

Rebels & Risk-Takers: The Individual vs. Society

Writing 100-I/Spring 2007

Instructor Mark Will-Weber

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Office Hours: Contact the instructor first to set up an appointment, either through e-mail or before or after class.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Objective: This course will engage the topic (“Rebels and Risk-Takers”) to create writing that is, first and foremost, organized and readable, but also writing that reflects the “voice” and flair of the student. A primary objective will be to *improve* the student’s writing over the length of the course. In addition, the instructor will impress upon the student the importance of reading creative works of quality (admittedly a subjective pursuit) in order to improve his or her own writing and critical thought process.

Teaching Method: The primary method of teaching this course will be to start with several (two or three) non-graded “warm-up” writings and then—after providing critical feedback on these initial efforts—progress to “rough drafts” and graded assignments. Writing “tip sheets” on basic techniques (such as “transition sentences”) and self-editing will be introduced and revisited throughout the course. Peer editing of rough drafts and/or sample papers also will be a part of the learning process.

REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements: The “cornerstones” of the course will be three required written papers/essays that relate to the reading material and/or class discussions. It is understood that students will demonstrate knowledge (through both writing and class participation) of all assigned readings.

Grading: The three major writing assignments will account for 75 percent of the student’s grade. All of the major assignments will relate to the assigned readings or films viewed in class. In-class writings, class participation, and class attendance will account for approximately 25 percent of the student’s grade. In rare exceptions, the instructor may consider an assignment for “extra credit.”

Text: Students will use the Bedford Handbook as a resource reference to bolster basic writing skills and to identify (and attack) pre-disposed writing weaknesses.

Required Reading: Required reading will include, but not be limited to:

Brautigan, Richard. The World War I Los Angeles Airplane.

Eastlake, William. The Biggest Thing Since Custer.

Eggers, Dave. After I Was Thrown in the River and Before I Drowned.

Greig, Andrew. Disappearing Gully.

Hemingway, Ernest. Bullfighting a Tragedy.

Hemphill, Paul. The Late Karl Wallenda.

Kapuscinski, Ryszard. The Burning Roadblocks.

Sillitoe, Alan. The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner

