Class: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., EN 110A
Instructor: Anna Kang
Office: EN 2050
Phone: 333-9111, ext. 3330
Office hours will be set in consultation with class, and also by appointment

Announcements


Copies of some of the readings on reserve.

Required Materials

A Spring loose-leaf binder for your Writing Log/Journal
A file folder to keep all drafts and revisions—a Portfolio/Course File
You will need to make photocopies of drafts throughout the term for instruction and group.

Brief Course Description

"Writing—writing about things that matter, writing to make sense out of experience, writing to discover new knowledge, writing to reach critical judgment, writing to examine the problems and complexities of the world, writing in response to meaningful reading—is an activity both truly liberal and truly useful." (Jakobson and Greimas: Historical Traditions and the Functions of Writing, 1987)

Throughout the term we will examine how and why we write as we do. We will use a reading/writing approach to think about various aspects of language. You will work towards developing critical reading skills, to help you understand how a piece of writing develops, and then apply this knowledge to your own and each other's writing. Our course work and discussions will provide opportunities to talk, think, read, and write about many aspects of the power of language and the written word, ways in which readers respond to what they read, and how authors use language to evoke the response they seek. We'll look at how context affects writing situations, who we are writing for, and why.

This course is not a basic or remedial course. Your handbook covers in detail all the conventions governing the use of the English language. We will, however, use both the handbook and other articles to work on invention, arrangement, and style throughout the term.

Group discussions will play a major role in our classes. You will work in groups to discuss the readings, the drafts of your essays, and to brainstorm. It's important that everyone participate actively. We are aiming for an atmosphere that enables a lively exchange of ideas yet fosters true co-operation. We are not necessarily looking for agreement, but we are working towards understanding other people's views and improving our own and others' writing, by sharing our own knowledge and learning from one another.
You will write on a regular basis in and out of the classroom (individually and collaboratively) and in your journals. The course will be quite a bit of work, but the writing practice, group work, learning about ways to approach writing assignments, and opportunities to revise drafts should give you more confidence in tackling future writing assignments.

Assignments should be legible and, if possible, typed on a word processor, to give you greater flexibility, since all assignments are submitted first as drafts and then revised. You will save yourself a lot of headaches and frustration if you use a word processor. Assignments should be double spaced with generous margins to allow for comments.

Marking practices will vary, depending on the assignment, and students will know in advance which practices will apply. While the instructor will normally grade major assignments, both instructor and peers will provide feedback. Only revised assignments will be graded, but drafts of all major assignments must be submitted. An important part of writing is to develop strategies for effective editing and we will work on this aspect in the course.

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What I Expect of You

Regular attendance, in fairness to your peers
Active participation
A commitment to complete assigned readings and writings for due dates
A willingness to share your knowledge and to learn from others
A co-operative attitude

What You Can Expect from Me

Active participation as a facilitator rather than lecturer
Quick return of assignments with, I hope, constructive comments
A willingness to accept your knowledge and to share mine
A co-operative attitude and a willingness to learn from you
Accessibility both in and out of class

Our course content is not rigid. As we proceed, we will adapt, modify, and restructure to suit the learning needs of the class.

Grading:
Class work, including exercises and active participation in discussions, plus peer responses: 25%
Writing Log/Journal and evaluation on last day of classes: 20%
First Assignment: 15%
Second Assignment: 20% (including draft)
Third Assignment: 20%