

# WR 414 Advanced Composition

Western Oregon University

Dr. Jason Waite

waitej(at)wou(dot)edu

HSS 302

503.838.9495

Office Hours: Monday, 1400-1500; Tuesday, 1200-1500; Wednesday 1400-1500;

## Course Texts

Handouts (posted online)

## Overview

Our best work as scholars and researchers is often deeply rooted in our personal experiences. In this writing workshop we will explore ways in which even what seem to be the most mundane experiences in our everyday lives can be a rich source of ideas for our academic work. By the end of the course, you should be able to see the scholarly value of your own experiences and apply what you know about yourself to the construction of knowledge that can provide insight for others.

## Attendance

Be here. For one thing, “attendance and participation” counts for 10% of your grade. Second, it is highly unlikely that you will be able to do well on the assignments if you don’t show up. To that end, you are allowed to miss class twice without an excuse. After two unexcused absences, I will subtract five points from your final grade for each additional absence. Also, if you are more than fifteen minutes late for class on any given day (without a valid excuse – oversleeping does not count) you will not receive credit for attending class that day.

## Cell Phones

If your cell phone rings during class, I will subtract two points from your attendance and participation grade (so make sure you turn it off); if you answer it, I will subtract five points from your attendance and participation grade – I define “answering your cell phone” as anything that is not consistent with turning it off. I understand that circumstances might arise in which you will need to make yourself available to receive phone calls during class (e.g., your child is sick, someone close to you is sick, etc.). If you believe that such a circumstance applies to you, please talk with me before class and I will do my best to accommodate your needs. **Text messaging during class is extremely rude so DON’T**

## Classroom Conduct

If you use your cellphone in any way (texting, etc.) during class, be prepared to be asked to leave the classroom. You should also be prepared to be asked

to leave if you engage in excessive, disruptive (i.e., loud) chatting about things not related to class.

If for some reason you need to make yourself available for phone calls during class, please let me know.

### **DISABILITY STATEMENT**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations at Western Oregon University, you are required to have your accommodations coordinated through the Office of Disability Services (ODS). ODS is located in APSC, Rm. 405. Phone: 503-838-8250 VTTY. Email: ODS@wou.edu

*Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the instructor.*

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Code of Student Responsibility

574-031-0030 Specific Standards and Policies

The following list of prohibited forms of conduct is not all inclusive since it is not possible to list all potential violations. The University requires that all students behave in a manner congruent with established community standards and in a manner conducive to the development of the individual. Actions detrimental to the mission of the University and the legitimate activities of the academic community which constitute the University are in violation of this Code and may be subject to judicial procedures.

1) Academic dishonesty, which includes but is not limited to:

(a) Cheating- intentional use or attempted use of artifice, deception, fraud, and/or misrepresentations of one's academic work;

(b) Fabrication- unauthorized falsification and/or invention of any information of citation in any academic exercise;

(c) Facilitating dishonesty – helping or attempting to help another person commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes students who substitute for other persons in examinations or represent as their own papers, reports, or any other academic work of others;

(d) Plagiarism- representing without giving credit the words, data, or ideas of another person as one's own work in any academic exercise. This includes submitting, in whole or in part, prewritten term papers of another of research of another, including but not limited product of commercial vendor who sell or distribute such materials. And the appropriation of and/or use of electronic data of another person or persons as one's own, or using such data without giving proper credit for it; or

(e) Any use or attempted use of electronic devices in gaining an illegal advantage in academic work in which use of these devices is prohibited.

### **The Work**

Specific information regarding the assignments will be given in class along with handouts.

1. Informal Writing (Posted to Google Docs) - 20% of Grade
2. Craft Analysis - 20% of grade
3. Personal Essay – 30% of grade each
4. Academic Essay - 30% of grade

Note well, you won't do well in this course if you don't show up.

I will always be available to help as will the Writing Center and the Library.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1

Wednesday: Discussion of Informal Writing

Week 2

Monday: MLK Holiday

Wednesday: Craft Analysis Due

Week 3

Monday: Personal Essay Peer Review 1

Wednesday: Discussion of Informal Writing

Week 4

Monday: Personal Essay Peer Review 2

Wednesday: Discussion of Informal Writing

Week 5

Monday: Personal Essay Due

Wednesday: Discussion of Informal Writing

Week 6

Monday: Discussion of Informal Writing

Wednesday: Academic Essay Peer Review 1

Week 7

Monday: Discussion of Informal Writing

Wednesday: Academic Essay Peer Review 2

Week 8

Monday: Discussion of Informal Writing

Wednesday: Academic Essay Peer Review 3

Week 10

Academic Essay Due

Finals Week – I'll be at a conference