

Rhetoric 103

College Composition I: Race and the University

Fall 2008: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:15
307 English Building

Instructor: Yu Kyung Kang

Office: 315 English Building

Office Hours: Th 11:10-12:10, or by appointment

Email: ykang5@illinois.edu

Office phone: 333-1335

Mailbox: 169 (English Building 2nd floor)

Course Description

Rhetoric 103 is the first half of a two-semester sequence designed primarily to help you improve as a writer, reader, researcher and critical thinker. This entails more than perfecting your grammar or developing good writing skills. Rather, this course aims to encourage you to think analytically, to read critically and participate actively in the ongoing academic discourse presented in texts, images or discussions etc.

This section of Rhetoric 103 is different from others in that it centers on a particular theme, **Race and the University** as a part of the **Ethnography of the University Initiative** (EUI).

- **Race and the University.** This section of Rhetoric 103 will focus on how race defines people, actions and patterns of thoughts, on what people make of race and issues of race. We will do this by exploring texts and contexts in the first half, and then, you will have the opportunity to observe and research issues particular to our campus. You will go through a step-by-step research process starting with a research question and ending with a final research project.
- **Ethnography of the University.** Since this is an Ethnography of the University (EUI) section, you will do innovative research and explore issues of race by coming in direct contact with people, places and texts connected or related to our school, UIUC. Through IDEALS, you will have access to scholarly work of EUI students, and faculty. This is an excellent opportunity to familiarize yourself with the EUI initiative and research and to further contribute with your own research. It is the EUI's belief that students can make significant contribution to academic knowledge which is why it creates such research opportunities for students. At the end of the semester, you can choose to archive your work anonymously or not, and in this way, your project could be further useful for other research goals.

Required Materials

Required – Course Packet: A course packet of readings will be available at Notes-n-Quotes (Notes-n-Quotes is located on John St. between 5th and 6th.) Additional readings will be provided online or distributed as handouts. You **MUST** bring packet to each class meeting!

Recommended-Handbook: One handbook to use as a reference for grammar and documentation. I recommend The Open Handbook, by Ann Raimes (Houghton Mifflin). I will also put up links to useful reference websites on Moodle.

Work Requirements and Grading Policies

Your work in this class will consist of the following:

Participation and Classwork

We will frequently do informal writing, group discussions, and other activities in class, and some of these activities may carry over into homework. You will be evaluated daily for your completion of in-class activities and for your participation in class. For the most part, everyone who's attentive and involved for the full class period will receive full credit for that day. Things like being mentally absent (i.e., sleeping, reading the paper, or doing other work), missing class, arriving late, or being unprepared for class will affect your participation grade negatively.

Moodle Assignments and Reading Responses.

Moodle is a course management site located at <https://moodle.atlas.uiuc.edu/> We already have a Moodle page set up for our class and we will use it to upload various assignments such as reading responses and respond to research reports of other students in your comment group. In addition to this, Moodle will be used to post course updates, various readings or resources and for the research process/final project.

Initial Essay

The Initial Essay will be an early essay assignment before you begin your major research project. It will ask you to begin thinking about your views on the issues of race that we're discussing and to begin considering your views in conversation with those of others. You will receive a detailed assignment sheet for this essay in a few weeks.

Four Research Reports

You will be asked to show four stages of work on your research for the final project. One of these stages will be an annotated bibliography of published articles and previous EUI research that you're drawing from; the other three will be your choice of ethnographic research results—archive findings, text analysis, interview data, survey data, or observation notes (you must do at least two different types). You will receive more detail on the research and report requirements later in the semester.

Final Research Project

Your final research project will bring together all of your research work into a 10-15 page paper that answers your research question. You will receive more detail on this later in the semester.

Final Reflection.

After you have completed your final research project, you will write a reflection on your research process in this class. All your work must be uploaded on Moodle even if you choose not to have your work archived. You will receive specific instructions about all

The above work will make up your final grade according to this percentage breakdown:

Participation and class attendance	15%
Moodle homework/Reading responses	25%
Initial Essay	10%
Research reports (4x 5% each)	20%
Final Research Paper	20%
Final Reflection	10%

Class Policies

Attendance

You are expected to attend all class meetings. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Absences will not be excused without serious and compelling reasons. If you are ill, please email me before class and bring a doctor's note when you return to class. If the reasons for your absence raise privacy concerns, please contact the Dean of Students (333-0050) for help documenting your absences and notify me. Unexcused absences will significantly lower your participation grade. If you have more than four unexcused absences, your final grade will be lowered by half a letter grade for each absence thereafter.

Due Dates

I expect you to turn in your assignments on or before the assigned due date. Late assignments will lose 1/3 of a letter grade (this includes homework) for each calendar day late. The first calendar day late begins as soon as the due date's class ends. If you know in advance that you will have to be absent on the day something is due, make arrangements to submit it to me before the due date.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, defined in UIUC's Code of Policies and Regulations Applying to All Students as "representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic endeavor," is a serious offense in any academic setting. We will discuss proper use of sources this semester, so it should not be a problem. However, if I find evidence that you have deliberately committed any form of plagiarism, such as obtaining a paper from an online paper mil or fraternity file, having someone else write a paper for you, or paraphrasing or copying from an outside source without acknowledging the source, I will penalize you according to university policy, which usually means a failing grade for the either the assignment or the class. Please keep this in mind.

Sleeping

There is NO SLEEPING in class. If I have to repeatedly attempt to wake you up, you will receive NO credit for that day.

Cell Phones & Headphones

Make sure to turn your cell phone off and put away your headphones (this includes not wearing them in class even if they are turned off) before class begins. If you attempt to use a cell phone or electronic email device or listen to music or text while class is being conducted, you will be asked to leave immediately and counted absent for the day. You will also receive no credit for any in-class assignments and participation on that day.

Classroom Conduct

Many ideas will be shared in our classroom, and I want each person to feel that his/her contribution is respected and valued. Therefore, disruptive and inconsiderate behavior will not be tolerated, especially personal attacks on other students and language or behavior exhibiting prejudice—racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. Our focus this semester, race, can be a sensitive topic; some of us have strong opinions about it, while some of us likely aren't sure how to talk about it at all. We may have to forgive each other a few honest mistakes as we develop our knowledge of the topic and of each other's views. We also need to accept that we won't always agree with each other or the sources we read and watch. All of these things are okay. Don't be afraid to speak; a huge part of our learning happens in discussion with others. At the same time, though, please think before speaking and make sure that you are prepared to stand behind any statement you make.

Resources for Students

Disability Accommodations

If you would benefit from any disability-related accommodations or assistance in this classroom, let me know as soon as possible and I'll do everything I can to help. Also, if you haven't already, you should contact UIUC's Department of Rehabilitation Education Services (DRES) at 333-4603.

Writers' Workshop

The Writers' Workshop, located in room 251 of the Undergraduate Library, provides one-on-one writing tutoring by graduate students, and it's free! If you'd like feedback and suggestions on your papers beyond what you get during class and conferences, I strongly recommend that you take advantage of this service—it can only improve your writing. To make an appointment, go there in person or call the Workshop at 333-8796.