

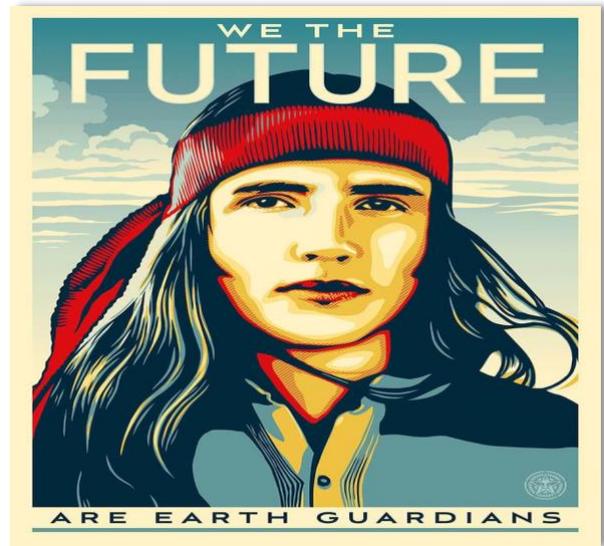
WRIT 150 – Identity and Diversity

Prof. Stephanie Renee Payne

Email: paynesr@usc.edu
Office: JEF 124

Office Hours: T/Th 8:00 –9:00 am; and
5:00 – 6:30 pm
(by appointment)
Course Time/Days: T/Th
9:30am – 10:50pm
Course Location: GFS 216, and
The City of Los Angeles

“It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.” — Maya Angelou



Course Description and Objectives

This course will provide you with instruction on critical reasoning and analytical and rhetorical skills through the lens of identity and diversity within an American context.

This course is experiential, as you will engage in [fieldwork](#) using the city of Los Angeles as an extended campus.

You will collaborate with peers and develop a heightened awareness of your values and the world around you.

You will learn the art of argumentation by developing your own unique style, voice, and interpretation to write convincing and even inspiring arguments.

We take a multi-modal approach (visual, auditory, spatial, and multi-linguistic—using multiple languages within a text to heighten communication).

Each assignment focuses on a different rhetorical goal to deepen your writer’s toolbox with an emphasis on writing as process.

Welcome to the Sandbox!

Requirements: Our class environment is a safe, respectful, vibrant and academically explorative space for rich and diverse discourse. Full participation in class discussions, peer review, and fieldwork activities is expected. There are two supplementary ancillary assignments. Completion of all assignments is required to pass the course.

Course Requirements



1. **Three standalone essays**, at least 1500 words long, plus a somewhat longer essay to be included in the Final Portfolio.
2. **The Final Portfolio** will serve as the “final” for this class. There is no formal final! A handout discussing the portfolio will be given to you in the 10th week of the semester.
3. **Ancillary writing exercises** are usually a couple of pages in length. This is work that’s meant to supplement the work you are doing for the main essay, and also to give you practice in the writing techniques we will be covering. This is in addition to your writing journals, which will be discussed in class.

Tips for Success:

- **Conferences.** I will meet with each of you individually for conferences on your work. Writing is a highly individualized activity, and it is important that you get tailored instruction to help you find your best way forward when prewriting and revising your essay for optimal result. **Conferences are required**—they will take the place of our normal class meetings and will count as an absence if missed.
- **How to Submit Your Work.** All essays will be uploaded to Blackboard and Turnitin’s database. Turnitin is a plagiarism database. We will discuss this process, and what you want to do to avoid your papers being tagged as plagiarized. If you have questions about plagiarism or any other concerns about your paper, please ask me.
- **Professionalism.** Professional conduct in class constitutes 5% of your overall grade, and this includes things like showing up to class on time, an alacrity in presence—proactive participation in class discussions and activities, and so on. It also means not engaging in “unprofessional” behaviors: looking at Facebook, text-messaging in class, and so on.
- **Re-submission.** You may rewrite and resubmit one paper for a higher grade. This does not apply to the final portfolio essay. If you would like to rewrite and resubmit your essay for a new grade, you need to type up a written analysis that breaks down, the revised essay according to the six Rubric elements that will be discussed in class. You will also need to have attended all the classes during the assignment arc, and you need to have come fully prepared for your conference.
- **Late Paper Policy:** You will be granted without penalty ONE five-day grace period for any self-selected paper except the Final Portfolio. Otherwise, late papers incur the following penalty: 1-5 days late one-half letter grade; 6-13 days late one full letter grade; papers more than two weeks late will not be accepted without prior accommodations for emergencies.

Class Preparation and Participation



Because this is a writing workshop, attendance and active class participation are crucial both in class and online. Plan on completing all reading assignments before class periods.

You are expected to come to class prepared for class discussions. You also are expected to contribute to the course by participating in workshop sessions and posting to Blackboard (Bb) in a timely fashion. We will also be using Bb to facilitate access to reading materials.

work, nevertheless be sure to include the [proper format](#): your name, the professor's name, the course name, the assignment, the date, etc., on the first page in the upper left-hand corner. Please use MLA 8 Style is preferred on all papers.

Paper Format

All assignments (including drafts) should be typewritten in 12-point font. We will use our online platform to turn in

Text

Reading material will be provided on Bb and in Class. **NO OUTSIDE TEXT IS REQUIRED.**

Paper Due Dates

This schedule is tentative. Actual due date may be changed to better accommodate class needs. You are responsible for keeping track of any changes to this schedule. All papers are due before midnight on the due date uploaded to Turnitin.

Assignment #1	Sunday, February 2
Assignment # 2	Sunday, March 1,
Assignment #3	Sunday, March 22
Portfolio Assignment #4	THURSDAY, APRIL 30 NO LATE PAPERS!

Enrollment and Attendance

More than two (2) unexcused absences or a persistent habit of tardiness will lower your participation grade. A persistent pattern of absences (missing 6 classes or more) is grounds for failure in the course. Excused

absences can only be granted for university obligations (with verification) and illnesses (with a doctor's note). Absences that do not meet the criteria as stated are considered unexcused. **Good communication is key to your success in this course.** I appreciate prior notification,

when possible, if you will miss a class for any reason. You are responsible for all work due, assigned, or discussed in your absence. Please arrange with another student to obtain any homework or class notes you may have missed, and make sure you consult our Bb online course for information.

Final grades are based on the product that is produced), along with participation, professionalism, and ancillary writing assignments.

Assignment 1:	10%
Assignment 2:	15%
Assignment 3:	15%
Assignment 4:	20%
Portfolio:	30%
Ancillary Writing Assignments	5%
Professionalism	5%

Campus Support Systems

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

<https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

<https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website:

<http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class.

<https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response.

<https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. <http://dsp.usc.edu>

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic.

<https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is understood to be presenting someone else's work as your own. It is also the use of someone else's words or ideas without proper acknowledgment, in other words, without either directly quoting or citing the source. This can mean an entire essay is substituted for the writer's own work, however it is more commonly seen in the use of unacknowledged sources and/or quotations

within an essay. You must cite any secondary sources from which you have culled ideas for your paper, including course reading materials, academic essays, journal articles, even lecture notes from another class. Plagiarism is increasingly more easily detected and it has serious consequences. Do not do it! If you require further clarification, please review the Academic Dishonesty policy in *SCampus* and the "Writing 150 Handbook."

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, <http://emergency.usc.edu>

USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. <http://dps.usc.edu>



“Identity would seem to be the garment with which one covers the nakedness of the self: in which case, it is best that the garment be loose, a little like the robes of the desert, through which one's nakedness can always be felt, and, sometimes, discerned. This trust in one's nakedness is all that gives one the power to change one's robes.” — **James Baldwin**

Q&A Resources, Policies, and Advice

What is the course policy on technology use in class? We will be busy in every class session therefore electronic distractions are discouraged. Silence cell phones before you enter the classroom and refrain from texting, surfing social media, etc. in class. Laptops are welcome, but please confine your laptop work to taking notes or accessing relevant course materials. Internet surfing, email, updating social media, etc. will definitely jeopardize your class participation and professionalism grade and they distract not only you, but your classmates from the work at hand. If an emergency arises and you need to text, please step out of the classroom to do so. If you text in class, you may be asked to leave the class.

What if I need a disability accommodation? If you have a documented disability (learning or otherwise) and require an accommodation in this course, please consult with me immediately at the beginning of the semester so together we can design a plan for successful in the class. Communication is key. I am happy to find the best style of learning for your individual needs.

What should I do if I am feeling lost or overwhelmed in this class? First, speak up in class. Cultivating a space for every voice in this course is a priority. You may not be the only person with the same concern, and we benefit from working questions out together.

Second, schedule an office-hour visit. If my stated office hours are incompatible with your schedule, please let me know and I will do my best to make accommodations. You are welcome to email me anytime. I generally respond within 24 hours. Feel free to email me again if you do not hear from me in 48 hours. Sometimes emails are lost. Many questions and issues can be easily resolved this way.

Third, spend extra time on Blackboard. I offer a bevy of resources. “Writing Tools,” and “Readings,” are particularly rich with additional information.

What other campus resources might help me succeed in this class? Visit [The Writing Center](#) (Room: THH 216, Phone: 213-740-3691, Email: <mailto:writing@usc.edu>) for free help at any stage of the writing process.