

**ENG 613: Composition GTF Apprenticeship**  
**Spr 2014, CRN 34736**

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Instructor of Record: Miriam Gershow  
Email: mgershow@uoregon.edu

Office/Phone: PLC 124, 346-0051  
Office Hours: WR 11:30-1 & by appointment

Prospective Composition GTFs who are currently enrolled in or have successfully completed ENG 611 spend one term working with an experienced teacher in a section of WR121 or WR122. The apprenticeship is set up to complement the theoretical work in ENG 611 with practical experience for teaching WR121 or 122. Grading option is P/NP only.

The apprenticeship is made up of these activities:

- Attend class meetings, thereby accumulating 25 – 30 hours of observation.
- Attend the general apprentice meeting on Monday, April 7, 5:30-6:20pm in 189 PLC.
- Complete the apprenticeship plan and turn it in to Miriam by the apprenticeship meeting.
- Teach 2 class sessions under the mentor's supervision. The mentor should be present to observe at least one of these sessions and should discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the apprentice's pedagogy afterward.
- Observe 3 mentor/student conferences. These can be three individual conferences or writing circle(s) involving three student participants.
- Observe two additional composition classroom meetings taught by two different composition teachers. If you are apprenticing in a WR 122 classroom, the outside observations must be WR 121 classrooms.
- Complete a midterm conference with Miriam.
- Complete a 1-page final reflection on the apprenticeship.
- Complete a 1-page draft schedule of course readings for WR 121

The apprentice and mentor should meet early in the first week of classes to work out a mutually agreeable schedule for the apprentice's participation in the course. This discussion should address the mentor's syllabus and plans for the course, the role of the apprentice during class meetings, and when and what the apprentice will teach.

The apprentice is an active observer of the course and a teacher only in a student-teacher capacity. The apprentice should not do any of the teacher's work; the teacher remains responsible for teaching and evaluating his or her students throughout the term.

Apprentices must attend all class meetings for first essay cycle. After that, the apprentice may miss up to one week of class meetings *with advance notice to the mentor teacher*.

Copies of all WR 121 and WR 122 course readers are available for checkout via Knight Library Course Reserves.

**Midterm Conference and Mentor Check-in:**

All apprentices will meet with me roughly halfway through the term to discuss the progress of their apprenticeship.

**Additional Classroom Observations:**

All apprentices will observe two additional composition classroom meetings, taught by two different composition teachers. If you are apprenticing in a WR 122 classroom, both outside observations must be of WR 121 classrooms. All apprentices are strongly encouraged to observe discussion-based class sessions, such as discussions of readings or enthymeme workshops. A schedule of available writing classes is posted on Blackboard. Contact the instructor in advance of your observations, to coordinate best classes to observe. *Do not show up to WR classrooms without advance communication to the instructor.*

Two 350-word responses to the observations are due on the Blackboard discussion board, the first by the end of Week 4, the second by the end of Week 7. See Blackboard discussion board for response requirements.

**Final Assignments:**

At the end of the term, all apprentices hand in a 1-page, typed reflection on the apprenticeship. This document could be a discussion of the most useful parts of the apprenticeship, a reflection on how mentor methods may or may not be adapted to a future classroom of yours, or an analysis on an important activity or teaching moment with a student. Also, apprentices will

hand in a draft schedule of three units of course readings for future WR 121 courses. Details of these assignments can be found on the Blackboard Course Documents page. **Both assignments are due via Blackboard by noon on Tuesday June 10.**

**Mentor Responsibilities:**

All mentors will be asked to send Miriam an email progress report by the end of Week 4 to let her know how the apprenticeship is going. Mentors are also asked to submit a final letter that briefly summarizes and evaluates their apprentice by the end of Week 10.

**Course Grades:**

As the teacher of record for ENG 613, I am responsible for overseeing all apprenticeships. In consultation with the mentor teacher, I will assign a grade of P or NP for the apprenticeship. A passing grade will signify satisfactory completion of all aspects of the apprenticeship by the end of the term. Unsatisfactory work on significant aspects of the apprenticeship will result in a grade of NP. Given the nature of the apprenticeship the grade of Incomplete is rarely appropriate. If apprentices or mentors have any questions or concerns, be in touch with me right away.