments to the classroom should contact the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (333-1970) for assistance with accommodations. I will work with you and the Disability Services to make appropriate accommodations.