

Writing and Reading II

Spring 2016

Class Time: Tuesdays, 09.10 – 12.00

Classroom: 逸仙 050202

Instructor: Shun-liang Chao | 趙順良

Office Hours: Tuesdays (13.00 – 17.00) or by appointment

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[I]f the imagination is to transcend and transform experience[,] it has to question, to challenge, to conceive of alternatives, perhaps to the very life you are living at that moment. You have to be free to play around with the notion that day might be night, love might be hate; nothing can be too sacred for the imagination to turn into its opposite or to call experimentally by another name. For writing is re-naming.

—Adrienne Rich, “When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision” (1971)

Course Objective

The Spring session of this year-long course seeks to integrate critical reading and thinking into the practice of prose writing. Students will explore different rhetorical modes (notably argumentation) and learn to incorporate them to write research papers.

Course Plan

1. Writing assignments: You are to **turn in 3 essays** (800-1000 words each) and **revise all of them** throughout the semester.
2. Class activities include **discussion of the assigned articles, review of writing issues, grammar quizzes, and editing of fellow students' work.**
3. One mandatory **individual conference** is scheduled at the end of the semester.

Course Materials

Required:

1. Gilbert H. Muller and Harvey S. Wiener, *The Short Prose Reader* [SPR] (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009).
2. Course packet (CP)

Recommended:

1. Joseph M. Williams, *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace* (New York: Longman, 2007).

Useful websites

1. UCL Academic Writing in English: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english-usage/apps/awe/>
2. One Look dictionary search: <http://www.onelook.com/>

Requirements and Policies

1. **Come to class.** One absence may be allowed if you can provide a good reason. Upon your second absence, your grade for “attendance” will be reduced **10** points for each absence. **You will fail in this course if you are absent 4 times.** Please NOTE that you will be considered absent if you’re absent-minded (i.e. phubbing, surfing on the Internet, textbook-less, etc.).
2. **Be punctual.** You’ll be considered tardy if you arrive after I call the roster and therefore your grade for “attendance” will be reduced **5** points for each case of tardiness. **Being tardy twice equals one absence.**
3. **Don’t be lazy.** For your own intellectual growth and for the success of the class as a whole, it is essential that each of you have yourself prepared for each week’s assigned readings and in-class exercises. **You’re required to write a 100-word summary of each week’s reading assignment and post it on the Facebook forum by Monday (noon).** Your grade for the “class participation” will be reduced **10** points for each failure to do this.
4. **Submit clean work electronically.** All essay assignments should be word-processed and 1.5-spaced with reasonable margins on each side of the paper. **Late essays will suffer from deduction of points by 5 points a day. Lateness of more than one week will not be accepted.** I grade papers according to the following breakdown (90/100 is great, 85 good, 80 fair, and 75 acceptable):
 - 1) The significance of the thesis statement: 20%
 - 2) Grammar and structure: 30%
 - 3) Wording: 10%
 - 4) Content: 40%
5. **Work as a team.** Peer editing is an integral part of the class. Some of you will be chosen to have your work reviewed in class. You need to make comments and corrections for the chosen essays by using the “Track Changes” function on MS Word and hand in your editing to me.
6. **Be organised for your own sake.** The instructor may distribute plenty of supplementary materials. Organise everything from Day One and, more importantly, don’t lose your own precious work.
7. **Academic Integrity.** Plagiarism will not be tolerated: you commit plagiarism when submitting someone else’s work and ideas as your own or submitting your own work

completed for another class without the instructor's permission. (For details, see the MLA Handbook, pp. 51-61).

Grading Policy

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Attendance | 15% |
| 2. Class participation | 15% (graded by you) |
| 3. Grammar quizzes | 10% |
| 4. Essays | 60% |

Timetable

wk	Date	topic/ class activity	required reading	assignment due in class
1	23/02	Introduction		
2	01/03	Comparison and Contrast	Chapter 7 (SPR)	
3	8	Classification	Chapter 9 (SPR)	
4	15	Language, Society, and Power (I)	Power & Ideology (CP)	Essay #1a
5	22	Peer editing		comments
6	29	Cause-and-Effect Analysis	Chapter 8 (SPR)	Essay #1b
7	05/04	National Holiday	No Class	
8	12	Definition	Chapter 10 (SPR)	
9	19	Language, Society, and Power (II)	Language & Politics (CP)	Essay #2a
10	26	Peer editing		comments
11	03/05	Argumentation & Persuasion	Chapter 11 (SPR)	Essay #2b
12	10/05	Write a personal statement (I)		
13	17	Clarity and Grace (III)	Shape	
14	24	Write a personal statement (II)	Students' presentations	
15	31	Clarity and Grace (IV)	Concision	Essay #3a
16	07/06	Peer editing		comments
17	14	Meeting		Essay #3b
18	21	Conclusion		

**I reserve the right to modify these class requirements and responsibilities if needed. All changes will be announced in class.*