Writing 340: Advanced Writing for Social Sciences (65040)  
Course Syllabus | Spring 2016

Professor  
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Description  
Writing 340 builds on foundations of critical thinking, reading, and writing, refining and augmenting these skills with an emphasis on the professional, public, and academic aspects of majors and career fields. The course objectives are to write clear, grammatical, well-structured prose, discover and convey complex ideas critically, appreciate the nuances of good argument, and identify and address specific audiences in a voice of authority and persuasiveness. In pursuit of these objectives, we strive to create a customized and learner-centered environment in a computer-enhanced workshop setting, produce self-sufficient learners, introduce life-long learning skills, maintain relevance to students, and integrate enabling technologies. Your work will assume the form of hypertextual Blackboard blog entries focused on current and consequential issues that you select in your academic discipline and/or future profession.

Requirements and Grading  
There is a total of 1000 points in this course, with grades determined by effort and performance in the following categories.

- Participation (50): Attend all class meetings and arrive on time as well as fully prepared to carry out the work assigned for each session.
- Writing Project 1 (450): This is a pair of posts in which you engage with and advance an argument on timely and significant topics in your field and of your choosing.
- Writing Project 2 (206): This is a pair of entries wherein you leave substantive comments at recent and reputable online posts or articles in your field.
- Proposals (6): These are preliminary plans for your course emphasis and Writing Project 1 posts, on which you will receive both peer and professor feedback.
- Peer Work (8), Revision Exercises (4), Critiques (8), and Reflections (6): These are in-class activities intended to help you become more aware of the features of effective writing.
- Presentations (12): These are opportunities to give brief in-class synopses of and take questions and comments on your entries.
- Portfolio (250): To end the semester the Writing Project 1 posts will be assessed by me and other Writing 340 faculty. If you are inclined, these entries can then migrate to a showcase e-portfolio.

Policies  
We will frequently use the Web in class, thus always bring a charged and reliable computer with access to USC’s secure wireless network (note that I do not tolerate computer use for non-course purposes). Phones must be off during class. More than two unexcused absences or repeated tardiness cause an incremental reduction in the participation portion of the grade. Unexcused late work is marked down by a half grade per class period and does not get written feedback. I do not accept revisions unless I have seen the earlier versions, nor work from those who miss or are late to class or conferences. Check Bb and email regularly (after 4:00 PM I do not read email). USC is premised on academic integrity, so be familiar with Scampus (the penalty for plagiarism is an F). Students with DSP verified disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations (contact me if this applies). Student work may be used in class for critique purposes. Writing 150 is a prerequisite. I do not discuss grades at the end of the semester.

The Writing Center  
The Writing Center offers assistance at any stage of the writing process (it is not a proofreading service) in the form of individual consultations and small-group workshops. Appointments are made at the Center’s site (http://www.usc.edu/writingcenter).
Schedule

- T 1/12 Course introduction; prepare for emphasis proposal
- TH 1/14 Orientation to Bb blog and Web search tools
- F 1/15 Sign up for emphasis conferences (via Doodle)
- T 1/19 Emphasis proposal workshop; proposal due by class (publish in Bb)
- TH 1/21 Emphasis conferences (no class)
- T 1/26 Presentations of course emphases
- TH 1/28 Prepare for WP1P1
- F 1/29 Sign up for WP1P1 conferences (via Doodle)
- T 2/2 WP1P1 proposal workshop; proposal due by class (publish in Bb)
- TH 2/4 WP1P1 conferences to discuss proposal (no class)
- T 2/9 WP1P1 (V1) due by class (publish in Bb); peer workshop
- TH 2/11 Critique WP1P1 models
- T 2/16 Ancillary activities (first person; sources, evidence, and linking)
- TH 2/18 WP1P1 (V1) revision exercise; prepare for presentations
- T 2/23 WP1P1 (V2) due by class (publish in Bb and submit to GradeMark); presentations
- TH 2/25 Prepare for WP2P1; ancillary activity (depth and density)
- F 2/26 Sign up for WP1P1 conferences (via Doodle)
- SUN 2/28 I return WP1P1 (V2) at 6:00 PM in GradeMark

- T 3/1 WP2P1 due by class (publish in Bb and submit to GradeMark); presentations
- TH 3/3 WP1P1 conferences to discuss V2 (no class)
- SUN 3/6 I return WP2P1 at 6:00 PM in GradeMark
- T 3/8 WP1P1 (V3) due by class (publish in Bb and submit to GradeMark); WP1P1 reflection
- TH 3/10 Prepare for WP1P2
- SUN 3/13 I return WP1P1 (V3) at 6:00 PM in GradeMark
- T 3/15 & TH 3/17 Spring recess (no class)
- M 3/21 Sign up for WP1P2 conferences (via Doodle)
- T 3/22 WP1P2 proposal workshop; proposal due by class (publish in Bb)
- TH 3/24 WP1P2 conferences to discuss proposal (no class)
- T 3/29 WP1P2 (V1) due by class (publish in Bb); peer workshop
- TH 3/31 Critique WP1P2 models; WP1P2 (V1) revision exercise
- T 4/5 WP1P2 (V2) due by class (publish in Bb and submit to GradeMark); presentations
- TH 4/7 Prepare for top site presentations
- F 4/8 Sign up for WP1P2 conferences (via Doodle)
- SUN 4/10 I return WP1P2 (V2) at 6:00 PM in GradeMark
- T 4/12 Top site presentations
- TH 4/14 WP1P2 conferences to discuss V2 (no class)
- T 4/19 WP1P2 (V3) due by class (publish in Bb and submit to GradeMark); WP1P2 reflection
- TH 4/21 Prepare for WP2P2; prepare for portfolio
- SUN 4/24 I return WP1P2 (V3) at 6:00 PM in GradeMark
- T 4/26 WP2P2 due by class (publish in Bb and submit to GradeMark); presentations
- TH 4/28 Final reflection; course evaluation; course conclusion
- SAT 4/30 Portfolio (V4 of both WP1 entries) due (publish in Bb and submit to Critical Post Office) by 6:00 PM
- SUN 5/1 I return WP2P2 at 6:00 PM in GradeMark
- M 5/9 Course grades available in Bb at 6:00 PM