

AESTHETICS: THE BIG QUESTIONS

ADVANCED WRITING
SPRING SEMESTER 2006

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00

E-mail: ks46@buffalo.edu

Mailbox: Clemens 302

Office: Clemens 504

TEXTS (Available at Talking Leaves Bookstore 3158 Main Street)

- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (6th Edition) ed. Joseph Gibaldi
- *Aesthetics: The Big Questions* ed. Carolyn Krsmeyer

SUPPLIES

- Any good dictionary. If you do not currently own one, this is a good time to invest in one. There are many available in the bookstore. (I recommend Webster's or American Heritage.)
- A full-sized notebook for writing assignments in class. OR, a 3 ring binder with looseleaf paper.
- A sturdy folder in which you keep all your work for the class AND a disk on which you save all your writing (including multiple drafts).
- A pocket folder in which you put the cover letter, drafts and final version of each assignment when you hand it in.

NOTE

- **Save all the writing you do during the semester.** You can clear your files in December. Until then, you never know what may prove to be useful during a revision. If you compose and revise on a computer, periodically print out (or save on disk) versions of your draft so that you have a record of its process. Keep a copy for yourself (either on disk or a hard copy) of all major assignments handed in to me. In addition, keep all drafts on which you have received comments from me or your classmates.

LIBRARY SKILLS:

You need to complete the library skills workbook (online) before you graduate. The library urges you to do so while you are in ENG 101. A library skills "course" will be shown in MyUB where you can click on it to access the online workbook.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

This is a workshop course in writing in which class activities are essential to your development as a writer; in class activities will include discussion, debate, written and oral responses, freewriting, peer review, and paper workshops (critiquing and editing of your workgroup's papers). The success of the course, and your successful performance in it, depends upon your participation and contributions, both spoken and written.

UB uses a lettered grading policy, A - F, including + and - grades. Your final grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

An incomplete grade may *only* be given to students who have (1) fulfilled the attendance requirement for the course and (2) completed all but one of the written assignments.

Engagement: 10%

Participation begins with attendance. Both absences and tardiness will affect this portion of your grade. You are allowed three absences without penalty. A fourth absence will result in the reduction of this portion of your grade by a full letter grade. A fifth absence will result in the reduction of your final grade by a full letter grade. A sixth absence can result in a failing grade for the course. Although the advice "Better late than never" should be heeded (you will learn by being present), arrival in class more than 15 minutes after it begins will be considered an absence.

You are responsible for contacting me or a fellow class member if you miss a class, and you are expected to be fully prepared for the next class session. I know that sickness happens, accidents happen, bad weather happens, computer problems happen, over-sleeping happens, family crises happen, the bus never comes ... that's what the three excused absences are for. Save them for these kinds of emergencies.

Your engagement grade will also reflect the quality and thoughtfulness of your contributions in class, respect shown to class members, your attitude and role in small group exercises, and evidence given of completion of reading assignments. Preparation for, attitude toward, and involvement in our individual conferences count here, too.

Please note that many in-class writing exercises assume (and depend upon) your having read the assigned material. Review your syllabus frequently, and plan your workload accordingly.

Major Assignments: 70%

End of Term Portfolio: 10%

Your portfolio consists of all writing submitted in this course: rough drafts, graded drafts, and writing especially revised for the portfolio reviews (see the schedule). The end-of-semester portfolio will include an autobiography of yourself as a writer and final revisions of three of the major assignments (the nature of the revision will be discussed in class).

Cover Letters, Letters of Response, and Homework: 10%

Essays are due at the *beginning of class* on the date due. Late essays are subject to having their final grade reduced (typically 1/3 grade for each day late). Don't test me on this. And don't make it a habit. Absence from class on the date due does not excuse the lateness of your assignment. Allow plenty of time for printing your essay in the computer lab, and/or keep an extra printer ribbon/ink cartridge handy at home.

All essays handed in to me are to be typed/word-processed. Use a reasonable font (usually 12 pt.), double-spaced, with 1 inch margins. Each essay to be graded will be accompanied by a cover letter, minimum one page, detailing your writing process for that particular piece and the essay's evolution, along with your assessment of the successful and less successful aspects of the essay. I will not grade essays that are hand-written or lack a cover letter, and the assignment will accrue late penalties until it satisfies this requirement.

Essays will be evaluated for: quality (including technical and mechanical elements); command of voice, tone, and a sense of audience; the degree to which they satisfy the given assignment; and the development they demonstrate from earlier efforts or original drafts.

Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive an F. However, you must complete all five major essay assignments and submit a complete final portfolio in order to earn a passing grade for the course.

Major assignments will be graded using the A - F scale. At times, I may assign you a grade of R, requesting a revision of the piece before I formally grade it. You always have the right to revise your assignment for a higher grade, and you may revise it as many times as you like, but I strongly encourage you to meet with me to discuss the nature of the revisions you will make. All revisions of essays for a higher grade (accompanied by the original graded essay) are due to me no later than *Monday, November 18*. We will use the two weeks of class to workshop essays and to develop writing portfolios. The writing portfolio will include three final revisions of earlier essays.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using another person's words and ideas as though they were your own. It is easy to avoid plagiarism: simply put the material you have taken from someone else's writing in quotation marks and cite the person's name and publication in your paper. Plagiarism is a serious offense which can result in expulsion from the University. A paper which contains any plagiarized material at all will receive an F; two such plagiarized papers will result in the student receiving an F for the course. (Note: plagiarism is not restricted to the use of published work; the passing of another student's work as your own is also a case of plagiarism.)

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK #1

1/17 Introductions. Free Writing. Obtain Texts, Dictionary, Folder and Notebook.
Read Intro.

1/19 Research Workshop. Discuss Homework. Begin The Live Creature.

WEEK #2

2/24 Discuss The Live Creature. Research Workshop.

2/26 Quiz and Discussion of Homework. Abstract.

WEEK #3

1/31 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

2/2: Hanson's "Dressing Down Dressing Up" pg. 59

WEEK #4

2/7 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

2/9: Stolnitz's "The Aesthetic Attitude" pg. 78

WEEK #5

2/14 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

2/16 Danto's "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial" pg. 127

WEEK #6

2/21 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

2/23 Cohen's "High and Low Thinking" pg. 171

WEEK #7

2/28 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

3/2 Plato's "Republic" pg. 181

WEEK #8 [no class on 3/9]

3/7 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

WEEK #9

3/21 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

3/23 Aristotle's "Poetics" pg. 231

WEEK #10

3/28 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

3/30 Poe's "A Descent into Maelström" pg. 244

WEEK #11

4/4 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

4/6 Nichlin's "Why Are There No Great Women Artists?" pg. 314

WEEK #12

4/11 Research Workshop. Discussion of Homework.

4/13 Foucault's "What is an Author" pg. 324 (or) Nettle's "Musical Thinking" and "Thinking About Music" pg. 344 Final Paper Due.

THE LAST FOUR SEMINARS FOR THE SEMESTER WILL BE DEVOTED TO PORTFOLIO WORKSHOPS. FINAL PORTFOLIO DUE ON APRIL 27, 2006.