

WRITING 340 – Advanced Critical Thinking and Writing for the Social Sciences

SECTION 65222
MWF 12 – 12:50 am, KAP 141
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Office: JEF 115
Office hours: MWF 10:00-11:30am
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome. Writing 340 will further develop your abilities to think, write and read critically, and to communicate your ideas more effectively. This course builds on the foundations of skills developed in Writing 150 (or equivalent), augmenting them with an emphasis on the professional, public, and academic aspects of your majors and career fields.

While the framework of Writing 340 is similar to Writing 150, expectations are greater for advanced writing students. The bar is raised, in part because Writing 340 students have consistently demonstrated that the maturity and sophistication of their writing permit them to meet these higher standards. To achieve these goals, our class will function more as a writing workshop than as a traditional lecture course. Your participation in thinking and writing exercises is required.

ASSIGNMENTS

You will be assigned four take-home essays during the semester. The specific requirements for each take-home essay will be detailed on an assignment sheet. All drafts and final papers must be typed, stapled, double-spaced, paginated, set off by one-inch margins, and must meet the page requirement set forth in the assignment. The font used must be size 12 in standard fonts. Be sure to include all pertinent information in your heading; i.e., your name, my name, the assignment number, and the date. Always be sure to keep a personal copy of drafts and final papers. Any paper that does not arrive on time will be penalized. If you must miss class on the due date, you may submit the paper early.

WRIT 340 students are also often required to submit prewriting materials (any plans, notes, brainstorming, drafts). You will also be asked to complement your written work with an oral presentation. Along with quizzes and homework assignments, this component constitutes part of your final grade.

PLAGIARISM AND ILLEGITIMATE ASSISTANCE

Plagiarism is a major problem in universities around the country and here at USC. It usually occurs when a writer does not credit authors for their quotes or specific ideas. We will discuss proper citation methods throughout the semester. Illegitimate assistance involves submitting someone else's work (such as a bought or borrowed paper) as your own.

You should be aware that the penalty for plagiarism and illegitimate assistance in any course at USC is the same: it is grounds for a failing grade and expulsion from the University. Do not risk your entire academic career by failing to cite your sources or submitting a paper that you did not write.

DOCUMENTING YOUR WRITING PROCESS

Because plagiarism is such a problem, you are required to provide evidence documenting each stage of your writing process. A key component of each assignment is the writing process. If you cannot show the process involved in writing your essay (notes, rough drafts, sources), you will not receive credit for the essay. Papers that were created “in one night on the computer with no notes or drafts” will not receive credit. No papers focused on general topics such as gun control, free speech, abortion, or euthanasia will be accepted because there are thousands available online.

CONFERENCES

You will have the opportunity to meet with me one-on-one to discuss each assignment. These meetings are designed to help improve the writing and thinking you are doing and to catch potential problems before they end up in a final draft submitted for a grade. As a result, I recommend that you come to conferences prepared with questions and a rough draft.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Because of the workshop nature of this course, attendance is mandatory. An attendance/participation grade, based on how well you meet this requirement, will be counted as 10% of your final grade. I am willing to allow two unexcused absences. More than two absences will lower your final semester grade. Be aware that missing a scheduled conference also counts as an absence.

PORTFOLIO

At the end of the term you will choose two essays to revise. These will be submitted to me as your final portfolio. No late portfolios are accepted under any circumstances.

GRADING

The following is the breakdown of how your grade will be determined this semester:

<i>Essays 1 – 4</i>	55%
<i>Attendance and Participation</i>	10%
<i>Oral Presentation, quizzes, homework</i>	10%
<i>Final Portfolio</i>	25%

THE WRITING CENTER

Located on the second floor of Taper Hall, the Writing Center is available to offer individual help on specific writing problems or skills you wish to develop. In addition to individual consultations on writing from WRIT 120 to doctoral dissertations, it offers workshops on specific grammatical and stylistic issues throughout the semester. Though walk-ins may sometimes obtain consultations, it is best to call ahead to make an appointment for an individual session or reserve a seat in one of the workshops: 213-740-3691. More information can be obtained at www.usc.edu/writing_center

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. Located in the STU 301, DSP is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is (213) 740-0776.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

WRIT 340 is intended to help you develop your writing and thinking so that you may persuade an audience. Reason, logic, and careful analysis all play a part in this process, and WRIT 340 is the intellectual laboratory in which you craft compelling rhetoric. Whether you attend graduate or professional school after graduation or immediately enter your chosen field, a goal of advanced writing is to prepare you to explore comprehensively the critical questions related to your major.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

As university students, you bear the responsibility of meeting class requirements on your own. Such responsibilities include arriving to class on time, being fully prepared for all classes and conferences, and meeting all deadlines. Again, you should make arrangements in advance if you know that you will not be able to meet these demands. If you plan to miss class often or feel you will be unable to submit work on time due to professional or personal commitments, you should reconsider whether you should be enrolled in this course this semester. Please keep in mind that this course is about ideas as well as writing. I look forward to hearing your opinions and hope the semester is a success.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE SPRING 2022

Many of these dates will likely change. This Tentative Schedule is given only for general planning purposes. Please double check all dates on actual assignment sheets as well as against day to day class announcements and do not rely on this document alone.

Week One

- 1/10 Introduction to course. Discussion of Diagnostic Assignment.
HW: Diagnostic Essay. Read "The Art of Failure" & "The Chosen One"
- 1/12 Collect Diagnostics. Discuss Diagnostics. Begin article discussion.
- 1/14 Finish article discussion. Begin "What Makes Good Writing Good?" Discussion. Imitations. **HW:** Bring in Sample of Good Writing and do an imitation of it.

Week Two

- 1/17 **CLASS CANCELLED FOR MLK DAY**
- 1/19 Continue "Good Writing" discussions. Have students read their samples and imitation. Component parts discussion. Aristotelian Appeals.
HW: Political Rhetoric worksheet.

Week Two (con't)

1/21 Discuss Ethos, Pathos, and Logos. Collect Political Rhetoric Worksheet.
Introduce Assignment #1. Thesis Review
Home Work: Part One readings.

Week Three

1/24 Part One Reading Quiz & Discussion. Prepositional phrases. Word choice errors.
HW: Part Two Readings. Email provisional thesis.

1/26 Part Two Reading Quiz & Discussion. Provisional thesis workshop. **HW:** Begin
Rough Draft or complete outline

1/28 Part Three Reading Quiz & Discussion. Sign-up for conferences. **HW:** Thesis and
Points to make or 4 page rough draft for conference.

Week Four

1/31 **Class Canceled for Conferences. HW:** Continue Rough Draft

2/2 **Class Canceled for Conferences. HW:** Finish Rough Draft

2/4 Rough Draft due in class. Collect Rough Drafts. Peer Review. **HW:** Final Drafts
with Works Cited.

Week Five

2/7 **Assignment #1 due. HW:** Begin Reading Orwell.

2/9 Orwell Quiz. Discuss Orwell. **HW:** Read Simplicity and Clutter

2/11 Introduce Assignment #2. Read and grade sample essays. Introduce Economy and
Vigor. **HW:** Part One readings.

Week Six

2/14 Part One Readings quiz and discussion. **HW:** Do E & V Exercises. Part Two
Readings.

2/16 Part Two Readings quiz and discussion. Collect Economy and Vigor.
HW: Begin Rough Draft

2/18 Part Three Readings quiz and discussion. Titles and/or First lines. **HW:** Rough
Draft

Week Seven

2/21 **CLASS CANCELLED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY**

2/23 Class Canceled for conferences. **HW:** Final Drafts

Week Seven (con't)

2/25 Class Canceled for conferences. **HW:** Final Drafts

Week Eight

2/28 Peer Review. Rough Drafts due. **HW:** Final Drafts

3/2 **Assignment 2 Due.** Introduce Assignment #3/4. **HW:** A3 Preliminary questions.

3/4 Transitions. A3 questions due. Presentation lotto. **HW:** Finding your topic worksheet

Week Nine

3/7 **Library visit.** Collect Finding Your Topic. **HW:** Topic Proposal

3/9 Topic Proposal due. Discuss Topic Proposals. Mid-semester Evals

3/11 Sentence Revision. Paragraphing. **HW:** Work on presentation.

SPRING BREAK WEEK OF 3/14

Week Ten

3/21 Presentations **HW:** Develop Presentation and Annotated Bibliography

3/23 Presentations. **HW:** Develop Presentation and Annotated Bibliography

3/25 Presentations **HW:** Finish Annotated Bibliography

Week Eleven

3/28 Presentations **A3: Annotated Bibliography due.**

3/30 Presentations **HW:** Develop Presentation and Rough Draft

4/1 Finish Presentations. Avoiding Plagiarism. Integrating Quotations. **HW:** Develop Presentation and Rough Draft

Week Twelve

4/4 Class Canceled for A4 Conferences. **HW:** Rough drafts.

4/6 Class Canceled for A4 Conferences. **HW:** Rough drafts.

4/8 Peer Review. Rough Draft due.

Week Thirteen

4/11 **Assignment #4 Position Paper due.**

4/13 Introduce Portfolio Revision.

Week Thirteen (con't)

4/15 Intros and Conclusions. Paragraph revision.

Week Fourteen

4/18 Class Canceled for Portfolio Office Prep & Conferences.

4/20 Class Canceled for Portfolio Office Prep & Conferences.

4/22 Class Canceled for Portfolio Office Prep & Conferences. **HW:** Bring in a clean copy of one portfolio essay

Week Fifteen

4/25 Portfolio Peer Review.

4/47 Class Canceled for Portfolio Office Prep & Conferences. **HW:** Finalize Portfolio.

4/29 **Portfolio due. Last day of class. Course Evaluations.**