

English Graduate Course Description Packet

Summer 2017

Updated 03-20-2017

ENGL 5533, Technical Writing Praxis

Teacher: A. Pope

Textbooks Required:

Plain Language and Ethical Action: A Dialogic Approach to Technical Content in the Twenty-First Century by Russel Willerton. ISBN: 978-0415741040

Rhetorical Grammar 7th Edition by Martha J. Kolln and Loretta Gray. Longman 2012.

Track-Based Readings (Only required by students taking a particular track)

Grant and Proposal Writing

Writing Proposals (2nd Edition) by Richard Johnson-Sheehan. Longman 2007. ISBN: 978-0205583140

Writing and Rhetoric in the Sciences

Rhetorical Figures in Science by Jeanne Fahnestock ISBN: 978-0195165425

Organizational and Report Writing

Design for Care: Innovating Healthcare Experience by Peter H. Jones. ISBN: 1-933820-23-3

Description: Technical Writing can be described as the rhetorical presentation of information within a situated context to gain a particular effect. Being a skilled technical writer means being able to apply the relevant theory to a given situation, adapting to the needs of local audiences and constraints as needed. This course will prepare you for such work by giving you a broad foundation in technical writing before then shifting to the act of mixing theory with practice, creating a theory-driven practice, or praxis.

This particular course will be broken down into two major units. The first unit will be shared between all students, and focus on the history, role, and skills of technical writers. The second unit will consist of three separate tracks, with each student choosing one track to specialize in. The tracks available for the course are as follows:

Grant and Proposal Writing: Students in this track will learn the process and steps behind creating effective grants and proposals, delving into the process of researching calls for proposals, putting together a narrative for a grant or proposal, and successfully crafting final text for submission. While in this track, students will write and submit a grant or proposal.

Rhetoric and Writing in the Sciences: Students in this track will focus extensively on style and persuasion in science. Readings will focus on the way that scientific arguments

make use of rhetorical figures, helping students recognize the types of arguments made in scientific texts and how to make use of them. The final deliverable will be a stylistically tailored text on a topic in the sciences.

Writing and Design in Healthcare: Students in this track will focus on the way rhetoric and design can inform work in the healthcare system. Readings will focus on the ways that design thinking and rhetoric can impact and improve healthcare as a service via technical writing. The final deliverable will be a situated proposal for healthcare communication in a specific organization or setting.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements for undergraduates: Students will be expected to submit weekly reading responses, complete multiple major projects, as well as a final capstone project in the track of their choice.

MA advisory code: Generalist Elective, 7

ENGL 5653, Shakespeare: Plays and Poems

Teacher: J. Candido

Texts Required: Any respectable edition of Shakespeare or individual editions of the plays. *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*, ed. Bevington will be available through the university bookstore.

Area of Coverage: We shall examine the basic contours of Shakespeare's career as a dramatist, drawing upon some of his most representative plays.

Likely works to be read include the following:

Richard II
1 Henry IV
2 Henry IV
A Midsummer Night's Dream
As You Like It
Twelfth Night
King Lear
Hamlet
The Tempest

Papers and Examinations: Two in-class exams and one 5-page critical paper. Graduate students will be expected to write a research paper of considerable length (20-25 pp.)

MA advisory code: B, 2

ENGL 5863, Advanced Studies in African American Literature and Culture: Beyoncé and Black Feminist Theory

Teacher: C. Bailey

Textbooks Required:

Ansa, Tina McElroy, *Baby of the Family*. ISBN 0156101505.

Collins, Patricia Hill, *Black Feminist Thought*. ISBN 0415964725.

Morrison, Toni. *Sula*. ISBN 1400033438.

Lourde, Audre. *Sister Outsider*. ISBN 1580911862.

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. ISBN 0061120065

Jones, Gayl. *Corregidora*. ISBN 0807063150.

Morgan, Joan. *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost*. ISBN 068486861X

Description: During a 2014 panel discussion bell hooks remarked that “part of her sees Beyoncé as ‘a terrorist especially in terms of [her] impact on young girls.’ Devoid of its context, members of the #beyhive heard “bell hooks called Beyoncé a terrorist,” but Hooks’ incendiary claim bears further consideration because few pop culture icons have been as influential as Beyoncé Knowles Carter. Using Patricia Hill Collins’ core themes in *Black Feminist Thought*, each week the class will explore topics such as black women’s coming of age narratives (black girl magic), black women’s sexuality, friendships among black women, black love, work and family, and others. In addition to Beyoncé’s music, we will also analyze the films *Eve’s Bayou* and *Waiting to Exhale* for their treatment of course themes.

Essays, exams, and other major requirements for graduate students at the 5000 level: one longer paper (16-20 pages); writing requirement can also be satisfied by writing two conference length papers (8-10 pages)

MA advisory code: G, T, 2, 3, 4, 6

ENGL 5923, Advanced Studies in Film and Media: Vampire Film

Teacher: K. Booker

Texts Required:

None.

Description: This course is intended to provide an advanced survey of the vampire film from its beginnings in the silent film era (with works such as F. W. Murnau’s *Nosferatu*) to recent “high-art” examples such as the Swedish film *Let the Right One In* and Jim Jarmusch’s *Only Lovers Left Alive*. We will view a variety of vampire films, reading them within their cultural and historical contexts in an attempt to gain both a basic knowledge and a basic understanding of its meaning and importance.

Special assignments: One formal critical essay on some aspect of vampire film, 5-10 pages for undergraduates, 15-25 pages for graduates, double-spaced, in length.

Examinations: Take-home final exams for all students.

MA advisory code: G, 2, 6

ENGL 5933, Advanced Studies in Pop Culture Genres: Bob Dylan as Literature

Teacher: K. Booker

Texts Required:

Bob Dylan, *The Lyrics: 1961–2012*: ISBN: 978-1451648768

Description: Bob Dylan's recent Nobel Prize for Literature has spurred more discussion (both pro and con) than any literature prize in history. The award raises fundamental questions about the nature of literature, which leads to questions about what we study when we study literature. This course will present a broad survey of Dylan's work, reading that work as literature (but listening to it as music), and attempting to determine what reading Dylan as literature tells us about literature in general.

Special assignments: One formal critical essay on some aspect of Dylan's work, 5-10 pages for undergraduates, 15-25 pages for graduates, double-spaced, in length.

Examinations: Take-home final exams for all students.

MA advisory code: G, 2, 6

The advisory codes indicate what course distribution requirement will be satisfied by the designated listing. If more than one code is listed in the description for a particular class, a student may satisfy only one of those distribution requirements with that class, unless the code is T, for Theory.

For M.A. Students with the Generalist Concentration

Generalist **A**: satisfies **Medieval** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **B**: satisfies **Renaissance** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **C**: satisfies **Restoration and 18th-century** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **D**: satisfies **19th-century British** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **E**: satisfies **British** Literature and Culture **After 1900** requirement.

Generalist **F**: satisfies **American** Literature and Culture **Before 1900** requirement.

Generalist **G**: satisfies **American** Literature and Culture **After 1900** requirement.

Generalist **H**: satisfies **World** Literature and Culture Written in English requirement.

For M.A. Students with the Specialist Concentration

Specialist **1**: satisfies **Comparative** Literature requirement.

Specialist **2**: satisfies **Cultural** Studies requirement.

Specialist **3**: satisfies **Ethnic and Regional** Literatures requirement.

Specialist **4**: satisfies **Gender and Sexuality** requirement.

Specialist **5**: satisfies **Medieval** Literature requirement.

Specialist **6**: satisfies **Modern American** Literature requirement.

Specialist **7**: satisfies **Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy** requirement.

For All M.A. Students

(T): satisfies **Theory** requirement.

(A course can satisfy the theory requirement while also satisfying one of the other requirements in the lists above.)