

ENG 30066-001
Writing in the Public Sphere
Fall 2014

Instructor: Professor Corey
Office: Satterfield Hall, 207-B
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30-11:30 a.m. or by appointment
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Required Texts & Materials:

Sondra Perl & Mimi Schwartz. *Writing True: The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction*. 2nd edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2014

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th edition. Modern Language Association, 2009

Access to a printer and stapler

Course Description:

Writing is a social, rhetorical, and often political practice. In other words, writing must always account for the relationships among the writer, audience, and purpose of communication within a particular context. This class asks you to work with peer and community partners to produce textual and multimodal materials that meet the needs of a local non-profit organization. This class places you in the role of a professional, leading to work that can be showcased in portfolios, included on resumes, and talked about in job interviews. The service-learning project for this semester involves collaborating with The Campus Kitchens Project and continues the efforts made possible by a grant awarded by the AARP. You will be writing a book chapter about the challenges senior citizens face in regard to nutrition, as well as creating marketing materials for the Campus Kitchens Project. This endeavor will include primary and secondary research, as well as the creative writing of biographies of senior citizens.

Course Objectives:

- * To engage in researching and composing written/visual/audio texts appropriate for specific audiences
- * To find and use appropriate materials without plagiarizing or infringing on copyright and fair use guidelines
- * To interact meaningfully in online and face-to-face communities
- * To improve critical reading, thinking, and writing
- * To engage in reflection about civic engagement, community action, and writing as a social and political practice
- * To incorporate elements of creativity into work. By creativity, I mean “making unusual connections, looking at something in a fresh way, noticing unusual relationships or aspects of the topic, pushing beyond surface observations, challenging what others take for granted, taking a risk with a rhetorical technique, an unpopular idea, or a difficult topic” (Barbara Walvoord).

Assignments & Evaluation

Memoir (100 points)

Visual Essay (100 points)

Project Proposal (100 points)

Blogs (100 points)

Final Project (250 points)

Reflective Essay (100 points)

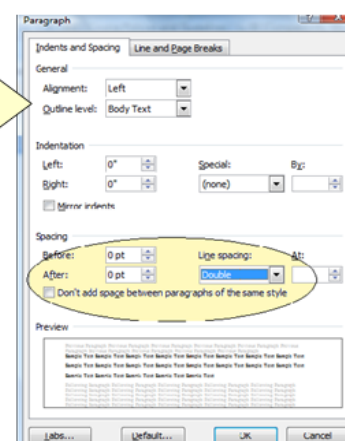
Reading Responses, In-Class Writings, & Homework Assignments (150 points)

Participation (100 points)

A	930-1000 pts.	B+	870-899	C+	770-799	D+	670-699
A-	900-929	B	830-869	C	730-769	D	600-669
		B-	800-829	C-	700-729	F	0-599

You will receive detailed assignment sheets, which we will review in class. In addition, assignments should adhere to the following guidelines:

- If using Word 2007, or a later version (2003 is formatted correctly), please begin by going to the paragraph tab and changing the spacing before and after to **0 point**. **This will remove the extra space between paragraphs.** (See diagram at right.)
- Change font to **Times New Roman 12**; use this font **ONLY**.
- All papers are to be **double-spaced** and in **black ink** only.
- Set margins to **left justify** only.
- **Name, class with section number, instructor name, date** (day month year – 30 Aug 2012) should be at the **top left** of the first page, double-spaced (see sample below).
- **Last name and page number** flush right on all pages, ½" from the top
- **Margins:** 1" at left, right, top, bottom of ALL pages
- Run **spell-check** for all assignments. You will need to proofread beyond this, however.
- **Do not** turn in printed papers with ink smears or crooked text.



1" margin on all four sides

1" Last Name 1

← Your Full Name →

English 30066 – 001

Professor Corey

15 September 2014

Title of Assignment
(Do Not title this the name of the assignment, i.e. Memoir)

Indent and begin typing your paper in **Times New Roman Twelve**. Double space your writing. Follow these directions for all written assignments. Save in Word; do not save as a PDF (I cannot comment on the PDF document. If you need to email an assignment due to absence, label it as such: **Last Name-Course Name-Title of Assignment**.

Use these guidelines for all essay-type assignments such as the Memoir. The proposal and documents created for the service-learning project may have different formats, depending on the types of materials created. Make sure to research any formats for the types of tasks you create.

The Terms of Our Contract

Registration: The official registration deadline for this course is September 7 (August 31, if you wish to **avoid financial penalty**). University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashFAST) prior to the deadline indicated.

Remaining enrolled in this course after knowing the policies and requirements means that you agree to abide by the terms of the contract set forth in this syllabus. If you think you will find the course too demanding or unpleasant, you may want to consider taking a different section of the course or taking the course in another semester. You may withdraw with a “W” through the tenth week of the semester. Please seriously consider your decision to stay or leave.

Students with Disabilities: University policy 3342-3-18 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note that you must first verify your eligibility for these accommodations through Student Accessibility Services. (Contact 330-672-3391, or visit www.kent.edu/sas, for more information on registration procedures.)

Attendance and Promptness: Anyone not coming to class is not taking the same course as everyone else. I understand that life presents some uninvited adventures, so I will grant you **three unexcused** absences. Every unexcused absence over three will result in a reduction of your final grade, possibly by a full letter grade for each absence. You may not make up in-class work for unattended sessions, and it remains your responsibility to find a classmate to update you on what you missed. If absent, you need to email me your work by the beginning of that class session (according to the scheduled time) or you will earn a zero on the assignment. An absence does not give you an automatic extension or excuse you from work due that day. As for tardiness, habitual tardiness to any extent will lead to a discussion between student and professor. This same policy applies to leaving class early. Both coming late and leaving early may count as absences.

According to University Policy 3342-2-01.2, “Legitimate reasons for an ‘excused’ absence include, but are not limited to, illness and injury, disability-related concerns, military service, death in the immediate family, religious observance, academic field trips, participation in an approved concert or athletic event, and direct participation in university disciplinary hearings.” Such absences do not result in the use of one of your three unexcused absences, as long as the following requirements are fulfilled:

1. If the absence is planned, you must submit an official letter/note/memo to me from the sponsor of the event (i.e. sports event, field trips, etc.). You must also submit all assignments on time. Failure to follow these requirements will result in an unexcused absence.

2. If the absence is unplanned (medical emergency or death in the immediate family), you must give me notice of your situation as soon as possible, and all assignments must be submitted on time. Assignment extensions due to extreme situations will be rare and require that you contact me as soon as possible to discuss your options. You must submit an official notice to me as proof of the situation upon your return to class. Doctors' notes must state that a medical emergency/illness prevented you from attending class (as per University policy). Appointments, health center receipts, etcetera do not excuse you from class. Failure to follow these requirements will result in an unexcused absence, and any assignments will be considered late and, therefore, will not be accepted.

Additional information can be found here:

http://www2.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_1976529=2037744

Late & Make-up Work: As stated above, late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due at the start of class, whether you are present or absent. If aware of your absence ahead of time, please make arrangements with me as to how you will submit your work early rather than sliding papers under my office door. Also, do not take assignments to the English office and try to put them in my mailbox. Finally, if you come to class without your work, you will get a zero for that work. In-class work cannot be made-up (except in cases of excused absences). Remember, when possible, it is best to bring concerns to my attention ahead of time.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism occurs when a writer incorporates an author's words, thoughts, and/or graphic representations into his or her work without properly citing the original author (including one's self). This definition includes using another student's work as your own, inadequately referencing other authors' works in your work, and submitting and/or inadequately referencing work you previously published or submitted for a class. Neither plagiarism nor cheating will be tolerated in this class, as it demonstrates irresponsibility and disservice to yourself and your peers. Academic dishonesty will result in severe consequences. The University Policy on Plagiarism is located online at www.kent.edu/policyreg (type "plagiarism" into the search box). In addition, the university has created a plagiarism website for faculty and students: www.kent.edu/academics/resources/plagiarism/. If you are unclear about the policy or whether or not you are plagiarizing, please see me for help.

Computer Problems...are inevitable; but with careful archiving of your work (preferably on your computer, in your e-mail, and on your USB drive), you can avoid losing important documents. Computer problems will not serve as an excuse for an incomplete or missing assignment; you should always have a back-up. I suggest creating a folder for this course on your USB drive (in addition to another location) so that you have at least two copies of your work for this class. Furthermore, I encourage the use of an online server such as Dropbox; this way, you will have access to your files as long as you can access the internet.

Cell Phones and Internet: I expect your cell phones to be silent and kept out of sight—and by silent, I mean that I do not want to hear them vibrating. If an emergency situation occurs and you need to have your cell phone close to you, please let me know and quietly leave class if you must answer your phone. Texting, checking email, playing games, or any other nifty thing you can do with your phone and other electronic gadgets is disruptive and disrespectful. When we use computers for class activities, avoid engaging in irrelevant activity (i.e. checking facebook and

Twitter, planning vacation, shopping the latest fashions, etc). If I see you engaging in these activities, you will lose participation points. If you continue to engage in these activities, I will mark you absent.

Participation: You will need to do more than just show up to class; you will need to actively participate. Earning credit for participation means that you do the following: come to class prepared, with reading materials and assignments; engage in discussion (this includes remaining attentive if you do not feel comfortable speaking); remain focused and productive during workshop periods; take notes; ask questions; share sources; and visit the Writing Commons. To schedule an appointment at the Writing Commons, or to find out what services are available to you, you can visit their website at <http://www.kent.edu/writingcommons/about/index.cfm>. Each student begins the semester with the full number of participation points and loses points for failure to engage in the above activities, and for breaking the “Cell phones and Internet” policy.

Grade Concerns and Disputes: Though I make a sincere effort to provide extensive comments on your work, there may be some element(s) of my grading that you struggle to understand. In the event that this happens and you would like to discuss the issues, I ask that you wait 24 hours (from the time you receive your graded assignment) to meet with me. I will not change your grade—unless I’ve made some sort of obvious mathematical error. I will, however, always meet with you, before or after an assignment has been graded, to aid your success. Before contacting me, please see the syllabus and assignment sheet; often, reasons for my grading can be found here. In addition, please remember to maintain your professionalism as a student. A discussion of your grade should be scholarly and productive. I will explain, but not defend, the reasons for my grading. You must take responsibility for addressing these matters in a timely manner; approaching me near the end of the semester most likely will not yield the results you hope for.

*The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus, course schedule, and course documents.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1

T 8/26 Course Introduction
R 8/28 WT: “Finding Voice” (pp. 56-70)

Week 2

T 9/2 WT: “Why Creative Nonfiction” (pp. 3-18) & “Taking Shape” (pp. 43-55)
R 9/4 WT: “The Ethics of Creative Nonfiction” (pp. 149-163)

Week 3

T 9/9 Workshop
R 9/11 WT: “The Power of the Notebook” (pp. 19-31)

Week 4

T 9/16 **Memoir due**; WT: Walker, “Beauty: When the other Dancer is the Self” (pp. 169-175)
R 9/18 WT: “Exploring New Media” (pp. 114-131)

Week 5	
T 9/23	Workshop
R 9/25	Handouts: Larson, "Unique Nature and Struggles of Traditional Small Nonprofits" & Rehling, "Doing Good While Doing Well: Service Learning Internships"
Week 6	
T 9/30	Handout: Reither, "Bridging the Gap: Scenic Motives for Collaborative Writing in Workplace and School" & WT: "The Role of Research" (pp. 132)
R 10/2	Workshop
Week 7	
T 10/7	Visual Essay due; WT: Apple, "Roommates" (pp. 262-264)
R 10/9	Workshop; MLA: "Plagiarism and Academic Integrity" (pp. 51-60)
Week 8	
T 10/14	Preliminary Proposal due; Handout: Denby, "Queen Leer"
R 10/16	WT: "Workshopping a Draft" (pp. 75-92)
Week 9	
T 10/21	WT: "The Craft of Revision" (pp. 93-113)
R 10/23	Final Proposal due; WT: "Meet the Shaggs" (pp. 303-313)
Week 10	
T 10/28	Conferences
R 10/30	Conferences
Week 11	
T 11/4	Workshop
R 11/6	No class/Professor Corey attending conference
Week 12	
T 11/11	No class/Veterans Day Observance
R 11/13	WT: Selection of "Short Shorts" (pp. 359-370)
Week 13	
T 11/18	Workshop
R 11/20	Handouts: Eiseley, "The Gold Wheel" and "Our Own True Notebook"
Week 14	
T 11/25	Workshop
R 11/27	No class/Thanksgiving Break
Week 15	
T 12/2	Workshop
R 12/4	Service Learning Project due; Assessment, SSIs
Final Exams	
December 8-14	
Reflective Essay due at midnight on December 14	