

Dr. Kathleen Horton / WR 312 / F13  
265 PLC; 6-1311; hortonk@uoregon.edu  
Office Hours: MWF 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

## Syllabus

**Course Description:** WR 312 is the gateway course into the Writing Associates Program, in which English majors of demonstrated excellence serve as writing tutors to assist struggling students in lower-division literature courses in the writing process. After successfully completing WR 312, you may choose to continue in the Program as Writing Associates by registering for the variable-credit ENG 404 internship. This course and the subsequent internship(s) are designed to give you professional experience and insight as you move toward graduation and a possible future in English.

### Course Goals:

- to examine and consider the nature and function of the art and craft of writing
- to explore the roots and varieties of struggle and success in terms of psychology, personality, and writing
- to understand the variety of writing problems and needs of students in lower division English literature courses
- to understand the variety of expectations of teachers in lower division English literature courses
- to develop best practices in response to those needs
- to practice those skills in mock tutoring sessions
- to learn from current English graduate writing tutors by shadowing and interviewing them
- to prepare students to serve as Writing Associates in the ENG 404 Internship
- to provide students with the opportunity to reflect on their goals and place in the English profession

### Grading and Requirements:

50% Participation, including a journal and two conferences with me

50% Writing, including essays and blog posts

Details of assignments will be discussed each week.

I already know you as capable and effective thinkers and writers from reading your application essays, so I expect you to do well in the class. I will be grading you holistically based on your attention to the following:

1. Come to each class; come on time; come prepared.
2. Participate actively, energetically, and frequently in class discussions and activities.
3. Do each assignment thoughtfully, thoroughly, and with rigorous attention to form.
4. Do your own original and creative work with energy and imagination.
5. Cite appropriately if you use ideas or information from outside sources.
6. Respond thoughtfully, critically, and respectfully to others' points.

7. Meet with me twice during the term to discuss your work.
8. Turn off and put away all electronics during our class sessions so you can focus on the work of the class and so you and the rest of us won't be distracted by your technology.
9. Write excellent essays and blog posts.
10. Write thoughtful journal entries and refer to them in class discussions.

**Note:** This is a discussion-based class. Your ideas as expressed in both oral and written forms matter significantly and will provide much of the discussion content of the course.

**Note:** Please see me during week one if you have a documented disability requiring accommodations, so we can discuss and implement those accommodations.

## **Tentative Schedule**

### **Part I - Writing**

Week One: Good Writers; Bad Writers: Establishing Profiles; Considering Difference.

Week Two: Struggles and Competencies

Week Three: Grading: There's the Rub (*What Do They Want?*)

Week Four: Analyzing Frost (*What Makes a Drumlin Woodchuck Chuck?*)

Week Five: In Their Own Words: Professors Speak Out

### **Part II - Tutoring**

Week Six: Meet the Tutors

Week Seven: Struggles I

Week Eight: Struggles II

Week Nine: Best Practices: Making a List

Week Ten: Trying on the Tutor's Robe: Praxis

**Note:** Scheduling, and assignment details will be discussed weekly. There is no textbook for the class; readings will be provided.

**Note:** A final reflective essay will discuss your experience, perceptions, hopes, and fears concerning the English profession and the prospect of helping struggling writers in the 404 internship. This essay will be due in my office (265 PLC) by noon on Monday, December 9, of final exam week. There is no final exam for this class.

