

Writing 100 – fall 2006

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Writing from the Inside Out

During this course you will be able to detect and tune to your inner voice, the one you had before you could even talk. You will listen and recognize the words, the phrasing, the "inner-grammar", your personal way of expression, and your singular style and rhythm.

This is a round-table course not a frontal class. Therefore you are an active part and will be required to constantly participate and contribute.

The process of identifying your inner voice will be by cultivating your senses, learning to observe, listening to yourself and to others, searching other voices in libraries and on-line, preparing varied exercises, reading and analyzing texts and providing constant feed-back for your fellow students' writings.

You will experience different techniques of narration, and diver forms of writing, you will distinguish between biography, autobiography, short story, novel, poetry, fiction and non-fiction. You will write about personal and impersonal happenings, about thoughts and feelings, and you will be required to relate imaginary and real experiences in a clear way.

The purpose of the course is to help you express yourself with no inhibitions and prejudices, without fear of criticism, self-consciousness, lack of confidence, or of training.

The message is: every one of us has a story to tell and the tools to relate it.

Some of the writing assignments are automatic writing, keeping diaries, adopting different styles, observing, describing and retelling real and imaginary stories.

There will be an emphasis on editing and reediting without losing the personal fingerprint, the inner-voice. You will be asked to use the writing center for your major assignments.

There will be oral presentations and you will be required to address the class and speak without using notes. The topics will be partly selected by you and partly assignments given by the instructor.

4-6 of the written assignments will be graded. You will be required to work on a short story or a non-fiction that you will eventually develop as a final essay.

There will be other un-graded assignments relating to reading, researching on line and in library and mainly writing and re-writing.

The major, graded assignments will be:

- A. A topic you will choose at the beginning of the semester. It will be an issue you are involved with and are willing to pursue in depth.
- B. You will be required to write essays about articles, novels, short stories, poems and films we will tackle in class.
- C. There will be a constant exchange of tasks amongst you and your fellow students: constructive criticism on each paper read in class and editing each other's assignments.
- D. You will be asked to keep a diary of your reading as well as about different interactions that will take place in class, e.g. the way we judge people by unimportant details like dress or way of speech. We will observe the way we let our ISJ (Interior Supreme Judge) intervene with our writings, as well as with our different interactions and relationships.
- E. There will be one assignment at least about the way you view your future, as well as the world's future.
- F. Some of the assignments will be presented in front of the class; you will talk in your turn about several chosen subjects. The emphasis is on talking and debating, not reading notes.
- G. A good deal of the assignments will be determined by your choices and inclinations. We could have as many as 4 different assignments simultaneity determined by you and your fellow students' choices. The main one will be a paper you will work on during the entire semester, with the help of others in class, and this will be your final creative writing project.

Purposes

1. Get you in touch with your creativity.
2. Enhance your proficiency in writing, reading and discussing topics in class.
3. Increase your self-confidence in writing and in making speeches in class.
4. Enrich your vocabulary and fluency in writing and talking.
5. Expose you to different forms of literature as well as to varied styles.
6. Demonstrate there are several ways to view the world around us and they are all legitimate as long as you can express it in a communicative and understandable manner.
7. Expand your tolerance to different ideas and cultures.
8. Understand that each one of us has an original and unique voice that should be cultivated so that we can express our own ideas, thoughts and feelings as clearly as possible.
9. Learn to differentiate between an individual way of thinking and fashions, or group's way of thinking.

Required Reading

The Bedford Handbook Seventh Edition by Diana Hacker

Expectations

You are expected to show up to every class, and on time. Missing lessons and lateness will interfere with learning and hence affect your grade. Since there is a large emphasis on teamwork you will be required not to disrupt your fellow student's creativity and to be considerate.

All assignment will be presented in print; hence you have to master computer skills.

The writing center is there to help you with any difficulties you encounter.

Grading

Your contribution in class will determine 20% of your final grade

The work done in groups with other students will determine 15% of your final grade

The presentations you will give in class on your own, and/or with fellow students will determine 15% of your final grade

The written works you will be required to present throughout the semester will determine 25% of your final grade

The last assignment in lieu of final exam will determine 25% of your final grade

Schedule- *with possible modifications according to students' researches*

Week I

Tuesday August 29 Introduction

Thursday August 31 Writing and compassion

Week II

Tuesday September 5 Taming your ISJ

Thursday September 7 Diaries and privacy

Week III

Tuesday September 12 Using your senses

Thursday September 14 Eavesdropping and observing

Week IV

Tuesday September 19 Writing as an era's mirror

Thursday September 21 Fiction and non-fiction

Week V

Tuesday September 26 Relating and telling

Thursday September 28 The merits of being curious

Week VI

Tuesday October 3 Inventing a story

Thursday October 5 Engaging ideas

Week VII

Tuesday October 10 Fall Recess

Thursday October 12 Voices, genre and gender

Week VIII

Tuesday October 17 Writing and freedom

Thursday October 19 Poetic License

Week IX

Tuesday October 24 Free associations

Thursday October 26 Class at the library

Week X

Tuesday October 31 Cultivating imagination

Thursday November 2	The call to write
Week XI	
Tuesday November 7	Distinguishing voices
Thursday November 9	My journey so far
Week XII	
Tuesday November 14	A voice of one's own
Thursday November 16	Storytelling
Week XIII	
Tuesday November 21	Thanksgivings recess
Thursday November 23	Thanksgivings recess
Week XIV	
Tuesday November 28	Show do not tell
Thursday November 30	The art of being original
Week XV	
Tuesday December 5	Final essays
Thursday December 7	Conclusions

Notes:

- 1) You can expect to dedicate 3-6 hours per week outside of class, reading and preparing assignments.
- 2) Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Offices as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
- 3) Do not hesitate to address me with any kind of problem you have during class or after.
- 4) This syllabus is subject to change as are the novels, short stories, and poems listed above.