

## University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign -- Spring 2008

Syllabus: Rhetoric 105: Principles of Composition, section M5, #39347  
Days: Tuesdays, Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  
Instructor: Richard Nardi [rnardi@illinois.edu](mailto:rnardi@illinois.edu)  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:00 to 11:00 am and by appointment  
Telephone: 217-244-1458 office; 217-333-4321 fax  
Office: 294 English Bldg.  
Mail code: MC-718

### TEXTS/MATERIALS

- Hesford, Wendy S. & Bruggemann, Brenda. J. Rhetorical Visions; Reading and Writing in a Visual Culture. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007.
- Kirszner, Laurie G. & Mandell, Stephen R. The Pocket Wadsworth Handbook, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Boston, MA: Thomson Wadsworth
- *New York Times*
- *Daily Illini*
- Undergraduate library e-reserves
- Moodle account
- Email account

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Principles of Composition is a course in writing arguments from evidenced-based research for specific audiences. This particular section of Rhetoric 105 is part of the Ethnography of the University Initiative (EUI) [www.eui.uiuc.edu](http://www.eui.uiuc.edu), a program based on exploring the space we live and work in at the university. We will be conducting original research through ethnographic analysis and building upon past ethnographies of our school as we write a new story of life at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Our particular research focus will focus on how race shapes life in the space of the university.

### April Research Presentation

You will have the opportunity to volunteer to present your research at the EUI Spring Student Mini-Conference, which will be Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 3-8 (room tba). Presenting at the conference will be a unique forum for practicing the presentation of your own, original research and for meeting other student ethnographers and discussing your ideas. Application deadline for the conference is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Attendance through some of the conference is required along with a Moodle response to the experience.

### IDEALS Research Archive

You will also have the opportunity to place your research in the UIUC IDEALS on-line archive. Student work here is public and preserved, designed to encourage future generations of students to build on past research. If you choose to archive your research paper, you may do so under your actual name or anonymously. See [www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/755](http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/755).

### Course Objectives – Active Practice in:

- Critical reading and composing of rhetorically constructed multi-modal texts for academic audiences
- Composing as a process: inventing, drafting, revising, editing
- Synthesizing information from multiple sources for arguing a focused theme
- Organizing an argument with relevant information and illustrating examples
- Engaging in collaborative work in conducting and presenting research, which includes taking part in in-class and Moodle-based discussions and contributing to the work of research teams
- Conducting primary and secondary research – doing qualitative research and discovering, analyzing, and re-representing multi-modal texts

### PROJECTS

- Project 1 – Inquiry into the Self: Auto-ethnography
- Project 2 – Inquiry into the Construction of the Other: Analysis of Group Formation
- Project 3 – Ethnographic Research Collection and Proposal
- Project 4 – Ethnographic Research Report

### EVALUATION OF TASKS AND MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Grading will appear as descriptive evaluations indicating how well the student participated in the goals and projects of the course and grew in capacity in the course objectives. Participation

requires attending class regularly, doing the work on time and thoroughly, preparing groundwork for each essay, and your scholarly and personal efforts in collaborative work. The letter-grade will come at the end of the course.

Evaluations from the instructor of student work and exercise of appropriate skills will accompany each course project. These evaluations are to inform your writing and research practice.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance – this is a discussion-based course with work and projects that are collaborative, so it is necessary that you be in class and on time. Absences and late arrival times will influence the permanent evaluation for each project and will be reflected in the final course grade.
- Participation – taking active part in class discussions, group work, in-class work, completing all assigned readings, compositions, and research projects. Participation will be reflected in project evaluations and the final grade.
- Reading Responses – one-page writing/response/assignment
- Moodle Responses – posting your own responses to assigned tasks and responding to those of your peers
- Field Notes for research project – written entries for each inquiry experience
- Reflection Writing for research project – 1 to 2 pages of narrative writing per Field Note record
- Inquiries (2) – 4-page essays for practicing research and argument-writing
- Ethnographic Research Project Proposal, Part I - 3 to 4 pages
- Ethnographic Research Paper, Part II – 6 to 8 pages
- Research Presentation – in-class. Each week during the research project, you will share with your research team members the status and content of your work. A more formal presentation will be made by each

research team to the entire class at the close of the research project.

### CLASS POLICIES:

Assignments and Projects are defined as both in- and out-of-class course-related activities.

Come to class ready to engage with our activities, having read your assigned readings and completed any assigned tasks. Be respectful in your behavior and in your work towards your peers, me, and yourself.

### Due Dates:

Papers are due in-class on the day specified on the project hand-out, or as otherwise specified in a communication from your teacher. **Late work will automatically reduce the level of your project evaluation unless an extension has been granted (*see note below*) or a serious and verifiable life problem (such as a serious illness or family emergency) has occurred.** If you are experiencing some difficulty accomplishing a class project, it is your responsibility to be proactive and conference with me as soon as possible in order to plan out a project work schedule and a possibly revised due date.

*Note:* Extensions applied for during the week a project is due will not be granted. It is your own responsibility to be aware of all your commitments and the allocation of time you give to each of them. Don't over-commit yourself.

### Re-Writes

Written projects that have been completed but have received a less than Satisfactory evaluation may be re-written after a re-write conference has been taken with me and a revision agenda has been discussed and planned.

### Late Work

This is work that is turned in unfinished, as described by the criteria given for each project, and/or is not delivered to the instructor by the specified deadline. If you are having trouble understanding the goals, the format, and how to conduct the work involved, **don't wait** until the deadline passes but see me immediately. Turning in work late will naturally be reflected in your evaluation.

### Plagiarism

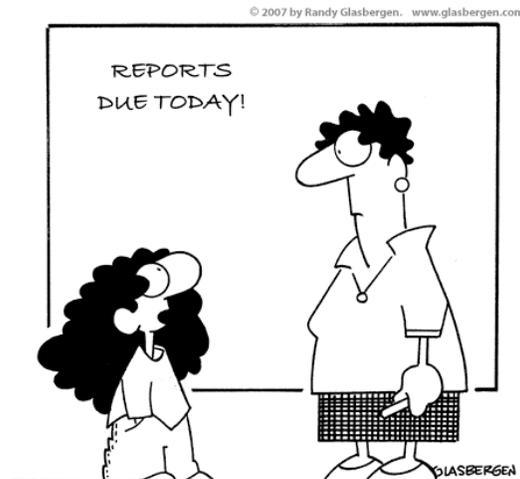
The University of Illinois has high standards of academic integrity set out in Article 1, Part 4 of the University Student Code. According to the code, using words or ideas from another source as if they were your own is plagiarism, a violation of academic integrity. Submitting your own work for more than one course without acknowledgment can also constitute plagiarism. Ignorance of the code is not an excuse, so if you have questions about the definition of plagiarism, please consult the code at the following web address: <http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/policy/code/> The University Student Code also explains the consequences of plagiarism, which can include suspension or dismissal from the university.

### Special Needs Accommodations

If you feel you have a learning challenge that affects your progress, please conference with me early in the course to discuss your situation. UIUC's Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) (333-1970) can verify your need for an accommodation and will provide you with a letter specifying what type of accommodation is needed.

### Writer's Workshop

Located in room 251 of the Undergraduate Library and several satellite locations, this office provides free tutoring in composition by graduate and undergraduate students. To make an appointment, call the Workshop at 333-8796.



"My report is about how important it is to save paper, electricity, and other resources. I'll send it to you telepathically."

Undergraduate Library site:  
[www.library.uiuc.edu/ugl/](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/ugl/)

### Schedule Changes

The schedule of instruction activities, readings, and due dates may be altered as the instructor deems necessary to the progress of the course. You will be notified in advance of any such changes.

Welcome to the course.