

Capilano University Course Outline			
TERM: Fall 2015		COURSE NO: English 300	
INSTRUCTOR:		COURSE TITLE: Writing, Rhetoric, Style	
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION:	CREDITS:
E-MAIL:			
OFFICE HOURS:			

Course Format:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

Course Prerequisites:

45 credits of 100-level coursework or higher and 3 credits of 200 level ENGL.

Course Description

In this course on essay style we will explore connections between writing with power and writing with pleasure, looking to both ancient and contemporary rhetorics. We will work from sentence to essay-level stylistics, where we will immerse ourselves in various non-traditional and multi-media essay forms to study such techniques as: simultaneity, juxtaposition, fragmentation, and visual embedding, as well as the techniques of the memoir. The aim is to see how these techniques can powerfully inform a student's scholarly prose. Students will study numerous superlative examples and apply what they learn in various imitations, experiments, forays, essays, and flourishings of their own, culminating in a major project.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Understand central aspects of the ancient rhetorical system, such as the ancient divisions of rhetoric, its roots in oral discourse, and its importance in ancient education.
- Increase stylistic versatility at the sentence level by learning to compose sentences in a wide variety of patterns and structures.
- Understand how to achieve sentence clarity, emphasis, and memorability.
- Understand contemporary theories of understanding that deepen our understanding of ancient rhetorics.
- Understanding of the historical roots of the "essay" genres and its contemporary range.
- Increase stylistic versatility at the essay level through employing specific features of contemporary essay forms in assigned essays.

Required Texts

Print texts:

Lanham, *A Handlist of Rhetorical Terms*, 2nd ed.

Harris, *Writing with Clarity and Style*

Flynn, *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*

Ross, *Course Pack*

Digital texts (on Moodle):

Please ensure you have regular access to Moodle since some key texts are electronic. Students are advised to bring print copies of these texts to class for optimal work in class.

Course Assignments:

Short essay: A short essay will apply what you've learned about sentence style. (approx. 750 wds)

Word scheme presentation: Working with two others, students will present on one of the lesser known ancient word schemes to the class. A schedule will be circulated at the beginning of term. (length: approx. 10 mins.)

Mid-term exam: This exam will cover readings assigned up to week 5. (1 hr 30 mins.)

Rhetorical analysis of Flynn memoir: Students will compose an analysis of a chosen section of the memoir, identifying features of style and discussing the author's choices. (approx. 1,500 wds)

Term paper: This essay will apply specific innovative principles of arrangement and style studied in the 2nd half of the course. While several essay topics will be suggested, students will have a lot of latitude as far as selecting a topic and also the kind and degree of research, but must have the topic approved by the instructor by week 7. (approx. 3,000 wds)

Evaluation Profile:

Short essay	20%
Presentation	15%
Sentence style Mid-term	15%
Rhetorical analysis	20%
Term Paper	30%
Total	100%

GRADE PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

Course Syllabus

Note: Unless specified otherwise, all the readings below should be prepared for class discussion (that is, carefully and thoroughly). All assignments will assume the student's careful and thorough reading of the assigned texts/media.

Week 1 - Introduction

Course introduction

Intro to classical rhetoric

Introduction to sentence style: Martha Kolln on end-focus & sound

Week 2 – The Ancient View

Lanham, "The Divisions of Rhetoric" (163-80)

Crowley, "Kairos and the Rhetorical Situation"; "Kairos and Style" (course pack)

Gilbert, "Your Elusive Creative Genius" (Moodle)

Harris, Chapter 1, 2, & 14 (also consult Lanham as needed)

Week 3 – Time, Sound, Sight: forgotten touchstones

Johnson, "Ancient and Contemporary Compositions that Come Alive" (course pack)

Pinker, "A Window Onto the World" (course pack)

Harris, Chapter 9 & 10 (also consult Lanham)

Class presentations

Week 4 – Play as generative principle

"Cicero," selections from the Caplan *Ad Herenium*, (Moodle)

Harris, Chapter 11, 12, & 13 (also consult Lanham as needed)

Class presentations

Week 5 - Sentence style wrap up

Mid-term

Class presentations

Week 6 – Publishing and the essay form

The Capilano Review classroom project: *TCR* Winter 2015 issue production

Essay 1 due

Week 7 - Alternate Styles: Fragmentation, Juxtaposition & Synchronicity

Introduction to term project and 2nd half of course

Black and LeMay, "On the Early English Essay, An Experimental Array" (Moodle)

Week 8 - Alternate Styles: Multi-genre texts

Coetzee, "The Lives of Animals" (course pack)

Coetzee, from "Diary of a Bad Year" (course pack)

Elbow, "Your Cheatin Art" (Moodle)

Ihde, "Tanka Prose" (Moodle)

Week 9 - Alternate Styles: The Visual, Embedding

Two Essays from *South Loop Review* (Moodle)

Morris, "Important Things I Learned from my Dad"

Patiño, "Once Daily"

Samarov, "A Taxi Driver On Music" (Moodle)

Cole, "Six Brazilian Songs" (Moodle)

Hedges and Sacco, "Days of Theft" (Moodle)

Week 10 – The Memoir I

Flynn, *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*, to page 163

Week 11 – The Memoir II

Flynn, to page 286

Rhetorical Analysis essay due

Week 12 – The Memoir III

No readings

Week 13 – The Memoir IV and Review

Flynn, to end (351); Review: seminar on final projects

Term Paper due

Week 14-15 Exam Period

Operational Details

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with university policies.

-
- Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Missing classes inevitably results in lower grades, and does not go unnoticed by your classmates and instructor. Additionally, students with more than 2 unexplained absences risk a penalty of 5% in the course, deducted at the instructor's discretion.
- Late Assignments:** Late assignments are accepted with with permission. Always inform your instructor if an essay will be late for any reason.
- Missed Exams:** Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Students should be prepared to provide proof of inability to write the test on the scheduled date (e.g. letter from doctor).
- English Usage:** It is the responsibility of students to proof read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments. Students should consult the Writing Centre for any lingering grammar problems.
- Incomplete Grades:** Given at the discretion of the instructor, generally only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis.
- Electronic Devices:** No smart phones, cell phones, pagers, or other trivial gadgetry may be turned on or stared at longingly during class. Laptops must be used responsibly and unobtrusively. E-readers are not encouraged (because their page numbering isn't consistent and you can't usefully write in the margins, underline, etc.). Speak to the instructor if you are confused about this policy.
- Emergency Procedures:** Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.