HU 5931: Practicum in Pedagogy for UN 2001  
(Spring 2009)

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Course Approach, Content, and Assignments:  The focus this second semester continues to be on your teaching in the Revisions class. We will continue to devote the first twenty or so minutes of most classes to sharing teaching experiences from the previous week. We will also read and discuss a few additional chapters in Guide to Composition Pedagogies and other supplemental material, and we have made preliminary plans to address a few other topics. But once again, we would like your input before we settle on a working schedule. Please give me asap (by Tuesday morning of next week) a list of topics you think would make a good fit for us this second semester. Overall, our primary aims are the same as they were in the fall: 1) to examine theory relevant to issues of literacy education, 2) to explore ways of applying this theory to classroom practices, and 3) to share and explore issues and challenges arising from your classroom experiences.

Class Visit

Once again, I would like each of you to visit the class of another Revisions instructor during the first half of the semester. You may stay within our HU 5931 group or choose one of the other instructors (I am including a list of them at the end of this syllabus). Ask for permission first. It is perfectly okay for GTIs to say no to your request, but I'm hoping that we have enough trust and sense of community here that you will find someone who is willing to share. Once you have permission and have agreed on a date for your class visit, copy that plan to me asap. The purpose of this visit is not to snoop, obviously, but to have opportunities to encounter alternative teaching approaches/assignments and to promote conversation among our GTIs about the teaching of UN 2001. Immediately after the visit, write a one-page narrative and reflective response and submit it to me. Some possible questions to consider and respond to: What did you learn about your own teaching from watching someone else teach? What is different about this class and the approach of the instructor? What might you be interested in trying in your own classes? You may also provide a copy of this reflective response to the GTI, or you may simply discuss the class with him/her over coffee or at some other mutually convenient time. I consider this to be an important part of your ongoing teacher training, so please make plans early to visit a class and get your narrative to me in a timely fashion.

Position Paper

If you have not already done so, you should begin thinking about and working on your short position paper. Here is the description of this short position paper from the Fall syllabus: At the end
of the second semester you will be required to submit a relatively short position paper which articulates the composition/communication philosophy and values informing your teaching. The reflective journal and portfolio you keep this semester should supply you with the raw material for that position paper, and it wouldn't hurt to think about that end-of-year assignment throughout both semesters.

This paper should be 3-4 typed pages and is due Monday of Exam week. We will discuss this assignment in greater detail toward the end of the term if you feel it is needed (let Steve, Casey, and me know if any of you want to have that discussion). We will have a peer critique/editing session on a draft of the position paper toward the end of the semester so you should have a working draft by Week 12.

Conferences

Finally, I again want to conference with each GTI at least once during the term, ideally sometime during weeks 8-10. Scheduling these conferences is your responsibility, but I'll try to give you a few reminders (NB: please don't all of you wait until week ten to set up a conference). You are, of course, always welcome to come by during office hours or schedule additional time for us to talk about your teaching. I know Steve and Casey are also very willing to talk with you.

I will not visit your class this term unless you invite me to. In that event, I would be happy to come and then discuss my impressions with you.

Attendance:

Policy the same as last semester: HU 5931 is an important component of your first year GTI experience, and I expect you to attend the class regularly. Steve, Casey, and I will regard your presence as a form of professional obligation. So should you. Typically, GTIs attend all class sessions. If you have some kind of problem that would keep you from making it to class, please let me know as much in advance as possible. I'm sure we will be able to work something out.

NB: The other GTIs teaching Revisions this term are:

Peter Remali 8:05 and 9:05 MWF
Neely Farren 10:05 MWF
Russ Johnson 3:05 MWF
Maura Taaffe 8:05-9:20 TTh
Becky Miner 9:35-10:50 TTh
Casey Rudkin 9:35-10:50 TTh
Diane Miller 12:35-1:50 TTh
Roxane Gay 2:05-3:20 TTh
Rehema Clarken 3:35-4:50 TTh
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