Dr. Kathleen Horton  
hortonk@uoregon.edu  
265 PLC; 346-1311  

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 their own specific content and rhetorical or disciplinary goals. We will also pay close attention to the grammatical and syntactical structures of sentences.

Course Outcomes:
• review the basics of grammar, syntax, and usage  
• understand the formal elements of the essay  
• gain knowledge and practice 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.  
Hale, Constance. Sin and Syntax.

Grading and Requirements:

APP: 20% (attendance, timeliness, preparation, active participation in discussions, writing exercises as assigned, reading quizzes/responses as assigned, presentation on Sin and Syntax, rough draft workshops and peer reviews.)

4 Essay Portfolios (including pre-writing, free-writing, drafts, outlines, revisions, annotated bibliographies, etc.)  
20 % each; 80 % total

Writing exercises/quizzes/responses graded in APP will usually be turned in with each portfolio.

Policies:

Show up; be prepared; participate; turn electronics off and put away for the duration of class.  
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 who does so should feel safe and listened to when they do.

Tentative Schedule:

1a  Introduction
1b  Language - the Basics: Crafting Sentences; Porchia (475-479)
    Hale: Forward and 1-8; Choose Chapters from “Words” to present.

2a  Carson (264-269); Doyle (272-275); Hale - Nouns, Pronouns
2b  Biss (170-182); Hale - Verbs

3a  Rough Draft Workshop: Rough Draft #1 Due (4 pages min., MLA-formatted)
    Hale - Adjectives, Adverbs
3b  Essay Portfolio #1 Due; Writers’ Readings

Mystification and Meaning:

4a  Berger (139-165); Hale – Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections
4b  Art Museum Field Trip – No Class Session

5a  Campus Culture Photography Session – Meet in class. Hale: Chapter 9
5b  Rough Draft Workshop: Rough Draft #2 Due (4 pages min., MLA-formatted); Hale: Chapter 10

Contact Zones and American Cultures:

6a  Essay Portfolio #2 Due; Writers’ Readings; Hale: Part 2
6b  Pratt (483-497); Hale: Part 2

7a  Rios (504-508); Anzaldúa (70-93); Hale: Part 3
7b  Rough Draft Workshop: Rough Draft #3 Due (4 pages min., MLA-formatted)
7c  Essay Portfolio #3 Due; Writers’ Readings

War – Causes and Consequences:

8a  Griffin (333-382)
8b  Griffin, continued

9a  Said (537-575)
9b  Said, continued

10a  Rough Draft Workshop: Rough Draft #4 Due (4-6 pages, MLA-formatted)
10b  Essay Portfolio #4 Due; Writers’ Readings

There will be no final exam.