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, cultural context, 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 of 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 at least one conferences with me
50% Writing, including essays and blog posts
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 at least once 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.
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: A general overview of the class is provided below; specific details of assignments and procedures will be discussed each week.

Part I - Writing

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

Essay: Your Reading and Writing Autobiography

Week Two: Struggles and Competencies

Essay: Stories of Struggle

Week Three: Literary Criticism – Huh?

Essay: The Drumlin Woodchuck

Week Four: Mock Tutoring

Essay: The Drumlin Woodchuck Forges On

Week Five: Professors Speak Out

Essay: What Do They Want?

Week Six: Grading A-Z – There’s the Rub

Essay: Post Professor Panel

Part II - Tutoring

Week Seven: Meet the Tutors
Week Eight: Shadow the Tutors
Week Nine: Best Practices
Week Ten: Trying on the Tutor’s Hat – Praxis

Note: Scheduling, and assignment details will be updated and discussed weekly.

Note: Journals are due on the last day of class (Friday-10c-Dec. 5). 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 ENG 404 internship. This essay will be due in my office (265 PLC) by noon on Monday, December 8, of final exam week. There is no final exam for this class.