

Essay Writing Syllabus - Summer Study Program at NYC

2014

Instructor:	Charles Jun	Term:	3½-week Session
Phone:		Class Meeting Days:	Mon – Fri; 7/7-7/25
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Office Hours:			

WELCOME: Welcome to the Essay Writing class for Summer Study Program in NYC! I will be leading this class and look forward to helping you develop your voice as a writer. I especially look forward to seeing how the texts that we read, our experiences in the city and the intellectual challenges that we confront make this summer truly unforgettable!

OVERVIEW: Analytical writing isn't just important; it's essential for survival in the modern workplace and a measure of intellectual ability. Let's face the facts: effective communicators are attractive job applicants and dinner-time conversationalists. They wow listeners with sharp reasoning sprinkled with a unique presentation style. Their words mesmerize.

This class focuses on helping you develop into an effective communicator, someone who produces writing that is persuasive and fascinating, logical and fun. To get there, we will read celebrated essays (some of my favorites!), participate in discussions and workshops and, of course, write.

A word of encouragement: writing can be scary because you're revealing yourself to others through a process and product. Writing still terrifies me, but I take comfort in being nervous about my writing because my anxiety proves that I care about the quality of my writing. As Thomas Mann wrote, "A writer is somebody for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people."

OBJECTIVES:

- Read and analyze essays produced by a diverse set of writers and pertaining to a wide range of topics
- Participate in writing workshops designed to develop reasoning, concision and organization in student writing
- Understand and practice elements of formal writing, including but not limited to formal grammar, argumentation, voice and organization
- Understand and practice the writing process (brainstorm, outline, draft, write, edit, etc.)
- Produce original, polished essays that address a wide range of topics

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

Attendance Policy: This course is designed to be fun and enriching, but this is only possible when students respect each other and the instructor by attending all class sessions and being on time. Everyone is late to a class or meeting once in a while, but being consistently late or absent is unacceptable.

I will talk to you privately if you are consistently late or absent, and notify you about a drop in your participation grade. For every late arrival after the second, your participation grade will drop by 2%. For every absence after the first, your participation grade will drop by 5%.

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Professionalism Policy: Because this class is a non-credit enrichment course, I want to keep the class somewhat relaxed and informal, but never disorganized, chaotic or unproductive. I will do my absolute best to create a positive learning environment; in return, I ask that you respect a few of my classroom rules:

- Be on time and give your best effort
- Be willing to listen to differing opinions and ideas (you don't have to agree; just listen and respond respectfully!)
- Respect all cultural, religious, political, lifestyle and gender differences
- Keep disruptive side conversations to a minimum
- No screens and electronics--cellphones, laptops, tablets, MP3 players--unless stated otherwise
- No sleeping

Academic Conduct Policy: Plagiarized written work will receive a 0%, but the offending student may resubmit a properly written assignment with a 10% deduction to the overall grade. A second submission that contains plagiarism will receive a 0% and no chance of resubmission. If you are not exactly sure what plagiarism entails, please speak to be privately as soon as possible.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Supplies Needed: Students should have the following when they arrive at Fordham:

- A binder with dividers for all handouts and classwork
- Blue or black pens; a highlighter
- A laptop, if possible. I will try to make arrangements to give all students access to a computer and the internet
- I will provide all texts and handouts, but please remember to bring all material for the sessions in which we will need them!

Formatting requirements: All word-processed documents must adhere to college-standard formatting requirements.

- Double-spaced
- Size 12 Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins
- Appropriate heading (name, class and date) and assignment title

Submitting assignments: Please email me all written assignments as an attached Word document. Speak to me directly if you are not sure how to attach Word documents to emails.

Late assignment policy: I deduct 10% off the assignment grade total for every day that it is late. If there is a legitimate reason for an assignment being turned in late, such as serious illness or family crisis, you and I will negotiate an appropriate extension to the assignment due date.

GRADING POLICY: A breakdown of the course assignments and their percent weight of the final course grade:

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Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
"Tweet SSP"	15%
Weekly blog posts (3 post total)	15% total
Essay 1	20%
Essay 2	20%
Participation	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0 - 59	F

PROCEDURE FOR EXTRA HELP:

I am more than willing to offer extra help to students who are struggling or just want to learn more. I ask that you speak to me privately about receiving extra help, and we can make arrangements for individualized sessions. Please come to these sessions with specific questions and a willingness to learn.

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DAY BY DAY CLASS OUTLINE:

Monday	July 7.....	<u>First Day of Class - Introductions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Icebreakers and syllabus review• “General Writing Tips” presentation and writing exercise
Tuesday	July 8.....	<u>Why We Write</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to “Tweet SSP”• Types of essays• Read and discuss “Why I Write” by George Orwell
Wednesday	July 9.....	<u>Consider the What...?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The expository essay• Read and discuss “Consider the Lobster” by David Foster Wallace
Thursday	July 10.....	<u>Consider the What...? continued...</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Consider the Lobster” group assignment and class discussion
Friday	July 11.....	<u>Drafting, Outlining and Pre-Writing an Expository Essay</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expository essay topics brainstorm; “Outline for Expository Essay Pre-Write”• ***Bring laptops!
Monday	July 14.....	<u>Argumentative Essays – Theses and Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis statements and arguments• UCL Transition Programme’s writing tip• Mind map and flowchart exercise
Tuesday	July 15.....	<u>Zombies! Zombies! Zombies!</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read and discuss “My Zombie, Myself: Why Modern Life Feels Rather Undead” by Chuck Klosterman• Mind map and flowchart assignment for essay• Review writing assignment #1
Wednesday	July 16.....	<u>Evaluating Argumentative Essays</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read and evaluate sample argumentative essays
Thursday	July 17.....	<u>Technology, Liking and Loving</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read and discuss “Liking is for Cowards. Go for What Hurts.” by Jonathon Franzen• Argumentation assignment• ***Bring laptops!

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- Friday July 18Essay 1 Workshop
- **ESSAY 1 ROUGH DRAFT DUE**
 - Peer editing workshop
 - Instructor-student writing conference
 - ***Bring laptops!
- Monday July 21“Exploding the Moment” – the Narrative Essay
- **ESSAY 1 FINAL DRAFT DUE**
 - “Exploding the Moment” discussion
 - Formative experiences; Essay #2
 - “Joy” by Zadie Smith
- Tuesday July 22.....Descriptive Language and the College Essay
- “Five Weak Words that Make Your Writing Less Effective”
 - Descriptive language exercise
 - Sample college personal essays
- Wednesday July 23.....Mini Field Trip and Writing Assignment
- Off-campus excursion
 - Stream of consciousness writing assignment
- Thursday July 24.....Essay 2 Peer- Editing and Conferences
- **ESSAY 2 ROUGH DRAFT DUE**
 - Peer editing workshop
 - Instructor-student writing conference
 - ***Bring laptops!
- Friday July 25Essay 2 Workshop
- **ESSAY 2 FINAL DRAFT DUE**
 - Reflections on writing
 - “Wordie Wars”