English 109: Spring 1998
Todd Pettigrew
Introduction to Academic Writing

Office Hours
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English 109 is designed to introduce you to the conventions of formal, academic prose and to help you develop your ability to create, interpret and analyze academic writing in an informed, critical way. Moreover, the course should give you a sense of the importance of language to virtually every aspect of human life, and allow you to evaluate language use in general in a more sophisticated fashion.

Required Texts

Bartholomae and Petrosky, Ways of Reading
Aaron and McArthur, The Little, Brown Compact Handbook
English 109 Course Pack: Readings for Composition
The Globe and Mail for Saturday, July 4, 1998

The Handbook is recommended for all UW English courses. Royalties go to the Department of English scholarship fund.

The principal texts are all available at the UW book store. The Globe and Mail is widely available in stores and in vending boxes.

Lecture schedule

The readings are from The Little Brown Handbook (LBH) and the 109 Course Pack.

May 4 Introduction to 109
May 11 Significance
LBH I
Levin, "The Case for Torture"
May 25 Topic and thesis
Diamond, "The Curse of QWERTY"
June 1 Accuracy
LBH VI
June 8  Argumentation  
  Comparison/analogy  
  Using cause and effect  
  Using counterargument

June 15  Using evidence  

*June 22  Structure

June 29  Unity

July 6  Case Study: The News  
  Globe and Mail

July 13  Correctness  
  LBH IV

July 20  Style  
  Orwell, "Politics and the English Language"  
  LBH II

*July 27  Case study: Advertising  
  Globe and Mail

Assignments and grading

Tutorial Journal (15%)

You are required to prepare a journal (use a regular duotang with a few sheets of loose leaf paper) in which you will record comments at the end of each tutorial class. Expect to record your personal impressions of the class discussion and to indicate how you were able to contribute to that discussion. Your journals will be kept by the instructor and will be available to you only at the end of each tutorial.

Essays

Essays should be typed double spaced on white 8 1/2 x 11 paper with 1" margins and a 12 point font. They should be stapled in the upper left corner: do not use paper clips, plastic covers or any method of binding. Papers should conform to MLA parenthetical style for citations (see LBH). Do not use a title page. Do not leave spaces between paragraphs. In all other respects, the paper should follow the guidelines in section 40a of the LBH. Papers that do not conform to these guidelines will be returned for revisions. Late penalties will apply to papers that are delayed by a lack of attention to format.

Papers are due by the end of the Monday lecture. Due dates are indicated with an asterisk (*).
A Note on Late Papers

All students will be granted an automatic one week extension for each essay. You do not need to make any request whatsoever. Papers turned in during this extra week will, however, receive fewer comments than normal. Papers handed in more than one week after the due date will receive no comments and will be penalized 1 grade per day including weekends (e.g. a C+ would fall to a C, then a C- and so on). Papers will not be accepted more than 2 weeks after the original due date. Apart from the universal one-week extension, no other extensions will be granted except in the case of extreme medical emergency. Students are advised to treat the due dates as firm and use the extension period only if necessary.

Essay 1 (3 pages. 15%)
*Due: June 22

Select an essay from Ways of Reading that is not on the tutorial reading list. Consider the essay carefully, and write a short paper in which you identify, characterize and argue against one of its main points.

Essay 2 (6 pages 30%)
*Due July 27

For this assignment you will be asked to write a research paper that explores some aspect of language use in contemporary society. You are encouraged to consider the implications that language has for some area in which you have particular interest.

Rewrites will not be permitted for any essay.

A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves presenting the words or thought of an author or authors as if they were your own. Handing in essays for which you have received credit in other courses is considered plagiarism. It is a serious academic offense punishable by a variety of means including expulsion from the university (see the undergraduate calendar for more details). If you are at all unsure of what should be credited and how it should be done, please see Todd or Jacqueline immediately. Also consult section 48, especially 48e, in the LBH for examples of plagiarism and advice on how to avoid it.

Final Exam (40%)

You will sit a three hour exam which will cover all aspects of the course. The exam will be held during the regular exam schedule.
Tutorials

There will be no tutorial the week of May 4th or May 18th.

Tutorial sessions will be one hour long and will be less formal than lectures. We will consider essays from *Ways of Reading* and ask how those texts work: what do they do and how do they do it? What issues do they raise and why are those issues important? Or are they important? These essays are not easy reading. You should go over them carefully at least once, but ideally more than once, and come prepared with comments and questions.

There will be no strict reading schedule, but here are the essays we will cover in the order we will cover them. Read the Greenblatt article for the first tutorial.

Greenblatt, "Marvelous Possessions"
Berger, "Ways of Seeing"
Rich, "When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Revision"
Limerick, "Empire of Innocence"
Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cock Fight"
Freire, "The 'Banking' Concept of Education"
Foucault, "Panopticism"
Woolf, "A Room of One's Own"
Anzaldúa "How to Tame a Wild Tongue"