

Rhetoric 105 Section L2

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Linda Fifield Larsen
Tu/Th 8-9:15, English Building 36
Office: English Building room 33
Mailbox: English Building, second floor, mailbox number 278
Office Hours: Tu 9:15-10:15 or by appointment
Email: lfarsen@illinois.edu

Course Texts

Rhetorical Visions: Reading and Writing in a Visual Culture by Wendy S. Hesford and Brenda Jo Brueggemann. 2007.

The Pocket Wadsworth Handbook by Laurie Kirszner and Stephen Mandell. 4rd Edition, 2008.

E-reserve readings, found in the library's e-reserve collection under Rhet 105, Linda Larsen.

OWL: Purdue's online writing lab, containing worksheets on writing effectively.

Course Description and Goals

Rhetoric 105 will help you develop your reading, writing, and research skills and lay a foundation for the rest of your University career. This course will give you practice in:

- Critically reading and analyzing texts
- 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 cross-campus initiative 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 UIUC student and consider issues of race in higher education. You will conduct your own qualitative research through observations, interviews, 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 make your writing public 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 on.

Assignments/Requirements

Major papers/assignments: You will write a research paper and two other 4-5 page essays. You will also write a dialogue essay and create a poster of your research. These major assignments will be given letter grades.

Short assignments: Every week, you will have a writing assignment due. On the weeks that you do not have a major paper due, I will assign shorter writing assignments that will prepare you for your major papers or give you research experience. These assignments will include rough drafts of major papers, interview summaries, observations, and a research proposal. They will typically be 1-2 pages in length, double-spaced. I will not assign a traditional letter grade to these assignments because they are practice for your major papers. Instead, I will give you written feedback on your work and a ✓ / ✓+ / ✓- or 0 based on how well you have completed the assignment. If you receive mostly ✓s and ✓+s, your short assignment grade will be an A or A-. If you receive mostly ✓-s or 0s, your short assignment grade will be much lower.

Participation and Reading Forum: I expect you to come to class prepared to discuss readings and participate in writing activities. I will take attendance every class period. As part of your participation grade, I will evaluate your contribution to class discussions, peer writing workshops, and teacher conferences. If you never comment in class or fail to attend teacher conferences or peer writing workshops, your participation grade will be low. Responding to readings is an important skill to develop and will help you be prepared for class discussion. Every day you have an essay to read, you will post a short response (abt. 2 paragraphs) to one of the readings on our Moodle reading forum. This can be a response to a classmate's comment, a question, or your thoughts about the readings.

Grade Breakdown

Essay 1: 10%
Essay 2: 10%
Dialogue Paper: 10%
Research Paper: 30%
Poster Presentation: 10%
Short writing assignments: 20%
Participation and Reading Journal: 10%

Resources

Our course has a Moodle website. I will post documents and you will post most of your short assignments on this site. Please register as soon as possible. Our course's URL is:

<https://courses.las.illinois.edu/course/view.php?name=10SpRHET105L2>

The Writer's Workshop, located in room 251 of the Undergraduate Library as well as several satellite locations, provides free one-on-one writing 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.

The library also offers a variety of services to help you with your research project. We will be discussing these services during the research unit.

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