

Dr. Kathleen Horton
WR 423; S2014
MWF 11:00; 144 Hedco

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Off. Hrs.: MWF 10:00-10:50

WR 423 – Advanced Composition
The Essay: Structure, Style, and POV

Course Description: In WR 423, we will explore the essay form by examining a number of essays and carefully detailing how authors construct strong essays using a wide variety of structures, styles, and points-of-view. Through examination, analysis, and imitation of these essays, students will develop their own essay strategies, adapting the essay form to specific content and disciplinary goals.

Course Outcomes:

Students will

- understand the formal elements of the essay;
- gain knowledge of structure, style, and point-of-view;
- compile a list of terms relevant to the craft of essay writing and understand how to apply these terms to analysis of essay writing, their own and other's;
- practice and improve writing skills through drafting, peer editing, and responsive revision;
- edit and proofread for clarity, grace, and style;
- craft logical and ethical arguments in connection to rhetorical situations within a discourse community;
- effectively acknowledge, assess, and incorporate relevant arguments from other texts and document sources appropriately.

Required Text – available in UO Bookstore:

Bartholomae and Petrosky, eds. *Ways of Reading: An Anthology for Writers*, 9th ed.

Grading and Requirements:

APP: 20% (attendance, preparation, participation, writing exercises, reading quizzes/responses, one conference after portfolio one or two to discuss your work)

4 Essay Portfolios – 20 % each; 80 % total (pre-writing, free-writing, drafts, outlines, revisions, bibliographies; writing exercises will be turned in with each portfolio)

Policies:

Plagiarism-free Zone: Do your own work. Cite sources appropriately when you use them.

Accommodation Zone: See me if you have a disability requiring accommodation.

Safety Zone: Please be respectful of the ideas of others, even if you disagree. It takes courage to speak in public, and everyone should feel safe when they do.

Tentative Schedule:

Unit One – Weeks 1-3 – Science, Nature, and the Human Condition

Readings:

Eula Biss, “The Pain Scale” (171)

Brian Doyle, “Joyas Voladoras” (273)

Unit Two – Weeks 4-6 – Cultures and Contact Zones

Readings:

Mary Louise Pratt, “Arts of the Contact Zone,” (485)

Gloria Anzaldua, “Entering into the Serpent” (72); “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” (85)

Alberto Alvaro Rios, “Translating Translation: Finding the Beginning” (506)

John Edgar Wideman, “Our Time” (657)

Unit Three – Weeks 7-10 – Histories

Readings:

Susan Griffin, “Our Secret” (335)

Edward Said, “States” (541)

Unit Four – Week 10 – Self-Study

Readings:

Your essays written during the term

NOTE:

1. Details for each unit will be discussed in class.
2. There will be no final exam in this class.

1a The Essay: Structure, Style, and POV; Introductions

1b Study of First Paragraphs (x3)

1c Study of Last Paragraphs (x3)

2a Biss

2b Biss

2c Doyle

3a Doyle

3b Rough Draft Workshop – typed rough draft due, 3-page minimum

3c Revision and Portfolio #1 Due; A Reading

4a Pratt

4b Pratt

4c Anzaldua

5a Rios

5b Wideman

5c Wideman

6a Wideman

6b Rough Draft Workshop – typed rough draft due, 3-page minimum

6c Revision and Portfolio #2 Due; A Reading