SYLLABUS
RHETORIC 233, SECTION P
WRITING THE VISUAL, SPATIAL CAMPUS

Tuesday / Thursday 11:00am – 12:15pm
152 Henry Administration Building
Fall 2009

Christa Olson, Instructor
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Office: English Building 315

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:45 -1:45pm & by appointment

This advanced composition course will introduce you to rhetorical criticism and ask you to analyze the images and spaces that shape your everyday experience. Taking the campus and community as your laboratory, you’ll produce and analyze images, consider images and spaces in light of their historical contexts, and present your analyses in class and (potentially) in broader contexts. Over the course of the semester you’ll produce more than 30 pages of written reflection and analysis, often going through multiple revisions along the way and using material from earlier papers to move the next ones forward.

This course is affiliated with the Ethnography of the University Initiative. That connection means that you’ll be able to integrate ethnographic approaches like observation and interviewing into your projects and will have the opportunity to publish your work as part of a public archive.

Grading
Your work this semester will be weighted in the final grade as:

- In Class Writing 15%
- Participation 10%
- Assignment 1: Spatial Analysis 15%
- Assignment 2: Rhetorical Criticism 15%
- Assignment 3: Historical Visions 20%
- Assignment 4: Final Project 25%

Attendance & Participation
In this class, you will receive credit for the work you do, not the presence or absence of your body in the room. There is no penalty for absence and you won’t automatically fail after missing a certain number of days. I will do my best to make classes engaging and useful to you. I hope that’s motivation enough for you to be here.

At the same time, please note that a quarter of your grade is based on points you can only earn by showing up. Most class periods will involve some sort of writing activity that counts toward the 15% of your final grade called “In Class Writing.” Those activities can’t be made up. If you aren’t in class to do them, whatever your reason, you won’t get the points. Another 10% of your
final grade depends on your participation in class. Earning those points means taking part in discussions about readings, contributing to group work, and putting effort into peer review.

**Late Assignments**

I will accept late assignments if (and only if) you communicate with me in writing (email is fine) prior to the deadline for the assignment. Written notification should include your name, the assignment name, and a new proposed due date. You do not have to tell me why your assignment is late. If you cannot turn the assignment in on the new proposed due date, it is your responsibility to submit a new note.

Papers turned in more than one week after the original due date will receive minimal feedback. Papers turned in after the final due date for all papers (Sunday December 13) will receive a zero.

Unapproved late papers (no note) will receive a zero.

**Revision**

At any point in the semester, you may revise any paper you write in order to receive a higher grade. There is no limit on the grade increase or on the number of papers you may revise. I will re-read the paper, consider your response to earlier feedback, and assign the grade I would have given the new paper. Revising will never result in a lower grade than the original. Please note: you must consult with me before revising a paper. Meeting with me about your plans will help you focus your efforts in the most productive way possible. All revisions must be turned in by 5:00pm on Sunday December 13.

**Plagiarism**

Most college instructors have a broad definition of plagiarism, one that includes both what I’d call “failed source use” and what I’d call “cheating.” The first of those problems, to me, is a learning issue. The second is an academic integrity issue. We’ll take time to talk about both issues over the course of the semester.

In this class, you will be strengthening your ability to work with sources. This means that I’ll not only expect you to use proper citations for the sources you use, but also that we’ll be focusing on the different ways that you can join existing conversations and make use of those conversations in your own writing. In the process, there may be times when you don’t make effective or proper use of sources. When that happens, I’ll point out the issue and make suggestions for improving your source use. You’ll also lose some points on the assignment unless you choose to make revisions. Correcting and learning from such problems of source use, in other words, will be part of the work required to pass your advanced composition requirement.

If, on the other hand, I have reason to believe that you cheated on an assignment (i.e. bought, copy & pasted, patch-wrote, or recycled a paper), I will pursue the proper channels for a plagiarism case under University policy as found in Article I Part 4(d) of the Student Code. Information on that policy is available at [http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/policy/code/article_1/a1_1-402.html](http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/policy/code/article_1/a1_1-402.html).
The Writer’s Workshop

I am happy to meet with you individually during office hours to discuss your writing. If you would like more feedback than I’m able to give (or a second opinion on my advice), the Writer’s Workshop, located in room 251 of the Undergraduate Library provides one-on-one support and strategies for the writing process. Sessions are free but they go quickly, so be sure to call in advance to schedule an appointment. Their number is 333-8796.

A Note on Disability Accommodations

If you would benefit from disability-related accommodations in this class, I encourage you to contact the Department of Rehabilitation Education Services (DRES) at 333-4603. You may also email me or come to office hours if you have questions. I am happy to work with you and the staff at DRES to develop a work plan that fits your needs and the expectations of the course.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, August 25 – Introduction to rhetoric & to Rhet 233P

Thursday, August 27 – On Rhetorical Ethnography

Read for Today: Cintrón, Ralph. “Starting Places” and “A Boy and His Wall” from Angels Town

Tuesday, September 1 – Introduction to EUI and IRB Requirements

Read for Today: Hunter, Gina et al. “Interrogating the University, One Archival Entry at a Time” Change September/October 2008

Thursday, September 3 – Observation & Analysis

Read for Today: Nickerson, Abigail J. “Memorial Stadium and the Mystery of University Women during World War I” from the IDEALS archive

Nunez, Daniel. “The Blurred Line between Racism and Innocent Depiction” from the IDEALS archive
Tuesday, September 8 - Commonplaces

DUE TODAY: OBSERVATION 1 REPORT

Read for Today: Crowley, Sharon & Debra Hawhee. “The Common Topics and the Commonplaces” Chapter 4 from Ancient Rhetorics for Contemporary Students (ARCS)

Hariman, Robert & John Lucaites. “Introduction” from No Caption Needed

Thursday September 10 – Spaces & Maps

Read for Today: Cintrón, Ralph. “Mapping/Texting” from Angels Town

You will need Real Player (free at http://www.real.com/)
Visualizing the Difference Diversity Makes
(http://www.eotu.uiuc.edu/visualizing/index.htm)

Tuesday, September 15 – Assignment 1 Analysis Prep Time

DUE TODAY: OBSERVATION 2 REPORT

Thursday, September 17 – Starting Rhetorical Criticism

DUE TODAY: ANALYSIS OUTLINE

Read for Today: Campbell, Karlyn K. & Thomas Burkholder. “Descriptive Analysis” and “Historical-Contextual Analysis” from Critiques of Contemporary Rhetoric

Tuesday, September 22 – Spatial Analysis Presentations

Thursday, September 24 – Spatial Analysis Presentations

Tuesday, September 29 – Rhetorical Analysis Part I, Logos

Read for Today: Crowley & Hawhee. “Logical Proof” Chapter 5 from ARCS

Thursday, October 1 – Rhetorical Analysis Part II, Ethos & Pathos

DUE TODAY: ASSIGNMENT 2 PROPOSAL

Read for Today: Crowley & Hawhee. “Ethical Proof” Chapter 6 and “Pathetic Proof” Chapter 7 from ARCS
Tuesday, October 6 – Images & Rhetorical Criticism I


Thursday, October 8 – Images & Rhetorical Criticism II

Review for Today: Selections from visual rhetoric blogs “No Caption Needed” and “First Efforts” (Christa will email links)

Tuesday, October 13 – Individual Meetings about Assignment 2 Drafts

DUE TODAY: ASSIGNMENT 2 DRAFT

NO CLASS TODAY – SIGN UP & ATTEND INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Thursday, October 15 – Rhetorical History & Archives

Read for Today: Zarefsky, David. “Four Senses of Rhetorical History” from Doing Rhetorical History Finnegan, Cara. “What is this a Picture Of?” Rhetoric & Public Affairs

Review for Today: Primary Source Village tutorial http://www.library.illinois.edu/village/primarysource/index.htm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
ASSIGNMENT 2 – RHETORICAL CRITICISM DUE

Tuesday, October 20 – Visit to Student Life and Culture Archives

Meet at the Archive: 1707 S. Orchard Street in Urbana
Directions and map available at: http://www.library.illinois.edu/archives/slc/about/contact.php
Take the Bronze bus (one leaves from the Transit Plaza at 10:29)

Thursday, October 22 – Research Day at the Student Life and Culture Archives

Meet at the Archive
Tuesday, October 27 – Considering Other Students’ Historical Projects

DUE TODAY: REPORT ON STUDENT LIFE & CULTURE ARCHIVES / PROJECT PROPOSAL

Read for Today: Ivaska, James. “The Student Soldier Athlete” from IDEALS archive
Lane, Stephan. “An Analysis of the UIUC Ku Klux Klan” from IDEALS archive
Mogged, Ashley. “An Interpretation of the History of Wheelchair Basketball” from IDEALS archive

Thursday, October 29 – Images In, and Out of, Context


Tuesday, November 3 – The Ancients

Read for Today: Hawhee, Debra. “The Visible Spoken” from Bodily Arts
Fredal, James. “Herm Choppers, the Adonia, and Rhetorical Action in Ancient Greece” College English

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 BY 5:00PM
EMAIL COPY OF PAPER TO PEER GROUP & CHRISTA

Thursday, November 5 – Assignment 3 Peer Review

Tuesday, November 10 – Histories of Toxicity

Read for Today: Mortensen, Peter. “Reading Material” Written Communication
Pezzullo, Phaedra C. “Touring ‘Cancer Alley,’ Louisiana” Text and Performance Quarterly

Thursday, November 12 – Traumatic Images

Read for Today: Harold, Christine and Kevin DeLuca. “Behold the Corpse” Rhetoric & Public Affairs
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
ASSIGNMENT 3 – HISTORICAL VISIONS DUE

Tuesday, November 17 – Presentation of Assignment 4 Proposals

DUE TODAY: ASSIGNMENT 4 PROPOSALS (ORAL)

Thursday, November 19 – In Class Rhetorical Criticism Activity

THANKSGIVING BREAK
SATURDAY NOV 21 – SUNDAY NOV 29
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Tuesday, December 1 – EUI Wrap-up

Thursday, December 3 – Project Presentations

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 3:00 – 8:00PM
EUI STUDENT CONFERENCE

Tuesday, December 8 – Workshop Final Projects

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
ASSIGNMENT 4 – FINAL PROJECT DUE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
ALL REVISIONS DUE
LAST DAY TO SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS FOR CREDIT