Hu101H: First-Year Reading & Writing for Biology Majors

Section 02
Walker 143
T & R 3:35-4:50 pm
Fall Quarter 1999

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Office Hours: T 2:30-3:30 pm; W 3-4:00 pm

Course Description:
The readings and assignments for this course are intended to help you make connections between your interest in biology and your need to be a strong reader and writer. The texts that you will read and write in this course will give you the opportunity to develop a more complex and interdisciplinary way of thinking about biological issues. The reading, writing and discussion that we do in this class will challenge you to consider the different ways that thinking about the natural environment has been constructed in the United States during the past 400 years as a result of scientific, political, economic and social debate.

Required Texts:


Course Work:
- In-class activities, discussions, and writing assignments
- Reading Texts & 5 Reading Responses (3 pages each)
- Children's story about Bio lab organism
- Oral Presentation
- Biology Lab Report
- Rhetorical Analysis Paper (5-6 pages)
- Deliberative Writing Project: Proposal, Paper Drafts & Final Paper
- Writing Portfolio and Cover Memo

****Please note that everything must be completed in order to pass the course.

Requirements & Grading:
Attendance & Participation:
Please keep in mind that not doing your work thoroughly or showing up for class affects you as well as other people in the class. This means that you need to read and complete all assignments on time, come to class prepared with all necessary materials, and actively engage in class discussions and group projects. If you need to miss a class, please contact me by phone or email so that we can discuss what you will miss and what you will need to do to catch up. You are allowed two absences from class. Subsequent absences will affect your final grade dramatically.
Assignments:
Because thinking and writing require time, trial and error, and lots of feedback, I do not grade individual assignments but instead will comment on them with suggestions that are meant to challenge your thinking and improve your understanding and ability to display that understanding in writing. Every assignment and class activity is directed toward helping you think about biological issues from a variety of perspectives and through a variety of techniques.

Your final course grade will be determined by the Portfolio system. This means that during the quarter you will receive written feedback on all your assignments, papers and projects which you will keep and submit twice during the term, during Week 5 and at the end of the term. In order to determine your grade, I will look at the work that you do during the entire quarter: the degree to which you complete assignments and the quality of your work, and the ways that you improve and address reader feedback (mine and your classmates). Because this system may cause some students anxiety, I will give each of you a midterm grade/progress report. This is something we will also discuss during Conferences. To better understand the grading policy and what constitutes A, B, C, D, and E writing, consult the Guide to Succeeding. You can ask about your current standing in the class at anytime during my office hours. I will also inform you if a particular assignment or activity is below passing level so that you can revise it.

MTU's Policy on Discrimination.
MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please contact your instructor and call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students at 7-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action office at 7-3310.

MTU's Policy on Academic Integrity
Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses. MTU's Academic Integrity Policy defines it as "knowingly copying another's work or ideas and calling them one's own or not giving proper credit or citation," and it covers copying sections or entire papers from printed or electronic sources as well as handing in papers written by students for other classes or purchasing academic papers. Plagiarism and cheating not only are dishonest but cheat you out of learning, the primary reason you are here. If you ever have any questions about this issue, please talk with your instructor or consult a coach in the Writing Center (7-2007).
**Fall 1999 HU101H Course Schedule**

*Note: I reserve the right to revise the syllabus and/or course schedule to better serve the needs of students in this class.*

**Week 1**

**T 9/7**
General introductions and syllabus information

**Assignment for 9/9:** Read *A Guide to Succeeding* pgs. 7-9; 20-23; 40-43
Read *Constructing Nature* pgs. 3-39; 63-74; 81-99; 111-144

**R 9/9**
- Reading Response due
- Discuss reading assignments

**Assignment for 9/14:** Read *Constructing Nature* pgs. 215-267; 285-315

**Week 2**

**T 9/14**
- Discuss group organization, interaction and responsibilities
- Discuss reading assignment
- Discuss Children's Story project

**R 9/16**
**Assignment for 9/21:** Read *Constructing Nature* pgs. 149-211; 319-321; 348-370
Read *Guide to Writing About Biology* pgs. 174-182; 183-194

**Week 3**

**T 9/21**
- Children's Story due
- Discuss reading assignments
- Discuss oral report on lab project due 9/28

**Assignment for 9/23:** Read *Coming Plague* Intro; chp 2; chp 7; chp 9; chp 12
Write 3 page reading response

**R 9/23**
- Reading Response due
- Discuss reading assignment
- Discuss Deliberative Writing Project Proposal

**Assignment for 9/28:** Read *Constructing Nature* pgs. 371-425
Write 3 page reading response

**Week 4**

**T 9/28**
- Reading Response due
- Group oral presentation on proposed hypothesis & experimental design for lab project (Dr. Glime will attend class)

**R 9/30**
- Deliberative Writing Project Proposal due

**Week 5**

**T 10/5**
- Class canceled for individual conferences

**R 10/7**
- Class canceled for individual conferences
Week 6

T 10/12  • Library Day -- Meet in 1st floor lobby of Van Pelt Library
       • Library Workshop -- finding sources
Assignment: Read *Constructing Nature* pgs. 426-467
       Write 3 page reading response

R 10/14  • Reading Response due
       • Discuss reading assignment

Week 7

T 10/19  • First draft of Deliberative Paper due
       • In-class peer response
Assignment: Read *Guide to Writing About Biology* pgs. 52-140
       Read "The Demon in the Freezer" (on reserve)
       Write 3 page reading response

R 10/21  • Reading Response due
       • Discuss reading assignments
       • Discuss questions/problems with group lab report projects
       • In-class workshop for groups
Assignment: Read *Coming Plague* chps. 13 & 14

Week 8

T 10/26  • Complete draft of group lab project reports due (Bring 2 copies per group)
       • Discuss reading assignment

R 10/28  Rhetorical Analysis Paper due

Week 9

T 11/2   Class canceled for individual conferences
       *Bring revised draft of Deliberative Paper to Conference*
R 11/4   Class canceled for individual conferences

Week 10

T 11/9   • Revised draft of Deliberative Paper due
       • Writing Workshop
R 11/11  • Revised draft of Deliberative Paper due
       • Writing Workshop

Finals Week
Final Deliberative Writing Project, Portfolio, and Cover Memo due Tuesday, November 16 by 4:30 pm.