HU 6080: Seminar in Technical Communication (Spring 2005)

Techne, Phronesis, and Technology
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Required Texts


The Actions of the Course

As this is a course, of course, engaged in the arts (and that includes the arts of invention), I have taken the opportunity to invent some genres (or at least refashion some) for the purposes of the pedagogical impact that the subject matter might have on the identity formation of the subjects involved.

**Passages**
Simply, a Passage is an oral genre. You choose a passage from the week’s readings to share orally with the class. A kind of close-reading-kind-of-thing.

**Thinkings (a.k.a. Tracings)**
Thinkings are genres based in good question asking practices. We will let Arendt and Heidegger lead us in this genre (but it will be explained more fully in class). The ultimate purpose of Thinkings is to move you, not so linearly, toward your final Production (see below). They can be forged in any stable medium and will be delivered in class to share the current state of your confusion concerning the topic matter of the class.

**Tinkerings**
Tinkerings is a genre that begin to solidify the amorphous (cement-like) mass of the Thinkings. Not to be confused with a proposal, they propose further action (and Thinkings). This genre should also move you toward the ensuing Productions (see below, again).

**Productions**
The cement should now be manageable and ready to cure. The productions will be a conference-style presentation based on the above (see above) and an article-type kind of writing.
The Makings of This Course

Jan. 11: Introductions to each other and to the course content
Wild, "Plato’s Theory of Techne"
Aristotle, NE Chapter 1, 2 & 6.

Jan. 18: Continuation of readings from Jan. 11.
Sconce, “Tulip Theory”

Jan. 25: Rough Ground — Introduction and Chapter 8
Thinking Through Technology — Chapter 5

Feb. 1: Practice of Everyday — Intro and Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 5
Johnson, “Mundane” & “Refiguring”

Feb. 8: Human Condition — Parts 1, 2, 3 & 4
Feb. 15: Human Condition — Parts 5 & 6
Rough Ground — Chapter 3

Feb. 22: Article by visiting speaker Frances Ranney (to be provided)
NOTE: We may need to meet on Monday this week

Mar. 1: Homo Faber

Mar. 8: Spring break: No Class

Mar. 15: ATTW and CCCC conferences: No class

Mar. 22: Working Knowledge

Mar. 29: Rhetoric Reclaimed — Chapters 1, 2 & 3
Miller, “Humanistic Rationale”

Apr. 5: Rhetoric Reclaimed — Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8

Apr. 12: Rough Ground — Chapter 10 & Epilogue
Schrag, “The Rhetorical Turn”

Apr. 19: ??????

Apr. 26: Conference Presentations