
Writing 150: Writing and Critical Reasoning, Thematic Approaches Technology & Social Change

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Office: JEF 255 Hours: T/Th 12:30-1:30

Fall 2019

Section 64320—T/Th 9:30-10:40 GFS 216

64505--T/Th 11:00-12:20 GFS 216

64860 --T/Th 2:00-3:20 GFS 114

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Writing 150 is the initial course in the composition sequence, and is intended to provide students with a rich and challenging intellectual experience during their first year at the university. The course develops sound practices of writing and reasoning, encouraging students to apply academic concepts while exploring relevant issues.

The Technology & Social Change thematic, like all the 150 courses, promotes the development of the thinking and writing skills necessary for success in general education and major courses while inviting students to join the on-going academic and cultural conversation regarding salient issues. Toward this end, the course fosters the development of active, self-directed learners who comprehend the acquisition of information and ideas not simply as material for examinations but as “equipment for living” in both the academic context and beyond.

Be aware that, as the title of the course indicates, this is a class in writing AND critical reasoning. As part of the practice of critical reasoning, students will be expected to complete all readings and be prepared to discuss in class. The midterm, administered after the 3rd writing project, will primarily test engagement with the readings and discussion.

OBJECTIVES: Writing 150 can be understood in terms of its five pedagogical and rhetorical principles:

1. Critical reasoning, analysis, and argumentation
2. Invention
3. Arrangement
4. Style
5. Revision



The instructional approach stresses dialogue between and among students and instructor. We use the writing workshop as the principal mode of instruction and include individual and group writing conferences to practice and develop writing and critical reasoning skills.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:

- USC Writing Program *Course Book*—Online—purchase access key/code in bookstore.
- Readings will be posted on Blackboard for each assignment.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: You are expected to attend all classes and conferences. This is a workshop class; sessions cannot be summarized afterwards for those who have missed class. Students who do not bring a workable rough draft (typed, required length) to peer editing sessions or required homework to workshopping sessions will be marked NP for that day. Students will also be expected to comment on posts in other students' blogs on a regular basis as part of the participation grade.

Absence Penalties—from a 100 pt. starting score:

- First absence—Minor 5 pt deduction.
- 2nd absence: Deduct 9 additional pts from participation grade.
- 3rd absence and subsequent absences: Deduct 10 additional pts. from participation grade
- Excused absences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will generally require documentation.
- Each NP—Deduct 5 pts from participation grade, regardless of absences.

A student who has 5 absences, then, will start with a 56, or C-/D+, in participation.

Students who have added late or who have excused absences—doctor's notes, for example—will not be penalized for any of those missed classes, but will not have any "minor" absences to spend.

- Tardiness--3 tardies = 1 absence.
- Students who miss a substantial portion of a class meeting will be given a double tardy.
- If you arrive after work groups have been arranged, be prepared to work alone to catch up.
- Students who accumulate a total of 3 weeks of absences may be asked to drop the class

If you are absent for any reason--excused or unexcused--be sure to consult Blackboard and other students if necessary to complete any homework assignments or readings handed out in class. Do not ever ask the instructor--any instructor--"Did I miss anything?" Do not expect the instructor to summarize the class in an e-mail.

COMMUNICATION: E-mail policy--please feel free to e-mail if you have a question or concern. Be aware that, while sometimes I may be able to respond fairly quickly, I cannot reasonably be expected to respond instantaneously on a regular basis. Generally expect between a 12-24 hour turnaround time for responses. It's a good idea to start a new e-mail with a clear subject line (e.g., "Question about Visions & Voices" or "Links for Readings aren't working") rather than replying to one of my emails.

Also—take a moment to check this syllabus, the assignment sheet, or Blackboard first to see if the answer to your question is there.

CELL PHONES, COMPUTERS, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Laptops, cellphones, and tablets are to be turned off and put away at all times during class unless we are specifically working on an activity (database research or blogging, for example) that requires research. Unless it is announced in class that online work is appropriate, assume the no-devices rule is in effect.

ACCOMMODATIONS: • Students with disabilities--Please let me know if you require specific academic accommodations for this class. Students requiring such accommodations will register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP, which is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30-5:00 M-F. Call (213) 740-0776 for more information.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Dates for all assignments are listed in the course calendar. Specific deadlines with times will be included on each assignment sheet.

Writing Project 1..... 10%

Writing Project 2..... 12%

Writing Project 3..... 18 %

Writing Project 4:

Revision—Choose from WP1,2 or 3 10%

Final Essay 25%

Online Writing Response Journal..... 10%

Midterm..... 10%

Participation/Attendance 5%

Total 100%

A Range 3.9-4.0 = A 3.7-3.8=A-

B Range 3.3=B+ 3.0= B 2.7=B-

C Range 2.3=C+ 2.0 = C 1.7=C-

D/Not Passing 1.3=D+ 1= D .7=D1



ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION: Drafts must be brought to class in hardcopy form, double spaced.

Submit all final essays on Blackboard by the due date/time.

The Online Writing Response Journal will be composed online throughout the semester, with brief prompts for responses given with each Writing Project. Final grading of the Journal will take place at the end of the semester.

Rough Drafts: Since this class emphasizes the process of writing, it is important that you participate in class activities/assignments that will help you produce the finished product, the final paper. Students who fail to bring a workable, printed rough draft to class workshop on the assigned days will lose 1/3 grade from the final grade on that paper and will be marked NP for attendance.

Conferences: We will schedule several conference times during the semester. A link to the sign-up sheet for the conferences will be made available on Blackboard a few days beforehand. Class and office hour times may be cancelled to make enough conference slots available for everyone. If class is cancelled, A CONFERENCE COUNTS AS A CLASS MEETING, and missed conferences will be treated as absences.

Essays will not be accepted for grading and will receive a “0” if both the conference and the drafting workshop for that assignment are missed and I have not seen a draft version of the paper.

LATE WORK: Papers will lose .3 grade points for the first calendar day late, and .2 points for each day after that. For example, a paper due on a Tuesday would lose .3 points if turned in Wednesday, .5 points if turned in Thursday, and 1.3 points (1-1/3 grade) if turned in the following Monday.

Late Pass—you’ll find a “Late Pass” and a submission portal on Blackboard. This pass will grant a 36-hour extension and must be submitted to Blackboard by the due date. Please note that late papers will probably have minimal comments and may take longer to return.

PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC OFFENSES: Plagiarism: do not try to pass off others’ work as your own. All papers will be submitted to Turnitin.com. If your paper is copied in whole or in part from another source, or from a paper submitted to another class, you will receive a “0” on the paper and may be referred to the dean.

OTHER Policies:

- Non-class materials--do not read or work on non-class materials (homework or reading for other classes, Sudoku puzzles, etc.) at any time during class. Since students cannot participate in this class while working on outside activities, these activities will result in a marking of “NP” for that day. If you don’t find the class stimulating enough to engage your full attention, change the situation by adding your voice to the discussion.
- Students are welcome to discuss and clarify grades received on any assignment in office hours (not by email), but are required to wait 24 hours after essays are returned before asking about their essay grades. Any grade appeals for individual essays need to be accompanied by a written analysis that breaks down, ranks, and discusses the essay according to the six rubric elements described in the 150 Course Book.
- Emailed drafts--We will work on drafts during conferences and office hours; per department policy, I cannot respond to full drafts via e-mail. You may email me a small portion (a thesis statement, a paragraph), and request feedback on a specific issue.
- Video/audio recordings--please be aware that recording classroom activity without the permission of all involved is not permitted. Students who record classroom exchanges without permission will be asked to leave the class and will be marked absent.



The Writing Center

Taper Hall 216
213 740-3691
<https://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/>

The Writing Center offers ½ hour individual tutoring sessions available to all USC students. You will need to sign up at <https://usc.mywconline.com/> with your USC userid and a password to begin setting up appointments.

Experienced consultants will work with you on any stage of the writing process, from interpreting a prompt, to creating a rough plan, to polishing your final draft. The Writing Center consultants will not proofread or edit your paper for you, but they will help you to develop skills to revise your own work. You may sign up in advance or walk in for a thirty-minute one-on-one consultation. In order to maximize your meeting with a Writing Center consultant, come prepared with a copy of your assignment, all drafts and prewriting, and specific questions.

Class Extra Credit Opportunities

Students will be given the opportunity to attend **up to 3 pre-approved** Visions & Voices events on campus and post journals/reviews online to earn extra credit. More information will be available by the 3rd week of class on Blackboard.

Assignment: Attend one of the eligible events; post a 350-500 word review.

1. Summarize the theme and approach of the event and
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the presentation.
3. Explain how the event might fit in with any of the themes and/or rhetorical approaches that we have covered in this class.
4. Post each review on the blog with pictures, video (if applicable) and links. Note that the post is "Extra Credit" in the title

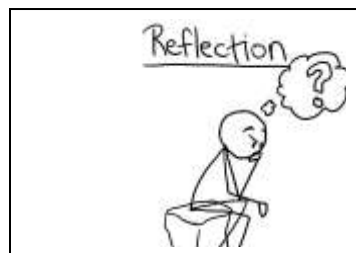
Each review will earn up to 1.5 pts. extra credit for the class.

- An adequate review = .1
- A strong review = .15

Note that extra credit cannot move a grade beyond 1 step. The maximum credit—.45 points—would move a grade 1 step from, say, a B to a B+. A grade on the borderline can be improved with .1-.3 points of extra credit.

Note that some events may require advance reservation or RSVP. Check the website ahead of time.

For more information, visit the USC website:
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/pubrel/visionsandvoices/>



Calendar Writing 150 Fall 2019

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
 Saturday

August--September

	26	27 1 st Day of Class	28	29 Class meeting Online Journal	30	31
Week 1						
1 SEPTEMBER	2 Labor Day	3 Begin WP1	4	5 Complete Readings	6	7
Week 2						
8	9 Conferences	10 Conferences (replace class meeting)	11	12 1 st draft due in class (2.5 pp)	13	14
Week 3						
15	16	17 2 nd draft due in class (4 pp)	18	19 WP1 Due Begin WP2	20	21
Week 4						
22	23	24 Complete Readings	25	26	27	28
Week 5						

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

September--October

29 Week 6	30	1 Conferences	2	3 1st Draft due	4	5
6 Week 7	7	8 2nd draft due	9 WP 2 due	10 Begin WP3	11 Last Day to Withdraw with no "W"	12
13 Week 8	14	15	16	17 Fall Break---	18 -----	19
20 Week 9	21	22 1st Draft Due	23	24 2nd Draft due	25	26
27 Week 10	28	29 WP 3 Due Prep for MT in class	30	31 Midterm in class	1	2

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

November--December

3 Week 11	4	5 Begin WP4	6	7 Choose Topic Begin Research	8 Conferences	9
10 Week 12	11	12	13	14 Prewriting Planning	15 Last Day to Withdraw with W	16
17 Week 13	18	19	20	21 Early Draft due	22	23
24 Week 14	25	26 2 nd Draft Due	27 Thanksgiving	28 Break-----	29 -----	30
1 DECEMBER Week 15	2 Open Conferences	3 Finishing Touches	4 WP 4 Due on Blackboard (no extensions or late papers)	5 Last Day of Class	6 Revision due on Blackboard	7 Final Blogs Due